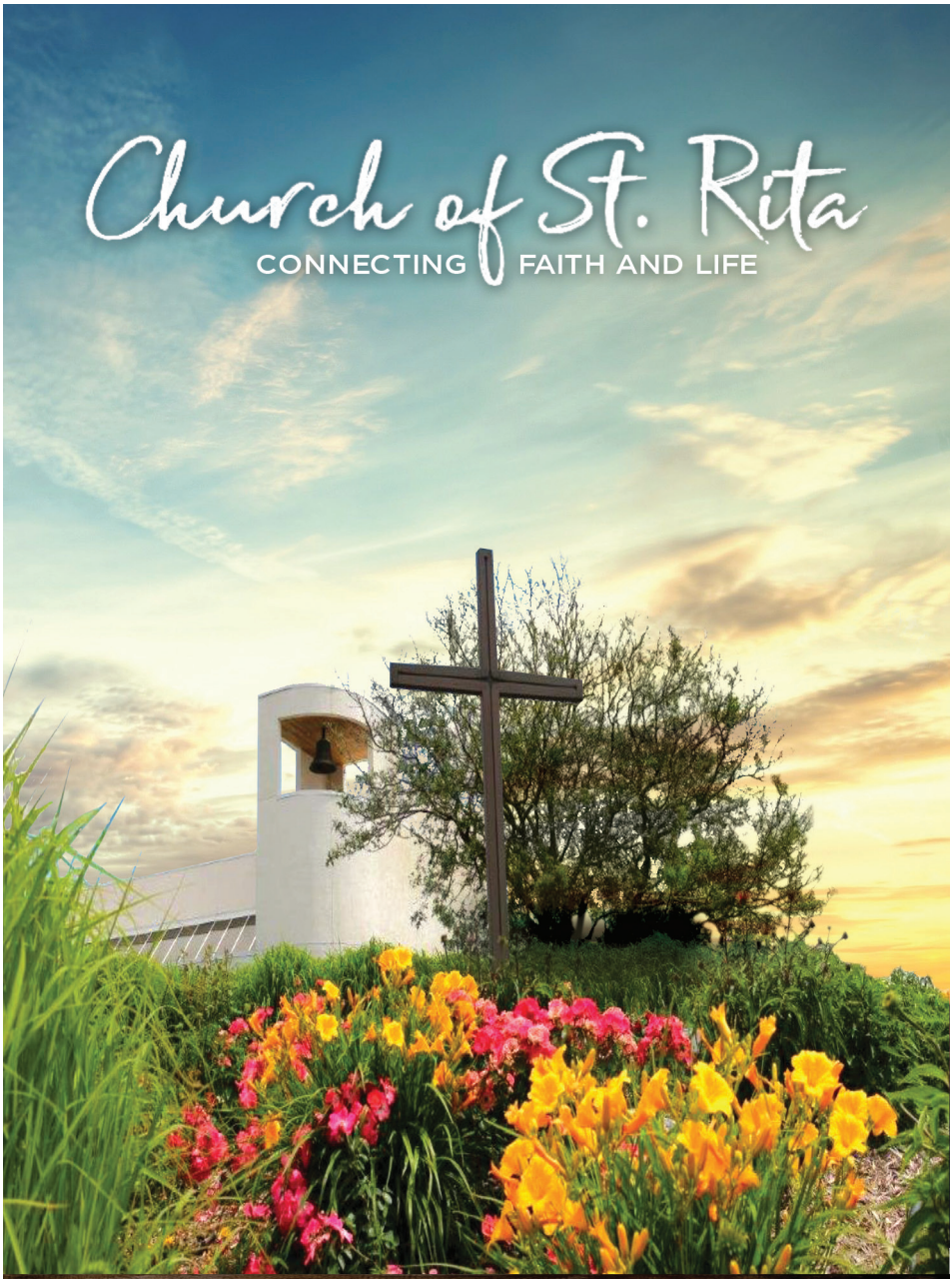

2021 GUIDE BOOK

8694 80TH STREET S. • COTTAGE GROVE, MN 55016 • 651-459-4596

Church of St. Rita

8694 80th Street S • Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-459-4596 (Office) • 651-459-5364 (Fax)
stritas@saintritas.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/saintritaschurch

