

# PARISH NURSES



Faith community nursing is a practice specialty that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit, promotion of an integrative model of health and prevention and minimization of illness within the context of a [community of faith](#). The intentional integration of the practice of faith with the practice of [nursing](#) is so that people can achieve wholeness in, with, and through the population which faith community nurses serve.

Faith community nurses serve in several roles, including:

- Health advisor
- Educator on health issues
- Visitor of church members at home or in the hospital
- Provider of referrals to community resources and provide assistance in obtaining needed health services
- Developer of support groups within the church
- Trainer and coordinator of volunteers
- Provider of health screenings

To become a faith community nurse, the registered nurse must have a minimum of 2 years experience, must have a current license in the state where the faith community is located, and have completed a parish nurse foundations course for the specialty practice as recognized by the American Nurses Association.

St. Joseph Worker is privileged to have five Parish Nurses to serve our congregation: Helen Thomas, Kathy Bednarchik, Pamela Branham, Paula Staab-Polk, and Mary Beth Paulek. They are willing to assist as needed within the parameters of their vocation. PI

Please contact the Parish Office at 217-483-3772 if you have questions for our nurses.