Bishop Gregory Parkes honored and thanked parish representatives for distinguished and outstanding service to their church and community by presenting them the **St. Jude the Apostle Medal Award on** **November 24, 2019 at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg.** The prayer service was live video streamed.

“To you who receive the St. Jude the Apostle Award, you are courageously living the Gospel,” said Bishop Parkes during the Awards Ceremony and Prayer Service. “In many cases you are stepping out of your comfort zone and you are giving time, that perhaps you don’t have in your life, to serve God and to serve others. It takes courage and trust to be able to do that.”

“I thank you for putting forth your gifts and talents to serve others,” Bishop Parkes added.

The St. Jude the Apostle Medal was commissioned by the Diocese of St. Petersburg in 1999 at the request of Bishop Robert N. Lynch. This medal acknowledges the great gift of the Church, its people, exemplified in these individuals who in their generosity and love of their faith have greatly contributed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their parish. The honorees come from all walks of life and serve in various ministries such as food pantries, financial assistance programs, outreach to the sick and homebound and many other volunteer positions at local churches.

A member of the St. Luke parish family since 1991, Elaine and her late husband have always been active in the parish community. Currently serving as an Extraordinary Minister, Elaine also participates in Bible Study, helps with bereavement luncheons, parish receptions, is an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and serves as one of the officers. Elaine also works behind the scenes with other volunteers in the parish office. She regularly makes time to help answer telephones, order office supplies, count Sunday offerings and update parish record keeping. Elaine has been generously volunteering her "time and talents" two plus days a week for the past nine years!  It's no wonder she was nominated and awarded the St. Jude the Apostle Medal for her service to our parish. Be sure to congratulate Elaine when you see her.