

Annual Directory of Ministries and Societies

From Fr. Vin:

The Pastoral Council asked some months ago that the Easter Bulletin be dedicated to a directory of the ministries of the parish so as to make both regular parishioners and holy day visitors more aware of the things that happen here to deepen our identity as Christ's Risen Body and to encourage more effective discipleship. What you are holding is a result of the Council's request. Ministries and activities are in alphabetical order, so please look through the whole Directory – you may find what you're looking for under another title. Consider this not just information, but an invitation to serve others in Christ's name.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mondays from 2pm until 9pm. Jesus is waiting to be present for you. Come spend some time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. You can spend five minutes, an hour, or whatever time you wish in quiet prayer, or come pray the rosary with us at 8pm. If you would like to help set up or close, contact Toni McGuire at (631) 587-4489 or tonimcguire78@gmail.com.

Adult Confirmation:

An Adult Confirmation Program is offered to those ages 18 and older who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program entails attending seven classes, scheduled several times per year. There is no fee for the program. Parishioners from Our Lady of Grace and from any other parish are welcome. If interested, please contact the Parish Office at (631) 587-5185.

Altar Servers:

Open to all 3rd graders and higher. Altar Servers play an important role in the celebration of Sunday Mass. Becoming one requires 6 training sessions and 2 practical classes at a Sunday Mass. When children serve at Mass, we are also teaching them to have a deeper appreciation of the Holy Eucharist. Grown-ups who graduated from altar serving will always look back to it as a time when they feel they were connected to the Church in a special way. If interested, submit your child's name and your phone number to the Parish Office to arrange for the training.

Angel CARE:

Angel CARE is a before-and after-school program. We provide care for school aged children ages 5-12. The morning hours are 7:00 am-9:00 am. We provide morning care for all West Babylon elementary schools and the West Babylon Jr. High. The afternoon program runs from 3:00 pm-6:00 pm and is for children attending West Babylon elementary school and West Babylon Jr. High and, also, Daniel St. and Wm. Rall elementary schools in Lindenhurst. Contact: Tischa Stanley at (631) 893-6564 or email pstanley@ourladyofgrace.net.

Baptism Ceremony Hosting:

An opportunity to help welcome new members to our Parish Community by assisting the priest set-up and help explain to the families what is to happen at the Rite of Baptism. Training will be provided. Baptisms are held every Sunday at 1:30 pm with the exception of the 2nd weekend of the month when it is held on a Saturday at 11am. Contact Fr Gius at frgius@ourladyofgrace.net or call the parish office (631) 587-5185.

Annual Directory of Ministries and Societies

Baptism Preparation:

Once a month a class is held for all first-time parents who are having their child baptized. The class aims to help explain to them the meaning of the Sacrament and the demands it asks from them. Please leave a message at the front desk for Deacon Irwin who will discuss with you specific ways of involvement.

Bingo:

We offer Bingo as a recreational activity and parish support on Tuesday and Saturday evenings. If you're interested in helping to run the Bingo, call the Parish Office (631) 587-5185.

Boy Scouts (Troop 183):

For information, contact Guy Zummo at (973) 747-7429.

Care for Residents at East Neck Nursing Home:

Parishioners visit the residents of East Neck Nursing Home, take the Holy Communion, and lead regular times of prayer. If you're interested in helping in any way, contact the Faith Formation Office at (631) 661-9353 and leave a message for Lorraine Bustamante.

Centering Prayer:

Meets every Saturday from 4:00-4:45pm in Room 106. Moderated by Jack Jameson. For inquiries call the Parish Office.

Consolation Ministry:

The Consolation Ministry assists families to plan for the Funeral Mass for their departed loved ones. We meet with families, listen, console, and help them to prepare a Mass that celebrates the lives of their loved one while praying for his or her eternal redemption. It is a ministry filled with hope and compassion helping our fellow parishioners while enriching our own connection with Christ. Anyone interested in joining this ministry is most welcome! Please contact the Parish Office at (631) 587-5815.

Day Care:

Our Lady of Grace Day Care has on going enrollment for children between 6 weeks and 4 years old. Our day care curriculum reflects the guidelines and practices advocated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Lesson planning for each classroom is based upon developmentally appropriate practices and enhance all areas of a child's development: cognitive, physical, social, emotional and spiritual. Pre K classes teach curriculum which is necessary for entering kindergarten. Our loving staff creates an atmosphere of home away from home for children and parents. To register or set up a tour, please contact Jeanmarie Florio at (631) 422-4681 or jflorio@ourladyofgrace.net.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

This ministry serves the Holy Communion at Masses to assist the priest and deacon, and also takes the Holy Communion to persons who cannot come to Mass because of age or illness. Ministers are appointed by the diocesan bishop and serve according to their availability. Both diocesan and parish training are required. Contact Fr. Vin (frvin@ourladyofgrace.net) for more information on joining this ministry.

