

# Saints Simon and Jude Ministries and Activities Directory

We are living in a time of great renewal and we invite you to be a part of a rich experience as Saints Simon and Jude strives to become a *Next Generation Parish!*

As Archbishop Perez seeks to “Move from crisis to hope, Rebuild the resources of the Church, and Create a culture of missionary discipleship”, we ask What are you being called to do? What can SSJ do to serve you?

Give glory to God by serving others.

We are caretakers, not owners, of our time, talent, and treasure. SSJ Parish is filled with blessings and thanksgiving and is grateful for all the people who make SSJ a vibrant and active Catholic parish community.

**If you would like more information about any ministry or activity, please contact the Rectory Office at 610-696-3624 or via email at [email@simonandjude.org](mailto:email@simonandjude.org) with ministry information in the subject line.**

## Faith Formation

### **HELP SOMEONE LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING CATHOLIC RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)**

Provides Catholic Faith Formation to inquiring adults and prepares those interested in celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Team members lead discussions, educate and share faith with participants. Sessions are held on weekday evenings. Participants build relationship with others to help discern becoming Catholic or to complete their sacramental preparation.

#### ***Who should participate?***

As a team member, any parishioner comfortable with discussing and sharing their Catholic faith. Training is provided by IHM Sisters. As a candidate or catechumen, anyone discerning a call to become Catholic or to complete their sacraments.

### **HELP CHILDREN GROW IN THEIR FAITH**

#### **PREP (Parish Religious Education Program)**

A program that instructs children attending public schools from Levels 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 on the teachings of the Catholic faith. There is also a PREP Pre-School on Sunday mornings.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Volunteer Catechists instruct students on the teachings of the Catholic faith with age-appropriate materials.

#### ***Who should participate?***

Adults who are interested in educating and sharing their faith serve as Catechists and Aides. Children who attend public schools or who are home schooled attend class.

#### **PREP SUNDAY Pre-School Classes for Ages: 3 thru Kindergarten**

This engaging hands-on program, including arts and crafts, provides a foundation in the Catholic faith by supplementing parental teaching. Our volunteers who teach are trained and experienced to help your child learn more about:

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, The Bible, Prayer, Saints, Devotions, and the liturgical year.

#### ***Class dates and times:***

When: Sunday 9:25 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

#### ***How can my child participate?***

Fill out a registration form available on the parish website: <http://www.simonandjude.org>, or in the Rectory Office or in the Religious Education Office. Drop off the form at the Rectory Office or the Religious Education Office. For more information please call 610-692-3118 or email Mrs. Mary Conway at [mconway@simonandjude.org](mailto:mconway@simonandjude.org) or Sister Barbara Jude Gentry at [sbarbarajude@simonandjude.org](mailto:sbarbarajude@simonandjude.org).

#### **Youth Groups – Teens In the parish**

Teen Youth Group meets on every other Sunday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. during the school year. The First and Third Sundays in The Meehan Center

#### **LEARN AND PASS ALONG THE BASICS OF CHRISTIANITY ChristLife – discovering Christ and following Christ**

ChristLife is an opportunity to learn more about being a faithful follower of Christ. ChristLife begins with a simple dinner, followed by a talk and small group discussion. Courses are offered in the fall and spring.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Participants come to enjoy dinner, hear a talk and join in discussion on Thursday evenings.

**Evangelization Team**

Raises the level of awareness and motivation among Catholics of their duty to personally support and participate in the works and ministries of spreading the Good News.

**What does it involve?**

Being an “active disciple” developing, planning and implementing activities and events for the spiritual benefit of the parish.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone who is enthusiastic about bringing the Gospel message to all people; helping to bring about the re-conversion of those who have received the Gospel but live it only nominally; and deepening the Gospel in the lives of believers.

**LEARN BY STUDYING GOD’S WORD****Bible Study - Men**

Men’s Group reflects on the upcoming Sunday scriptures and discusses how God’s Word impacts daily life.

**What does it involve?**

Men meet on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Meehan Center beginning with coffee and donuts, or on Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the Welcome Center.

**Who should participate?**

Male parishioners willing to share in God’s Word with others. No experience necessary.