Instagram

@saintritaschurch

Parish Office Telephone Number

651-459-4596 • Fax: 651-459-5364

Parish Office Hours

8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Thursday
8:00 am to noon Friday

Mass Times

Weekends:	Saturday	5:00 pm
	Sunday	8:30 am & 10:30 am
Weekdays:	Tuesday	5:00 pm
	Wednesday	8:30 am
	Thursday	8:00 am Communion service, 5:00 pm Mass
	Friday	8:30 am
Reconciliation:	Saturday	4:00 – 4:45 pm In Chapel Reconciliation Room or contact Fr. Mark directly
Adoration:	Thursdays following 8:00 Communion service until 5:00 pm. All parishioners are invited to commit to an hour of adoration, spending time with the Blessed Sacrament.	

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Index of Advertisers

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**B.C. = Back Cover I.F.C. = Inside Front Cover I.B.C. = Inside Back Cover*

Business Name ***Phone*** ***Page***

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Church of St. Rita

8694 80th Street S • Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-459-4596 (Office) • 651-459-5364 (Fax)
stritas@saintritas.org

General Parish Information

St. Rita's Parish Staff

Father Mark Joppa
frjoppa@saintritas.org

Deacon Jack Nicklay
jnicklay@saintritas.org

Deacon Steve Koop
651-459-4596

Rory Gilbert, Parish Business Administrator
rgilbert@saintritas.org

Rory Gilbert, Safe Environment Coordinator
rgilbert@saintritas.org

Kathy Kovarik, Director of Elementary Faith Formation
kkovarik@saintritas.org

Amy Schroeder, Director of Middle School/Sr High Faith Formation & Youth Ministry
aschroeder@saintritas.org

Carol Goecke, Faith Formation Assistant
cgoecke@saintritas.org

Adam Baus, Director of Music
abaus@saintritas.org

Cindy Mitchell, Office Manager
cmitchell@saintritas.org

Todd Salmonson, Director of Maintenance
tsalmonson@saintritas.org

Ann Marie Valento, Nursery Coordinator
avalento@saintritas.org

Mary Fran Koch, Parish Nurse
Cell: 612-325-5214

Dear Parishioner,

Whether you are a founding member of St. Rita's or just moved in recently to the area, the purpose of this mailing (provided free of charge to the parish) is to create or reawaken an awareness of the various ministries and programs at our parish. If you are new(er) to the parish or currently not volunteering, it is my hope and prayer that as you become more acquainted with the parish and ministries, we hope that you will find an area in which to share time and talent with our parish family. Like any family, we function most efficiently when all our members involve themselves in parish life.

God has given each of us great gifts, gifts which God intends for us to use to help build His kingdom here on earth. At St. Rita's, there are many opportunities to use the gifts God has given you to serve. Please check out our 2021 Parish Guidebook to see where God may be calling you to participate in this mission. We are very glad you are here, appreciate those who are currently volunteering, and look forward to getting to know you (new and experienced) better through your participation in the many ministries. Thank you for your generosity in responding by actively supporting your parish.

God is good!

Fr. Mark Joppa

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Parish Council

The Parish Council is made up of nine members with leadership abilities and a strong faith life. The Parish Council is consultative in nature, identifying and reviewing key issues impacting St. Rita's and makes recommendations to the pastor. Council members are nominated or can nominate themselves with 3 individuals being selected each year for a 3-year term. Email address is parishcouncil@saintritas.org

Finance Council

The Finance Council has six members selected for their leadership ability, strong faith life and expertise in areas of accounting & finance. The Finance Council is consultative in nature and makes recommendations to the pastor on financial matters and approves annual budget. Council members are selected by pastor and business administrator.

St. Rita of Cascia was a wife, mother, widow, and member of a religious community. Her holiness was reflected in each phase of her life.

Born at Roccaporena in central Italy, Rita wanted to become a nun but was pressured at a young age into marrying a harsh and cruel man. During her 18-year marriage, she bore and raised two sons. After her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons had died, Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. Unsuccessful at first because she was a widow, Rita eventually succeeded.