Annual Directory of Ministries and Societies

Faith Formation:

Our Faith Formation Program assists families in forming their children in our Catholic faith. Our classes begin in first grade, and students are usually confirmed in the spring of eighth grade. (See below for teens needing to complete the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism / Confirmation / First Holy Communion.) Students learn in a variety of ways, including classroom and prayer and Mass attendance. Yearly registration begins in April and early incentives go through July, so call with any questions! Our office number is (631) 661-9353. Peggy Harnisch is the Coordinator of Faith Formation, mharnisch@ourladyofgrace.net. We always have need of faith-filled people to teach and share that faith with our students. Please think about this wonderful ministry!

Family Liturgy:

Families with young children are encouraged to attend the 10am Sunday Mass. In this Mass though the Children's Liturgy of the Word, the Good News is explained to the children in a language and setting which is more suited for them. You can volunteer as shepherd, teacher, or teacher assistant. If interested, contact either Jose or Lucy Sanchez by sending them an email at: all4god.ls@gmail.com or leave your name and phone number at the Parish Office.

Family Life Ministry:

Families of all ages and sizes from single person to multi-generational are invited to participate in our events. Through our ministry we hope to connect all to each other and create a caring, supportive community at Our Lady of Grace. We host a monthly Hospitality Breakfast after the 10am Mass. For additional information, please contact Maria R. Chetti at mrchetti4olog@gmail.com or Peggy Harnisch at mharnisch@ourladyofgrace.net. In addition, you may also contact the Faith Formation Office at (631) 661-9353.

Finance Council and Parish Trustees:

The Finance Council advises the pastor in matters of parish budget and expenditures, especially regarding significant extraordinary expenses such as renovations and capital construction. Its four non-Trustee members are appointed by the pastor for three-year terms, renewable. Appointment is based on expertise in finance, operations management, and similar skills and experience. It meets quarterly to review parish accounts and to advise on parish management.

The parish trustees are elected by the officers of the parish corporation (the diocesan bishop, the Episcopal vicar for the region, and the pastor) for three-year terms, renewable twice. In addition to duties on the Finance Council, they are also responsible for compliance with civil and canon law and for the overall function of the parish as a corporation in civil law. Trustees are nominated for election by the pastor based on commitment to the parish and on relevant expertise, including finance, management, and law. Trustees meet with the pastor four times a year.

Kids of the Kingdom / Summer Fun:

An 8-week summer program running this year from June 27 – August 19 from 8:30am to 4:30pm for children ages 5 -12 providing a safe and fun environment for children of working parents. For further information, please contact Doreen Scalise at 893-6564 or dscalise@ourladyofgrace.net.

Annual Directory of Ministries and Societies

Knights of Columbus:

The K of C at Our Lady of Grace is part of the largest Catholic Fraternal Organization consistently promoting the principals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Under the leadership of Grand Knight Tom Humel, this group of almost 150 men works tirelessly to support our faith, parish and community. Please contact Grand Knight Tom Humel at (631) 445-3253, ttk13@verizon.net or please see our website www.kofc11968.org for more information.

Lectors:

“When the Sacred Scriptures are read in church, God himself speaks to his people. A lector becomes the voice of God proclaiming his word to the people.”

Time of Mass and frequency of service at your convenience. No special skills required. Training provided by DRVC and OLOG. Contact Coordinator: Claire Kraemer, kraemer@optonline.net.

Liturgical Environment Ministry:

This ministry prepares the church environment for worship as the liturgical seasons change, and cares for the living plants that enhance our worship. Ministers are most active in preparation for the liturgical seasons of Christmas, Lent, and Easter, but the work is year-round. If you are interested, contact Haydee Santini at hsantini@ourladyofgrace.net.

Music Ministry: Choirs and Leaders of Song:

The choirs and song leaders lead the music at Sunday Mass. The Adult Choir sings Mass every week at noon, the Children’s Choir 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10am, the Youth (Teen) Choir 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10am. Rehearsals are once a week for adults and children, and the teens rehearse before and after their Mass. Song leaders are parishioners with strong solo voices; light training is a possibility, and the schedule is very flexible. No prior experience is necessary. Non-singers are also encouraged to come forward for tasks like set up/take down, assistant, sound engineer, photographer, or music librarian. For more information or to express interest, contact Terence Purtell at tpurtell@ourladyofgrace.net or (631) 587-5185.

Padre Pio Prayer Group:

This devotional society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Parish Social Ministry (Outreach):

Offers assistance to those living within parish boundaries with food from our pantry, advocacy, referrals, and information for services such as utilities, Dept. of Social Services, health care, transportation, tax information, government services, and senior advocacy.

Hours: Office: Monday – Thursday, 10am – 2pm. Food Pantry Tuesday and Thursday 12-1:30pm. Contact: (631) 661-9354 or ologpsm1@ourladyofgrace.net. Ann Kristoffersen, Coordinator.