**Bible Study - Women**

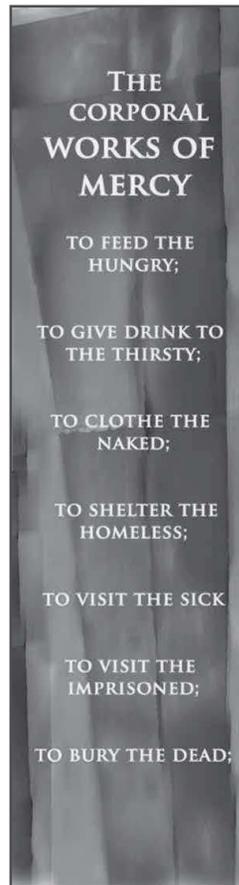
Women discuss scripture to discern its meaning and help provide a deeper faith and richness in their lives through a better understanding of scripture.

**What does it involve?**

Women meet weekly from October through the end of April on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m

**Who should participate?**

Female parishioners willing to share in God’s Word with others. No experience necessary.

**Walking with Purpose: Moms Group**

Walking with Purpose is a Catholic women’s ministry that develops Bible studies to reach adult women, young adult women, and girls. Present practical Biblical teachings consistent with Church doctrine; Vary in length and depth to meet the needs of different women; Utilize the Catechism of the Catholic Church as an additional resource; Walking with Purpose supports the use of our Bible studies in a variety of ways in order to lead hearts to Christ where He is found in Scripture.

**What does it involve?**

Women meet once or twice a month on a weeknight.

**Who should participate?**

Any woman who would like to learn and share faith.

**DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS****Monday Morning Prayer Group**

A Prayer Group that meets each Monday morning in the Welcome Center from 9:45- 10:30am.

**What does it involve?**

Praying with others. Here are some prayers we pray together: Ten special prayers from our prayer book, The Flame of Love Unity Prayer - Reflections, Prayer for Priests, The Saint Gertrude Prayer, The Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, Intercessory Prayers, The Chaplet of Saint Michael and more.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone interested in praying with others.

**Carmelite Community:**

A group of Catholic people who choose to live the Gospel in the spirit of the Carmelite Order and under its guidance.

**What does it involve?**

Attending a monthly community meeting on the 2nd Saturday morning of the month, when possible. Members usually participate in the daily celebration of the Eucharist when possible, and should spend about one half-hour in meditation each day, reflecting on the Scriptures or some other appropriate type of personal reflective prayer. The Lay Carmelite also may pray the Liturgy of the Hours – Morning and Evening Prayer.

**Who should participate?**

Those who wish to be members of the Lay Carmelites must be practicing Catholics and must be at least 18 years of age.

**Companions of Mary:**

The Companions of Mary minister to those who are unable to leave their residence (for short or long term) by providing visits and the reception of Holy Communion. They provide support to home-bound persons through their presence and careful attention. This is an opportunity to make God's presence immediate and real to the home-bound person through prayer and reception of Communion. Home visits have been limited since Covid-19 but do happen for those who are comfortable.

**What does it involve?**

This group meets on Wednesdays at 9:45 in the Welcome Center for the recitation of the rosary.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone who is interested is welcome to join the group in prayer on Wednesdays and learn more. We love making new friends!

**CYACC (Catholic Young Adults of Chester County)**

A young adult group which strives to learn about the Catholic faith and grow closer to Christ. We know that having Catholic friends and fellowship is especially important after high school/college years and would like to be known by the young adults that attend the parish.

**What does it involve?**

We meet on Wednesdays and our events include speaker nights, community & fellowship events, Holy Hours, and service projects. If you are looking for a community that encourages your faith journey, come to one of our events! We look forward to seeing you. Team members lead discussions, educate and share faith with participants.

**Who should participate?**

Young adults from the age of 20-35

To learn more go to [cyacc.org](http://cyacc.org)

or email ([cyacc1@gmail.com](mailto:cyacc1@gmail.com)) to add your name to receive newsletters or follow us on instagram ([cyacc\\_pa](https://www.instagram.com/cyacc_pa))

**Divine Will Cenacle**

An Introduction to God's Divine Will. God the Father wants His Kingdom to reign on earth as it does in heaven. It is what we ourselves pray for each time we say the Our Father. He has given each of us the gift of His Divine Will in Baptism, and it is up to us to live the Will of God each moment.

**What does it involve?**

Meets each week to listen, read, and discuss the writings of Luisa Piccarreta of the Book of Heaven, as Jesus dictated to her. The group meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm, or Thursday mornings at 10am.

**Who should participate?**

Any Catholic who has interest and would like to understand the writings of Luisa Piccarreta - the 36 volumes of "The Book of Heaven"

**Flame of Love:**

The devotion of the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a grassroots movement, trying to faithfully and prudently put into practice the desires of God and our Mother as described in the Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann. We pledge total loyalty and obedience to the Church. We especially invite all priests and religious to help us to guide this new Movement solely for God's glory in His Church and according to His Will.

