



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is, quite simply, how we care for one another at St. Mary's. Parishioners who are homebound or otherwise in need of a special touch receive visits, notes, birthday cards, prayer shawls, and communion from their fellow parishioners. Pastoral Care Teams and the Prayer Shawl Ministry group meet regularly to coordinate care and make sure that we are aware of each other's needs. Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those who are unable to receive it in church on Sunday.

Pastoral Care Team members are our ears and eyes and hearts in the community. There are four pastoral care teams, each of which meets monthly unless the office is closed on that day. Team members may bring us up to date on visits that they have made or news about parishioners of which we may not be aware: deaths in a family; changes in family status, such as divorce; hospitalizations; illnesses; job losses; upcoming surgeries, etc.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly on the **third Thursday** of each month at **10:30 a.m.** in the **Education Building Library**. Parishioners enjoy prayer

and fellowship as they knit soft, washable prayer shawls for newly baptized babies and adults who find comfort in a tangible expression of St. Mary's love and support.

Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained and licensed to give communion to parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, or otherwise unable to receive communion at church.

How many people do we know who are fighting personal battles which are so overwhelmingly life changing? Some know how to find comfort better than others.

-PEGGY TALMAN, PASTORAL CARE TEAM