Pastoral Council:

The Pastoral Council is an advisory group (nine members) to the pastor that meets nine times a year to consider and recommend goals for parish activities around spiritual growth and parish engagement. Self-nominations are invited every April. Watch the *Bulletin* for an announcement of the process.

Annual Directory of Ministries and Societies

Pre-Cana:

This is a ministry which prepares young couples for their marriage. The facilitators share their married life experiences with the couples-to-be. Training will be provided for anyone interested in becoming a facilitator. Please call the Parish Office: (631) 587-5185 or parish@ourladyofgrace.net

Rosary Makers:

This group gathers to make rosaries for people who can use them as a symbol of God's presence through his Blessed Mother. Assembled rosaries are sent to missionaries and chaplains for distribution. For information, call the Parish Office at (631) 587-5185.

Sewing Group:

Members combine their art with service to others, making items such as blankets for the infants in our day care, items for newborns to be donated to Birthright, and items for people who are homeless, displaced, or victims of abuse. They meet on Tuesday evenings. For information, call Fran Kish at (631) 587-1578.

Rite of Christian Initiation:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the ministry that helps prepares adult inquirers who have never been baptized to receive the sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation and Communion). The journey includes study of the bible and learning about our Catholic traditions and beliefs. We meet regularly on Tuesday evenings and conduct the ceremonies of the Rite, primarily at the Saturday afternoon 5pm Mass. If you like to share your faith and want to help expand this ministry or if you know someone who desires to become a Catholic Christian, please contact Will Whelan at (631) 957-0518 or at: wfwhelan@aol.com, or contact the Parish Office.

Scripture Sharing:

Every Tuesday at 9:30am in Room 109. The Scripture readings for the following Sunday are read and discussed in an open sharing of learning and experiences. Moderated by Fr. Gius. For inquiries, email Fr Gius at frgius@ourladyofgrace.net

Special Religious Education (for Persons with Special Needs):

Our Lady of Grace Special Religious Education Program is a one-on-one or small-group program for students with special needs. Our aim is to help our students form a relationship with Jesus and for the students to receive the sacraments. The children are in grades 1 through 8. We have a wonderful Special Needs Program including a Special Needs Mass one Sunday each month. We meet on Tuesday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:15 pm from September through April. Contact the Faith Formation Office (631) 661-9353.

Tech Committee:

The parish computer network and website are managed by volunteers. If you have specialized skills in network management (MS Server 2012R2) and/or website management (WordPress) and would like to help, contact Tech Coordinator Haydee Santini at hsantini@ourladyofgrace.net.

Annual Directory of Ministries and Societies

Teen Faith Formation / Sacramental Completion:

The Teen Faith Formation Program is a combination of the regular Faith Formation Program and the RCIA Program for those who have missed some sacramental preparation along the way. Teens at any stage of formation are welcome. It is a two-year program who prepares teens (post 8th grade) to receive Confirmation and, if required, to be Baptized. Meets every Wednesday evening, 7:30 to 8:30pm. Coordinator: Jo-Ann Coletti, (631) 661-1175.

Ushers:

Ushers welcome Mass goers and make sure things are in order at the beginning of each Mass. The job of the ushers includes: assisting people find seats when they get to church, helping in the collection, and distributing bulletins at the end of Mass. For inquiries, contact Fr Gius at frgius@ourladyofgrace.net.

Vacation Bible School:

VBS runs for one week each summer. In 2016 it will run the last week of July. Each day runs from 9:00 to 12:00 is centered on a story from the Bible. There are stations for crafts, music and games as well as snack each day. It is a wonderful week full of fun and learning that includes skits and video. Children going into kindergarten through those finishing sixth grade are welcome, and we have a multi-child discount! Please call Peggy Harnisch in the Faith Formation Office for details – (631) 661-9353.

Visitation of the Sick:

Parishioners commissioned by the bishop as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion take the Sacrament to those who cannot come to Mass. They visit East Neck Nursing Center and Sunrise Assisted Living as well as the homes of parishioners in need of the Sacrament. If you would like to become a part of this ministry, contact Fr. Vin (frvin@ourladyofgrace.net).

Wedding Rehearsal Ministry:

Members of this ministry help couples to be relaxed on their wedding day by preparing them to understand and take part in their wedding ceremony. For information, contact Deacon Brian Miller at dcbrian@ourladyofgrace.net.

Widows and Widowers:

A social/spiritual group that meets monthly. For information, call (631) 661-3439.

Youth Ministry:

Youth Ministry is a Catholic spiritually based group for teens of all faiths from 8th-12th grade. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:30 in rm.212/214 and read scripture, pray, discuss topics, and play games. We also are involved in fund-raisers, community service projects, and leisure activities. If interested in seeing what we are about, contact James Pisano jpisano@ourladyofgrace.net or call (631) 587-5185.

Note: Contact information is subject to change. Call the Parish Office (631) 587-5185 or email parish@ourladyofgrace.net for the latest information about ministries and contact information.