**What does it involve?**

Come and pray with us on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone wanting to deepen his or her faith and devotion to Mary.

**IHM Companions in Prayer and Ministry**

The IHM Companions are a spiritual association engaging participants in opportunities for prayer and spiritual development with The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Immaculata.

**What does it involve?**

An hour of gathering with an IHM Sister and others in prayer once a month. Time for personal/communal prayer, refreshments and socializing.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone with a deep desire to pray and to grow in our life of faith by sharing our journey to the Lord.

**Prayer for Adult Children:**

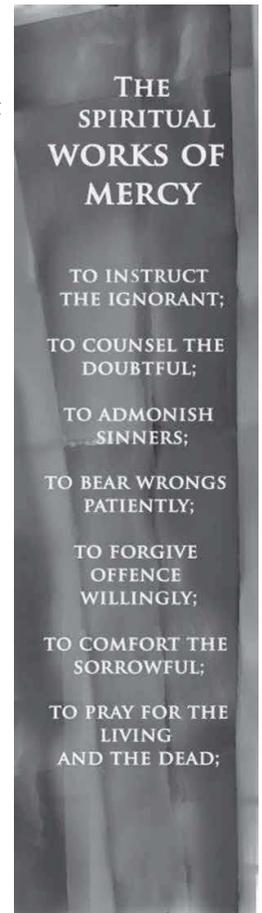
Parents want to continue to support their adult children and grandchildren and help them build their own lives well. How do you deal with all of your many concerns about them? Prayer is the key. Praying for your adult children will connect you to the only perfect Parent – God – and invite Him to act powerfully in their lives.

**What does it involve?**

Attending a prayer discussion meeting once or twice a month.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone with adult children or adult grandchildren that would like to participate.



**PRAISE AND WORSHIP THE LORD OUTSIDE OF MASS****Charismatic Prayer Group**

Gathers to pray for a deeper experience of the power of the Holy Spirit and a personal relationship with God. We pray for each other and for all in need of prayers and healing.

**What does it involve?**

The Prayer Group meets once a week on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

**Who should participate?**

Anyone who wishes to have a deeper relationship with God through prayer, song, and scripture.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Personal prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is a special gift. Hours for adoration are Monday thru Friday with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in our Chapel after the morning Mass until 8 PM.

**What does it involve?**

Bringing your personal petitions, your thanksgiving and other needs to the Lord. Drop in for a few minutes or for a scheduled hour. For those who can make a weekly commitment, volunteers are invited to take an assigned hour of his or her choosing each week to pray before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The commitment is ongoing.

**Who should participate?**

Everyone is welcome to come and pray before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. If you cannot commit to a regular hour, you are welcome to come at any time for a visit or consider sharing the hour different weeks with a friend or group.

**HELP PARENTS PREPARE FOR THEIR CHILD'S BAPTISM****Pre-Jordan (Baptism Preparation)**

Team leaders present baptismal preparation program for parents planning to have a child baptized.

**What does it involve?**

Team members explain the importance and significance of the Sacrament, share their memories about the baptism of their children, and a description of the ceremony. The presentation is given on the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for approximately one hour. Commitment is ongoing.

**Who should participate?**

Any married couple parishioners who have experienced the joy of having children baptized into the Catholic faith.

**HELP CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE****Vacation Bible Camp**

A fun and exciting way for young students to learn the many lessons that can be found in the Bible.

**What does it involve?**

Adults assist with storytelling, crafts, music, games, audio/visual aids and snacks for the camp being held in July.

**Who should participate?**

Helpers: Adults and teens entering 7th grade or above who are creative and can help plan and carry out various activities.  
Participants: Children ages 3 to 11 years old.

**Education****SSJ School - Celebrating 60 years of quality education rooted in the Catholic faith**

Saints Simon and Jude School had its official beginning on May 25, 1961 when Reverend Joseph A. Cavanaugh founded the parish for the Catholic families residing in the area. In September of 1962, the school opened its doors and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, along with a few lay teachers comprised the first faculty. Grades 1 through 4 were one classroom each; grades 5 through 8 were double classrooms.

In 1970, the two-story building had 16 classrooms, two for each grade from 1 through 8, and construction of the gymnasium had begun. In 1990, ground was broken for a new wing that provided Saints Simon and Jude School with new classrooms, a library, music room, computer room, faculty room, and a large parish center. The renovation also included additional bathrooms and a few smaller rooms were constructed for tutoring purposes. In 1991, a kindergarten classroom opened and in 1992, a second kindergarten classroom was added.