Over the years, her austerity, prayerfulness, and charity became legendary. When she developed wounds on her forehead, people quickly associated them with the wounds from Christ's crown of thorns. She meditated frequently on Christ's passion. Her care for the sick nuns was especially loving. She also counseled lay people who came to her monastery.

Beatified in 1626, Rita was not canonized until 1900. She has acquired the reputation, together with Saint Jude, as a saint of impossible cases. Many people visit her tomb each year.

Parish History

St. Rita's was incorporated as a parish of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis on Sept. 1, 1966. Fr. John Brandes, our first pastor, recruited families from St. Thomas Aquinas in St. Paul Park and began holding Mass, with 350 families, at Park High School until a church could be built.

The new church was built in 1970. It was a stark, modern structure of white concrete blocks, with the idea that the community would celebrate the Mass in two different places: The Theater of the Word in what is now Seton Hall and the Hall of Celebration for Eucharist in a space where the office staff and the sacristy are now located. The Eucharist area was never built due to financial constraints.

In 1986, the first addition was built with an exterior of white stucco. The building corners were curved to represent the warmth of Christ's encircling love. This addition included our current worship space along with the remodel of Seton Hall, a new daily Mass chapel, reconciliation room, administration offices and space for staff in what was intended to be a library. The 36 foot bell tower holds a massive 2100 lb. bell from St. Joseph's Parish in Emmett, SD, obtained when that church closed.

In 1998, a new kitchen was added to Seton Hall to serve our parish's growing activities. That same year the Statue of St. Rita, our patron saint, designed and crafted by Bonnette Studio, was installed at the entrance to the building. St. Rita, standing with outstretched arms, welcomes all to our church.

In 2004, our parish suffered the loss of our pastor, Fr. Jim Grogan, when he died of an inoperable brain aneurism. The outdoor cross at our driveway entrance was dedicated in his honor in 2006.

Our award-winning gardens were installed in 2005 under the direction of a parishioner, designer and landscape architect Anita Kerper, owner of BloomScapes Inc.

Started by Fr. Bill Deziel and completed during Fr. Rick Banker's tenure there were additions to the worship space such as a new tabernacle, cross/corpus, enhanced Stations of the Cross, statues of Mary, Joseph and St. Rita were purchased with donations and kneelers installed. The tabernacle and altar were moved to the center of the sanctuary. Deacon Jack Nicklay constructed a new tabernacle stand that matches the original altar and ambo. The chapel has also been enlarged to hold the increasing attendance at daily Mass.

In 2012, we were blessed to have Fr. Evan Koop, who grew up in our parish, as the first priest to be ordained from St. Rita's.

In May, 2015 we broke ground on the second addition to our building, the education wing.

2016 marked the 50th Anniversary as the Church of St. Rita. We were honored to welcome Archbishop Bernard Hebda as he celebrated Mass in celebration of our 50th anniversay and in dediating our new education wing. In 2018 Fr Ron Kreul, O.P. join us as Parocial Adminstrator for 2 years. In 2020 we welcomed our current pastor Fr. Mark Joppa.

Sacramental Life

Baptism

Parents wishing to have a child baptized must be active in the practice of their Catholic faith and be registered members of the parish. Parents are required to attend a baptism preparation class before the child will be baptized. Classes are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Baptisms are held on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month during Mass or at noon. Call the parish office to schedule a Baptism.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist usually occurs during a child's second grade year. Participation in a parent orientation meeting and parent/child activity night are required. Parents are provided materials to educate their children with the support from the Faith Formation Director.

Reconciliation preparation takes place in the fall and Eucharist preparation takes place starting in early winter with reception of the Eucharist taking place in early spring. Contact Kathy Kovarik, Elementary Faith Formation Director, kkovarik@saintritas.org or call 651-459-4596.

Preparation for these sacraments is separate from the faith formation program, but participation is required in the faith formation program.

Confirmation

Young people who wish to be confirmed in the Catholic faith are welcome to enroll in the Confirmation process here at St Rita's once they have reached 10th grade. The Confirmation process is separate from Faith Formation classes, though attendance in a Faith Formation program from grades 8-10 is required for Confirmation candidates. Candidates will be asked to choose a sponsor whom they will meet with to pray and discuss their faith and questions. They will also participate in a retreat, complete the Mass Notes requirement and select a patron saint name. Contact Amy Schroeder for more information, aschroeder@saintritas.org or call 651-459-4596.

