

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 <u>community of faith</u>. 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 provider 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 of 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 three Parish Nurses to serve our congregation: Kathy Bednarchik, Pamela Branham, and Mary Beth Paulek. They are willing to assist as needed within the parameters of their vocation.

Please contact our nurses at stjnurses@comcast.net if you have any questions.