In 2005, a new church was built and the former church was renovated to include a school cafeteria and meeting rooms the following year. In 2007, the gymnasium was renovated with wood flooring and bleachers. In 2008, the Chester County Intermediate Unit employees moved from outside trailers to renovated rooms in the building, a Spanish class was added as well as an Art room. The following year a Science Lab was installed so students in grades 1 through 8 would learn with hands-on lessons and experiments. Then in the summer of 2013, an HVAC system was added throughout the school. To ensure greater security, in the summer of 2014, the main office was relocated to the front entrance and an additional set of doors were added to create a secure lobby. April 2016 saw the formation of the Saints Simon and Jude School Board of Limited Jurisdiction. In September 2017, Saints Simon and Jude's *Little Explorers Preschool* opened with a class for PreK 3 and PreK 4 children.

In November 2017, the United States Department of Education recognized Saints Simon and Jude School as an *Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*. The following month, The Pennsylvania Department of Education awarded Saints Simon and Jude School the *Keystone Award of Excellence*. In the fall of 2021, Saints Simon and Jude School was named an *Archdiocese of Philadelphia School of Distinguished Instruction*. In November 2021, the school hosted an accreditation team that led to full re-accreditation notification by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools in May of 2022.

In 2022, the 60th Anniversary of Saints Simon and Jude School, a third preschool class and a full-time Resource Room were opened. The school's library and technology rooms were combined to create a new Media Center.

Looking to the future, Saints Simon and Jude School continues to incorporate advancements in education and technology to accommodate the entire student body. In addition to Religion, English, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies, the students are scheduled for Art, Library, Classroom Music, Physical Education, Spanish, and Technology with optional extracurricular groups and activities.

Tuition is kept at a rate to meet the budgeted expenses and yet respect the demands on every family's resources. Discounts are provided for families with more than one child in Grades K to 8 and the parish pays a "scholarship" which supplements the family tuition. Do NOT let finances hold you back from giving your child the gift of Catholic Education. Tuition assistance is available thanks to generous donors.

For more information, visit our website at [school.simonandjude.org](http://school.simonandjude.org) or call 610-696-5249. We look forward to hearing from you.

### School Mission Statement

"Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we at Saints Simon and Jude School commit ourselves to learning, proclaiming and living the Good News of Jesus Christ. We strive to educate and develop all for Catholic leadership in the church and community, enabling one another to serve with compassion, courage and competence."



### BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE Home and School Association

The object of this Association is the advancement of Catholic education and the welfare of all the school children in this parish. The Home and School Association promotes parent-school activities, increases interest in educational affairs, promotes school community socially, and generates revenue for expenses. It enhances the parents and teachers' role in the education of the child by increasing their mutual understanding of the children and by providing an opportunity for parents and teachers to work together for the good of the child.

Membership is open to all registered school parents. All school parents are encouraged to attend the Home and School Association meetings. Annual dues are included in the annual tuition.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Saints Simon and Jude School operates successfully because of the number of parents who generously volunteer each year. There are many volunteer opportunities available, including homeroom parent, library aide, science lab or media center aide, lunch/recess yard assistant, and many Home and School Association events that require hands-on help. Parents are especially encouraged to take an active part in their child's learning environment. The Sign-Up Genius site is used throughout the year announcing opportunities and inviting all to share their time and talent as possible. Apart from the school activities there are also coaching opportunities for our CYO sports teams. Please visit [school.simonandjude.org/volunteers](http://school.simonandjude.org/volunteers) to see both the opportunities and the requirements for all volunteers. For further questions regarding the specific clearances needed to volunteer for any school-parish activity that involves children please contact Candy Savarese at [csavarese@simonandjude.org](mailto:csavarese@simonandjude.org) or 610-696-3624.

## Service

### Blood Drive

The Red Cross Blood Drive comes to our parish a few times each year.

#### What does it involve?

Contribute the lifesaving gift of blood to your neighbors. In addition to blood donors, volunteers are needed to work for each visit.

#### Who should participate?

Healthy individuals eligible to donate blood as donors, and caring individuals who can assist with signing in and other simple tasks.



**Knights of Columbus**

Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society committed to the founding principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. Membership contributes to good works through council, church, youth, family activities and community service.

**What does it involve?**

Business meetings are held monthly, on a Monday, at 7:30 p.m. Our council hosts various council activities on a monthly and annual basis.

**Who should participate?**

Practicing Catholic men who are at least 18 years old and would like to develop lifelong friendships through helping others in the parish and community.