Anointing of the Sick

Scripture has numerous examples of Jesus Compassion & Healing of the sick. This sacrament brings the Grace of God to those dealing with illness or facing surgery. Also, this sacrament brings a special healing and comfort to those facing death. To receive this sacrament, contact the parish office.

In addition, the parish offers several Healing Masses throughout the year for those in need, watch the church bulletin for details.

Marriage

Couples wishing to be married at St. Rita's Church should contact the church at least six months in advance of the desired wedding date to begin a time of sacramental preparation. At least one participant or their family must be a member of our parish and participating in the worship life of the Catholic Church.

Reconciliation (Sacrament of Confession) Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:45 pm or contact Father Mark Joppa at parish office to schedule appointment.

Pope Francis said "Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness." Jesus gave us the sacrament of Reconciliation as the ordinary means for asking and receiving forgiveness from God. Reconciliation is an essential part of our lives as Catholics, and an essential part of growing in holiness. Consider making Reconciliation a regular part of your life.

Pastoral Care

Parish Nurse

Our Parish Nurse is an experienced retired registered nurse who offers listening and support for your needs as well as programs to stay healthy in body, mind and spirit. Our Parish Nurse blends nursing and ministry with health education and personal health counseling. Blood pressure checks are offered each month after Masses. In person visits are available. Please contact Mary Fran Kock at 612-325-5214

Services for the Homebound

The Priest or Pastoral Care Director are available to visit and bring Holy Communion to the sick, *hospitalized, homebound, those residing in assisted living residences or nursing homes. If you would like to receive a visit, either for yourself or a family member, please call the parish office to make necessary arrangements.

**Due to privacy laws, churches do not get notified if a parishioner is hospitalized or in a nursing home.*

Funeral

Our clergy, musicians, and staff work closely with the chosen funeral home to facilitate your funeral needs for a Mass or service. To avoid unnecessary conflict and confusion, it is important to work through the funeral home director to establish dates and times.

Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions may be for the living and the dead. There is a suggested stipend of $7 per Mass Intention. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like a Mass Intention.

Stewardship

Time, Talent & Treasure

Stewardship invites Catholics to offer back to God the “first-fruits” of their lives to support their Parish, its programs, and ministries. Everyone has something to give, whether it is time, talent or treasure and every gift whether, big or small, is truly a blessing to your Church and its community. This commitment of your time, of your talent and your financial resources is important and St. Rita’s cannot thrive without every member’s personal and financial support. We hope that you will pray and carefully discern how you can joyfully support the many ministries and needs of the parish.

Financial

Giving and donations can be made weekly via parish envelopes, electronically through direct debits from your checking or savings account, through stock transfers, investments, trusts and by simply placing cash in the collection baskets during Mass, or through the "Give+Church" app.

Time & Talent

Another way to show joyful support is to volunteer your time and talent. Please consider sharing your special skills with the church and contact the Parish Office or an individual staff member or parishioner in a leadership position for details about specific opportunities available.

This booklet will provide you many ministry opportunities which are available at St. Rita's. Your participation makes our Parish a strong faith community. Thank you for participating financially and sharing your gifts of time and talent. If you have any questions or want to participate in some of the ministries, please call the contact person identified with each ministry or the Parish office at 651-459-4596.

Faith Formation

Adult

RCIA

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a process through which a person joins or completes their initiation into the Catholic Church.

The RCIA is for three groups of people:

- Those who are not baptized.
- Those who are baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- Baptized Catholics who were never formed in the Catholic faith and have not completed the sacraments of initiation.
- RCIA classes begin in October and conclude shortly after Easter. For more information, call Deacon Jack Nicklay at 651-459-4596 or email jnicklay@saintritas.org.

Adult Bible Study

We welcome everyone to join the journey that brings us closer to God. Studies consist of 2 different topics, a fall session and a winter session as well as small group discussions, faith sharing and prayer. If interested, contact Marylee Stabenow at 651-463-4437.