**H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People in Emergency)**

People who support others in need of community resources. Assistance is provided for people who are ill, disabled, out of work, or in other situations that create circumstances where they need temporary spiritual or financial assistance.

**What does it involve?**

Answering requests for assistance with confidentiality and directing people to resources to help remedy their need.

**Who should participate?**

Volunteers with compassionate hearts who can keep information confidential and work with others. Training is provided.

## Worship/Liturgical

**HELP OUT AT MASS****Altar Linens (The Lord's Laundry Group)**

Volunteers help maintain a clean supply of altar linens, towels and the white lightweight albs along with miscellaneous linens used at masses.

**What does it involve?**

Ministers pick up soiled linens on Monday, laundering and ironing the items and returning the clean linens to church no later than Friday of the week. Average time commitment for each volunteer is about four hours on their assigned week. Commitment is ongoing.

**Who should participate?**

Any woman or man who can launder and neatly iron the linens.

**Altar Servers**

Servers assist Priests in the celebration of the Liturgy by carrying the cross and processional candles, holding the book for the Priest, and assisting with the presentation of the bread, wine, and water and other duties.

**What does it involve?**

Servers are scheduled for occasional weekend liturgies as well as weddings, funerals, and daily Mass when available.

**Who should participate?**

Male and female parishioners from fifth grade age through adult. Training is provided.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:**

Offers Kindergarten to Third Grade children the opportunity to hear God's Word proclaimed and adapted to their age group at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays.

**What does it involve?**

Leaders and co-leaders are needed to proclaim the readings, responsorial psalm, alleluia, Gospel and lead the reflection and prayers. Training is provided and planning guides are available to help with preparation of reflection. Approximately one hour is requested every two months for this job. Shepherds watch over children on the way to and from the chapel and during Liturgy, helping them stay focused on the weekly theme. No additional time is needed to prepare for this task.

**Who should participate?**

As Leaders: Adults willing to be trained as leaders and co-leaders.  
As Shepherds: Adults or high school teens able to kindly motivate children are needed.

Participants: Children from Kindergarten to Third Grade.

**Lectors**

Ministers of God's Word deliver the two readings before the Gospel as well as the Intercessions at weekend Masses and on other important occasions.

**What does it involve?**

Lectors prepare for the readings ahead of time and should arrive ten minutes prior to Mass. Lectors are typically scheduled for a Mass about once every six weeks. You can choose your Mass time and commitment. Training is provided.

**Who should participate?**

Any parishioner from high school age and older who has completed their sacraments and has a strong voice, clear pronunciation and a desire to convey the Word of God.

**Liturgical Art and Environment Committee**

Work with the Liturgy Team to design, create, and maintain an environment for worship in the church, chapel and vestibule.

***What does it involve?***

Developing and executing ideas for fabrics, plants, flowers, art, banners, etc. Majority of time is spent on Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons.

***Who should participate?***

Artists, designers and crafters are needed as well as anyone interested offering a helping hand at enhancing our liturgical environments.

**Liturgy Team**

This group meets with clergy and assists in planning, coordinating and supporting elements of Liturgy to enhance the liturgical life of the parish community. The team coordinates ministries involved with Liturgy: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, Greeters, Sacristans, Art and Environment, Music Ministry, and Children's Liturgy of the Word.

***What does it involve?***

The team meets from September to June. Commitment varies depending upon the level of interest.

***Who should participate?***

Anyone who is open to learning more about Liturgy.

**Mass Greeters**

Volunteers provide a welcoming spirit at weekend liturgies.

***What does it involve?***

Welcoming people to Saints Simon and Jude before Mass on weekends, Holy Days and other special Masses. Greeters may be scheduled every week or on selected dates. Greeters arrive about 30 minutes before Mass and greet people at the doors as they arrive.

***Who should participate?***

Volunteers who like to greet and welcome others.

**Music - share your musical talents**

Ministers of music lead the congregation in song, either by singing as a cantor, in a choir, or by playing a musical instrument.

Cantors lead the congregation during Mass, and help teach the congregation new music. The organists and pianists play at Mass, and accompany the cantors or choir. Those singers that do not have the ability or desire to sing alone are encouraged to join the adult choir. In addition to the adult choir, there is a contemporary instrumental ensemble. A youth choir will be assembled in the future.

***What does it involve?***

Practices for each music group is usually once a week. It is not mandatory for everyone to attend all practices, but it is encouraged. Cantors usually learn the required music for each Mass on their own, but tutoring sessions do occur and are available to any cantor that needs help learning the required music. Each cantor usually sings at two Masses per month, but some cantor more. It is all based on every individual's availability and desire. Organists usually play at one Mass a week, but again, it is all based on availability.

***Who should participate?***

Musical proficiency is required, but a person need not be a virtuoso or a professional. Those who play a musical instrument are encouraged to volunteer their talents, to help enhance the liturgies and special Masses throughout the year.

**Sacristan for Weddings and Funerals**

Volunteers who will prepare the church for Weddings and Funerals.

***What does it involve?***

Setting up sacred vessels, books, and other items needed in church making sure all is in order for Wedding Masses or for Funerals on weekday or Saturday mornings.

***Who should participate?***

Reverent men or women with a flexible schedule who are willing to be trained and are available at times mentioned above.

**Ushers - assist parishioners and visitors before, during and after Mass.**

Ministers of hospitality, also known as Ushers, assist people with special needs and direct people to seats available in the church. Their duties also include the procession of the gifts, collections, facilitating the communion procession, distributing the parish bulletins, and handling emergencies.

***What does it involve?***

Being present as an Usher at one Mass each weekend as described above (understanding that there will be weeks that you are unable to do this). Ushers arrive at the church 20 minutes prior to Mass and remain after Mass to assist with exiting. Availability for special events throughout the year is helpful.

***Who should participate?***

Parishioners who enjoy other people and have the desire to give their family, friends and neighbors a friendly smile of welcome as they enter the church.

**HELP KEEP THE CHURCH BUILDING TIDY****Tidy Church/Chapel/Vestibule Weekdays**

Volunteers maintain the simplicity of our worship areas and entrances by straightening up books and papers.

***What does it involve?***

Putting hymn books and missals in holders, picking up loose papers, and straightening bulletins and other items left on tables at the back of church and the entrances.

***Who should participate?***

Individuals who can pass through the Church/Chapel and entrances during the week to tidy up, especially on Mondays and Fridays.

**Church Cleaners**

Cleaners dust, vacuum, and clean the vestibule, main church, altar, sacristies, hallways, and other auxiliary rooms weekly and in teams.

***What does it involve?***

Groups of cleaners are on a rotation schedule. If you can't work on a regular schedule, cleaners can come independently when their schedule allows and the church is not in use to clean what they can in the time they have available.

***Who should participate?***

Any parishioner is welcome. There are also light duty jobs. If you have small children, they are welcome to follow you around or assist in small jobs.

## Other Opportunities

**Computer data entry**

Performs data entry for various projects as needed.

***What does it involve?***

Hours are flexible according to the deadline for input needed.

***Who should participate?***

Any adult parish member with computer knowledge is welcome.

**Gardening (weeding and watering)**

Landscaped garden areas around the church, rectory, convent and school buildings are in need of constant attention in the spring through fall. While trimming the bushes and mulching the beds is contracted out, watering and weeding is done by volunteers.

***What does it involve?***

Choosing a section of garden area to care for and being responsible for watering and weeding as needed to keep our grounds looking beautiful.

***Who should participate?***

Individuals, families, groups of any kind -neighbors, sports teams, scouts, ministry or social groups, etc.

**Flower and Plant Care in Church/Chapel**

Flowers and plants need watering and care to keep them healthy and looking fresh.

***What does it involve?***

Volunteers separate responsibilities between watering green plants and maintaining flower arrangements. Old flower arrangements are removed or rearranged, and green plants are fed and cared for to keep them healthy.

***Who should participate?***

People who are familiar with flower and plant care.

**Live "Stream Team"**

Our team live streams Sunday Mass and other special events. We have a livestream system that is easy to learn with remote controlled cameras and sound tied to the church sound system. For outside events, we use a portable video camera and microphones to stream or create videos.

***What does it involve?***

Training is provided your choice. For streamed events, use the Livestream Studio computer program and remote controlled cameras to livestream events.

For outside events: operate portable video camera and microphone. For graphics: Develop slides, short videos and other graphics used.

***Who should participate?***

Anyone from high school to senior citizens who is computer literate, can take a good photo, or likes to play video games can learn to control a live stream event. Anyone with a desire to help bring the Mass and other events to those who cannot join us in person.

Video camera operators - If you like photography or creating digital slides, come and learn more!

**Parish History and Scrapbook**

Photos, articles, publicity and other items that document the history of Saints Simon and Jude Parish need to be organized, cataloged, and preserved.

***What does it involve?***

Preparing items to be preserved and information to be gathered and recorded in order to document our parish history. Scrapbooks of photos need to be created, information on events and milestones need to be organized, compiled and written up.