Serra Club

Serra Club, named after our patron, St. Junipero Serra, is a lay organization instituted by the Vatican in 1941 to encourage and coordinate efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Members of the Serra Club embrace their responsibility to promote, support and affirm vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Here at St. Rita's, we seek to instill a culture of vocations among the faithful so that budding vocations are nurtured and supported. The Saint Paul Serra Club meets the third Monday of the month at The Saint Paul Seminary for 11:45 a.m. Mass and then lunch and a speaker who may be from a religious order, a diocesan priest, a bishop, or a lay person from an important apostolate which supports vocations to the priesthood or consecrated life. Our connection with these priests and religious men and women form lifelong friendships. Prayer for vocations is the foundation of all of our work along with Holy Hours and Eucharistic worship. For information on the spiritual benefits of membership and to join, contact Julie and Ken Dines at 651-459-6239.

Elementary

Children's Faith Formation

The goal of the elementary faith formation program is to guide children to understand what it means to be a Catholic Christian today. In a loving and accepting environment children participate in the prayer life of the Church, build community and learn to serve others. Classes are offered 3 times a week; Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon, and Sunday morning.

Another option is a weeklong session in the summer. Contact Kathy Kovarik, kkovarik@saintritas.org for more information.

Children's and Family Ministry

Summer Vacation Bible School: for ages 4 thru Third Grade. Generally held during the month of July. We will be looking for great people who love the Lord and His children to help this summer!

Kids Make a Difference Day Events: these day long programs help children experience helping those less fortunate than us. Sometimes it is going to Feed My Starving Children, other times it is writing letters to homebound adults, writing to military service personnel from our parish, making blankets, or visiting the Humane Society

Family Fun Nights: families come together to share a meal, play family games, do crafts, and make new friends. We do service projects like Feed My Starving Children. We do family bowling and other fun activities.

Children's Christmas Pageant: during our annual Christmas pageant, children tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Watch the parish bulletin for more details and times of the above events or contact Kathy Kovarik.

Middle/Senior High

Middle/High School Faith Formation

Youth in grades 6-10 come together and join in small groups, where they participate in discussion and learning experiences to help build understanding and desire to grow in their own faith. Sessions are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. Each month there will be a Large Group session in the Worship Space, focused on a topic that helps to connect our Catholic Faith with everyday life. Grades 6-7 use a video curriculum to explore our Catholic identity as well as walk thru the Bible in an engaging way. Grades 8-10 build community in their small groups while connecting our Catholic faith to everyday life and choices. Parents are always encouraged to join us for Large Group nights.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry
*All activities Covid dependent

CORE Peer Ministry Team: CORE is a team of young people and adults who help to choose and implement events, activities, and faith experiences for the young people of our community.

We meet on the first Monday of each month and work to make Faith Formation Large Group Sessions lively and Spirit filled as well as plan monthly activities for the youth of our parish. Youth in grades 9-12 are welcome to join us as peer ministers, contact Amy Schroeder at aschroeder@saintritas.org or call the Parish office.

yoUnite: a chance for youth in grades 6-12 to gather and connect our Catholic faith and life. We will have group games, conversation about the weekend scriptures, prayer, fun, laughter and of course food. Always feel free to invite your friends along!

UNWIND: For Juniors and Seniors, the Unwind sessions are a chance to meet for dinner, connect, laugh, and take a faith/life related topic and unwind it. We will meet at 6:00 pm on the last Sunday of every month.

St Rita's Ladies: High School ladies, we will be gathering again in late April and May to join in conversations, laughter and prayer. We will be celebrating that we are women made in the image and likeness of God and discuss some amazing ways we can honor that gift.

Summer Stretch: During the Summer 6-9th graders can spend their Tuesday morning packing meals, serving in the community, or working with the elderly. Afternoons will bring waterslides, laser tag, bowling and more fun. All this is capped off with a trip to Valley Fair to wrap up our Summer of service. 10-12 grade teen leaders and adult leaders are needed too! (We also have Random Stretch during the school year. Same format, just on the random days you don't have school!)