***Who should participate?***

Well-organized parishioners who are interested in preserving our parish history. People with creative visual and also creative writing skills are desired. Computer skills are a plus for organizing digital media.

## Outreach

### **Appalachia Service Project - Summer Youth Program**

Volunteers help to aid the housing needs of Central Appalachia, (West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina) by making houses warmer, safer and drier for people caught in economic distress and unable to complete these repairs themselves. Home projects range from repairing foundations to roofing a house and everything in between.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Teams typically consist of two adults and five teenagers who work every day for one week in the summer on home repairs, building a relationship with the family who lives at the house, and participating in Christian gatherings and prayer in the evenings. Attendance at four two-hour preparation meetings from January to June is required. Volunteers also raise funds to support the cost of repair supplies and travel.

#### ***Who should participate?***

Teenagers who have completed 9th grade. Adults over 25 years of age who can supervise teens and guide them in respectful mission work. Many volunteers are unskilled or semi-skilled, but those that are handy are an added blessing.

### **Bethesda Project (Casseroles for Homeless)**

Helps the homeless in the Philadelphia area by providing casserole meals, food, and personal care items.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Making casseroles, freezing them and dropping them off on the fourth Sunday of each month between 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The freezer to drop off frozen casseroles, and trays to prepare them in are located in the Monihan Hall kitchen. Canned goods and personal items are also collected and can be dropped off at the bin in the church vestibule near the restrooms anytime.

#### ***Who should participate?***

Volunteers who can make a casserole and others who are willing to drop off canned goods or personal items for the homeless.

### **Caring For Friends: Meals for Shut-ins (Formerly Aid for Friends)**

Serving the isolated homebound and hungry of our community by providing free home cooked meals and friendship.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Volunteer cooks pick up trays or soup containers and return filled trays that have been frozen to the freezers located in the church vestibule near the restrooms. This is done as the volunteer's time permits.

Volunteer visitors take meals from the freezer and deliver them to needy shut-ins and spend a few minutes visiting with the person receiving meals. Visitors have on-going commitment requirements of approximately one hour each week.

#### ***Who should participate?***

Volunteer cooks should have the willingness to prepare meals or even just cook an extra serving of what you are already preparing for dinner. Volunteer visitors should have the willingness to drive to individual's homes with meals and spend time visiting with someone in need of food and friendship.

### **Caring For Friends: Volunteer Drivers**

Drivers are needed to move meals and supplies from various locations within Chester County as well as from Chester County to Philadelphia. Schedule can be your own.

#### ***Who should participate?***

Drivers with a valid driver's license who can lift a medium size cooler or box of supplies and can find locations with ease.

### **Good Works**

Volunteers help low-income homeowners in Chester County living in substandard housing to make their homes warmer, safer and drier. Houses and hearts are transformed. Hope and dignity restored. The services are currently offered to homeowners in central & northern Chester County, PA. Repairs are provided at no cost to the homeowners and volunteers do most of the work.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Helps with doing repairs to homes in Chester County. Work one day per month or any month you are available. All work days are on the third Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Supplies are provided by Good Works.

#### ***Who should participate?***

If you have a knack for fixing things, a heart for serving others and a desire to improve the community, join us. While many come with skills and experience, most just come with willing hearts. There are opportunities for every skill level. Teenagers are encouraged to join as well.

### **Helping Hands**

Volunteers fill needs of the broader community through acts of service based on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

#### ***What does it involve?***

Participating in varied service projects on one of many levels - planning, coordinating or taking action in the particular service event.

#### ***Who should participate?***

All with a giving heart are welcome - young children through seniors.

**Nursing Home and Senior Living Visits/Mass Help/Rosary**

Aventura at Pembroke and the Healthcare Center at Whitehorse Village and Arbor Terrace Willistown, offer our parish an opportunity to assist residents in attending Mass, receiving Eucharist, and saying the rosary.

**What does it involve?**

Volunteers accompany residents from their rooms to the lounge when Mass is celebrated on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at Aventura, and on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Whitehorse Village, and on the third Thursday of the month at Arbor Terrace, and when the rosary is recited every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. at Aventura.

Communion Ministers visit Aventura and Arbor Terrace weekly to distribute Holy Communion to the Catholic residents.

**Who should participate?**

Volunteers with compassionate hearts that are strong enough to assist a person in a wheelchair, or to offer support to a senior resident. Communion Ministers that feel comfortable giving communion to people in a residential setting.

**Respect Life**

Supports and promulgates the Catholic Church's teaching on abortion, euthanasia, cloning, and embryonic stem cell use.

**What does it involve?**

Educates parishioners on Catholic teaching on life and family issues and encourages faithful citizenship. There are weekly, monthly and annual activities and rallies. Commitment depends upon schedule and interest in specific activities.

**Who should participate?**

Any parishioner who can come to rallies, write letters or help with prayer.

## Parish Leadership

**Finance Council**

Assists and guides the Pastor in achieving the fiscally and managerially responsible stewardship of the Parish's material goods and financial resources.

**What does it involve?**

The Finance Council meets once a month from September through June.

**Who should participate?**

Volunteers with a background in financial matters. The Pastor approves all appointments to the Council.

**Pastoral Council**

Advises and assists the Pastor in areas of pastoral concern, including the development and implementation of a parish pastoral plan through consensus and prayerful reflection.

**What does it involve?**

The Pastoral Council meets once a month from September through May and attends special events if requested.

**Who should participate?**

Volunteers who actively participate in the life of the parish. The Pastor approves all appointments to the Council.

## Support

**Bereavement Ministry - Comforting others**

Serves those who have experienced the death of a loved one by listening carefully to them and by encouraging them through a series of meetings and letters. "Grieving the Death of a Loved One" is a six week series designed to support the grieving person with prayer and small group discussion. A program book is given to each attendee. These meetings take place at least twice a year.

Letters with information on dealing with grief and associated feelings are sent on a monthly basis to a grieving family member.

**What does it involve?**

Assist those attending the course or for those in need of comforting or assist with preparing mailings.

**Who should participate?**

Volunteers: People with good listening skills and a compassionate heart, or who can help with mailings. Training provided.

Attendees: Anyone who has experienced a loss and is grieving.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Ministers knit or crochet shawls to bring comfort to the sick, depressed and those that are grieving by giving the shawl recipient the comfort of God's loving arms around them.

**What does it involve?**

Knitting or crocheting a shawl in prayer. The group meets on Wednesdays once or twice a month at 7:00 p.m.

**Who can participate?**

Everyone is welcome. No experience needed. Knitting or crocheting instruction is provided to those who want to learn.

# Community

## COACH OR COORDINATE ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SPORTS

### CYO - Sports

Sports-related activities for girls and boys in our parish, including Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Track, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse and Football.

#### **What does it involve?**

Volunteers are needed to coach or provide support and administrative activities.

#### **Who should participate?**

Any adult parishioner interested in youth sports programs and in encouraging youth to become responsible members of their faith community.

## HELP HOST COFFEES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### Hospitality (Coffees, Special Events)

Volunteers provide the opportunity for parishioners, their families and friends to gather on Hospitality (Coffee and Donuts) Sundays and other selected parish events. Without volunteers, we could not provide that opportunity to share that time with others.

#### **What does it involve?**

Helper duties for the day of the event include set up and/or serve and/or clean up. Time commitment is one and a half to two and a half hours or more depending on the event - optional two to four times per year.

Coordinator duties for Hospitality Sundays include ordering and purchasing refreshments and supplies, telephoning helpers and coordinating the day of the event. Time commitment is several hours the week prior and several hours the day of the event - optional one to two times per year.

#### **Who should participate?**

People of all ages, from grade school children to senior citizens who want to meet and help put out food for others are needed depending on the task. Adults are needed for coordinating and planning events.

## TRAIN FUTURE COMMUNITY LEADERS

### Scouting

Volunteers help develop future leaders of our community, parish and country with activities that foster qualities of high character, good conduct, patriotism and service.

#### **What does it involve?**

Scout leaders teach skills, respect for country, community and self, encourage service and promote teamwork.

#### **Who should participate?**

Scouting is for boys and girls ages 5-17 years. Adults are needed to lead dens and troops. Mentoring and support resources are available.

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### Note for participation in ministries which have regular contact with children, such as CYO, Scouts, or Religious Education:

All Priests, Deacons, Parish Staff and Volunteers (over the age of 18) who have regular contact with children, are required to obtain and submit the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check and the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance. The parish will pay any fees associated with obtaining these clearances. Forms are available at the Rectory Office.

These individuals must also attend Safe Environment training. This training provides those involved in ministry and service to children with a greater understanding of their role as adults in our Church to be protectors of children, models of appropriate behavior and relationships, and advocates for those who are most vulnerable. For more information, visit [http://archdiocese-phl.org/protection/SafeEnv/sep\\_main.htm](http://archdiocese-phl.org/protection/SafeEnv/sep_main.htm).

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