High School Bible Study: Join us in person (and sometimes in the Zoom Room) to engage in God's Word. Questions are encouraged, silence and laughter are welcome. Faith, ideas, and experience are shared. Contact the youth minister for details.

Catholic Youth Summer Camp: In late July we gather with other Catholic youth from around the diocese for a week of Extreme Faith, High Adventure and Amazing Fellowship. This Middle School camp is also open to high school leaders who want to share their faith and develop leadership skills.

Mission Trip: Join our Mission Team each summer as we take off to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. You could find yourself painting a house, giving piggyback rides to local children at the kid's club, visiting an elderly home and meeting some amazing new friends. Fundraising opportunities will be available. Please pray for our team and the people God is calling us to serve!

NCYC: This is a bi-annual event that gathers over 25,000 Catholic High School youth from around the nation to celebrate our Catholic faith together in Indianapolis. Join us November 2021. Contact Amy for more information or check out www.ncyc.info.

World Youth Day in Portugal, Summer of 2022. Watch for more information on this event.

Additional Events: Every month there's something new happening, whether it's a lock-in, movie night, trip to the zoo or youth rally, you're always welcome to join us and bring some friends! Watch the website, bulletin and your Youth Update for these events and remember to sign up on time!

Liturgical Ministries

Music Ministries

***All activities Covid dependent**

Music is alive and well at Saint Rita's! We have one of the most active and vibrant music ministries you will find anywhere. Membership requirements are only a song in your heart and a desire to share it with our community. You do not need any formal music training to participate in the music ministry. We welcome you to join us for an active liturgical music calendar.

St. Rita's has 10 different singing groups, all with a different personality, repertoire core, frequency of Mass presentations, and rehearsal commitments. Talk to our music director about joining our ensembles.

- **Children's Choir –** Grades 1-5
- **RESOUND –** Grades 6+; Teen Praise Group Open to all ages:
- **Choir**
- **Joyful Praise**
- **ECHO**
- **WBIG Men's Choir**
- **Women's Choir**
- **Chamber Choir**
- **Soloists/ Cantors:** Opportunities to grow in your personal singing are available.

Not a singer, but want to contribute to our musical abundance?

- **Instrumentalists:** All instruments are welcome! Guitar, Strings, Brass, Winds, Drums, and Keyboardists are encouraged to participate.
- **Audio Visual Operator:** Run the lyrics and prayer slides for Mass.
- **Camera and Video:** Run the livestream for worship services.
- **Audio Volunteer:** Setup and work the sound system for liturgical events. Training provided.
- **Music Office Volunteer:** The music office is always happy to have help on upcoming projects.

Please consider joining the music ministry at Saint Rita's. Contact Music Director Adam Baus at abaus@saintritas.org.

Altar Servers

This ministry is open to youth in grade 5 and older and adults to assist the Celebrant at liturgies. Training is provided, and schedules are prepared for three months at a time around your availability. Contact Deacon Jack Nicklay at jnicklay@saintritas.org or 651-459-4596 for more information.

Lectors/Commentary

The ministry of Lecturing is to proclaim the Word of God at Mass. This ministry is open to teenagers and adults with training provided. If interested contact Tim Lenartz at timlenartz73@gmail.com or 612-469-2613.

Extraordinary Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic assist the Priest in distributing the Body and Blood of Jesus at Masses and communion services and are present before Mass to greet and welcome parishioners. They may also bring Communion to people in their homes, hospitals, and care centers. Extraordinary Ministers must be 16 years of age or older, baptized, confirmed and active in the faith. Training is provided. If interested contact the Parish office for more information.

Mass Coordinators (Sacristan)

Mass Coordinators prepare the worship space for Mass. They also check that all liturgical ministries are present. Mass Coordinators are Extraordinary Ministers and assist with Communion at Mass.

AV Operators

Help run the projection system which is used during the liturgy. Training is provided and scheduled are made out in advance. If interested, please contact the Parish office at 651-459-4596.

Ushers

The “unsung heroes in liturgy.” Ushers welcome parishioners for liturgical worship, help seat people, take up the offerings, assist in communion procession and distribute the parish bulletin after Masses. Ushers also selects volunteers to be gift bearers. Men and Women of the parish, 16 years or older are invited to become Ushers. Schedules are made up one year in advance. If interested contact the Parish office at 651-459-4596.

Adoration

Come and spend some quiet time to reflect and pray with the Lord every Thursday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in the Chapel. Adoration begins after the 8:00 am Communion service and goes until 4:00 pm and is followed by the 4:00 Mass. Adoration is a place to sit before the Lord, he is always waiting and longing to visit with us. Call the Parish office at 651-459-4596 if you are interested in committing to 1 hour to adore the Lord. Call Jane 612-803-1169 if you are interested in committing to 1 hour to adore the Lord.

Liturgical Environment

The Environment Team is responsible for the season environment in our church. Times are flexible, and busiest around Christmas and Easter. Contact Parish office, 651-459-4596.

Parish Life

Senior Singles

The Senior Singles meet once a month and enjoy a lunch, dinner, or a social event.

Men and women are always welcomed. Please contact the parish office.

St. Rita's Women's Council

The Women's Council serves and clean up at funeral lunches. They also coordinate special event luncheons or dinners that may be needed. If interested in joining the Women's Council contact the Parish office at 651-459-4596.

Women's 500 Card Club

Like to play cards? The women's 500 card club is always looking for players to join or sub. If interested contact Kathy Klein at 651-459-5202.

Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival is in September and is a weekend full of fun activities, food and camaraderie. Volunteers are always needed. Planning starts in the spring.

If interested in volunteering or being part of the Festival Planning Committee, please contact the Parish office at 651-459-4596.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a charitable fraternal organization of Catholic men dedicated to the Church, family, and community. Our local council has been active since 2010 raising funds for the parish and community needs as well as donating countless hours of volunteer time.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Please contact Brian Olson if you are interested at ozmathegreen@gmail.com

Prayer Groups

7 Sisters Apostolate

Seven women commit to offering of a Holy Hour exclusively for our parish Pastor. Each woman has a distinct day of the week, thus covering a complete week and is committed to prayer for a period of one year. For more information, contact Barb Schultz at barb50dingle@hotmail.com or 651-459-3597.

Healing Ministry Prayer Group

Gathers in the Chapel every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am. Rosary is prayed for all who are listed in the Healing Ministry Book. Please come and join this wonderful and powerful prayer group.

Sunday Night Rosary & Prayer Group

Meets at 7:30 pm every Sunday night in the Eucharistic Chapel, please come and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Hearts & Hands Ministry

Craft Ministry

If you like knitting, crocheting and rosary making, put your craft skills to work with this fun group of parishioners as they create prayer shawls to comfort those who are ill, hospitalized or just want to be wrapped in a prayerful shawl. We also make rosaries for the missions and blankets for newly Baptized infants while praying for those who receive these spiritual gifts. Contact Karen Callinan 651-459-6783.

Gardening Group (Maintenance & Upkeep)

Join the dedicated team of gardeners who care and nurture our award-winning gardens. As one of the team members, you will be scheduled once or twice a month throughout the growing season to help prep the gardens in the spring, plant, trim and weed throughout the summer months and prepare the gardens for the winter in the fall. If interested, contact Cathy Mitchell at bobcatmit@aol.com or Roseanne Haupert rhhaupert@comcast.net.

Grounds Crew (upkeep of Church grounds)

To maintain the church grounds volunteers are always needed, i.e., tree trimmers, sidewalk snow removal, grounds trimmer, painting, leaf removal, & misc. yard work. Contact Todd Salmonson at tsalmonson@saintritas.org or call the Parish office.

Worship Space Upkeep

Contact Parish Office at 651-459-4596 if interested in volunteering for the following ministries:

Kitchen Upkeep – once or twice a month

Cleaning of the main kitchen and the hospitality kitchenette which includes light mopping of floors, wipe counters and washing towels and washcloths using church wash machine. If you are interested in helping, please contact Parish office.

Church Cleaning

Thorough cleaning of the worship space and the gathering space is done twice a year, Christmas and Easter seasons. Volunteers gather to dust, wipe, wash and polish everything in the church and end with a coffee social. Many hands make less work.

Indoor Plant Care

Volunteers take care of plants in the Worship space and in the Chapel on a monthly basis. They are responsible for watering, fertilizing, repotting, etc.

Votive Candles

To provide a full and clean votive stand, votive cups are cleaned of used wax and replaced with new candles daily if needed.

Friends in Need Food Shelf Collection

Collect food items from the food shelf basket and the food shelf closet to take to the Friends in Need food shelf location. If interested contact Deacon Jack Nicklay at 651-459-4596.

Food Collection and Donations

Pick up bread and other bakery items and deliver to needed locations. If interested call the parish office at 651-459-4596.

Hospitality/ Administrative Ministries

Children's Nursery

Childcare is offered on Sunday only for the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses.

Donut Sundays/Cookie Saturday

The second weekend of every month is Hospitality Weekend where cookies on Saturday night and donuts on Sunday are available after each Mass. Come and join us and meet your neighbor. In interested in volunteering, contact Sharon Hoffman at 651-731-5439.

Hearing Aids

Hearing Aids are available upon request, please see an Usher.

Administrative services are the behind-the-scenes activities that assist and support the parish staff and various parish ministries.

Money Counters

Volunteers are scheduled on a rotating basis to process contribution envelopes and prepare the deposit for the Sunday and special collections. If interested contact Rory Gilbert at rgilbert@saintritas.org or call 651-459-4596.

Office Mailing and Bulletin Inserts

Volunteers assist in preparing bulk mailing by stuffing envelopes, labeling and counting envelopes to be sent. Volunteers are also needed to insert information sheets into each church bulletin. If interested in helping contact Cindy Mitchell at cmitchell@saintritas.org or call 651-459-4596.

Church Seton Hall Rental

Seton Hall is available for rental to parishioners only, if interested please contact Church Administration, Rory Gilbert at rgilbert@saintritas.org or 651-459-4596.

Parish Outreach

*** All activities Covid dependent**

Listening House

The Listening House is a day homeless shelter located in St. Paul. Our parish collects food & clothing and many other items that are needed to help the homeless. If interested in this ministry, please contact the Parish office at 651-459-4596.

Each month meal bags are packed to offer food for the homeless for their weekend meals. Items can be placed in the collection baskets labeled Listening House and are packed on the second Friday of every month.

Foot Washing

Each Thursday of the month volunteers wash the feet of the homeless at the Listening House, if interested email Mary Hilgers at missionoutreach@saintritas.org.

Food Shelf

St. Rita's collects food for our local food shelf organization, Friends In Need. Food items can be placed in the collection basket located at the baptism font labeled "Food Shelf". Contact Deacon Jack Nicklay at 651-459-4596 if interested in this ministry.

Community Meal

Community Meal is offered on the 3rd Friday of every month. This meal is offered at no charge for anyone in the community. Volunteers are needed for cooking and cleaning up. Please consider volunteering by calling the Parish office, 651-459-4596.

Mission Outreach

The Mission Outreach Commission coordinates activities that assist our Sister Parish, Los Santos Martires, in Chimbote Peru, Fr. Mbiche's orphanage in Tanzania and Fr. Albert's school in Ghana. Locally they organize volunteer weeks at The Hope for the Journey shelter in Oakdale, MN and service opportunities at the Listening House in St. Paul. The commission organizes various fundraising activities to provide monetary support for these efforts. Everyone is welcomed to join. If interested email Mary Hilgers at missionoutreach@saintritas.org.

Respect Life Group

The goal of the Respect Life group is to create a culture of life that instills dignity and respect for human life from conception to natural death. We pray and work to bring a conversion of heart and mind that all will be open to God's special gift of life. We support those in crisis by assisting Woodbury Options for Women Pregnancy Resource Center with fund-raising activities, Baby Bottle Campaign, and Christmas Cookie Sale. We contribute material needs from our Lenten Baby Shower program and participate in pro-life prayer rallies and marches as well as volunteering when needed. Future goals include informing and educating people of all ages about life facts and issues; i.e., chastity programs, end-of-life, assisted suicide. The Respect Life group meets at St. Rita's as needed to plan and support events and activities.

If interested, contact Nini Nelson at ninimark@gmail.com or call the Parish office.