

St. Michael/St. Joseph Catholic Church Ministry Groups

†Formation

Bible Study: Small groups gather to discuss lessons from the Bible or some other book or topic.

CYM: (Catholic Youth Ministry): A collection of Formation, Prayer, Service, and Socialization activities for the Catholic teens.

Driver/Chaperone: Individuals who would like to help during CYM/PSR events.

Formed Signed in: Access (at no cost to you) thousands of Catholic video-based study programs, movies, documentaries, audio talks, and audio books. To start enjoying go to **formed.org/signup**.

Help with Totus Tuus (Hostess-Meal-Helper): A summer religious program offered for one week to children 1st -12th grade. They sing, eat snacks, play games, attend daily Mass, all the while learning about God's love. Adult hostesses needed to house the TT team, furnish meals in the evening, and help out with meal/snack times in Hall.

PSR Student (Parish School of Religion): PSR is our religious formation program that provides catechetical instruction to children and youth, so that young people can grow in intimacy with Jesus, be knowledgeable about their faith, and integrate the teachings of the Gospel into their lives with a sense of purpose and value. It also prepares young people for the reception of the first sacraments: Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. The PSR program requires registration and regular attendance and is held on Wednesday afternoon for Grades 1-5 and Wednesday evenings for grades 6 – High School.

PSR Catechist/Helper: We are called as parents, to be the primary educators of our children. The PSR Catechists/Helpers are those who volunteer to support the parents in educating their children. These groups of volunteer teachers are lay people with the desire to help children grow in their Catholic faith.

OCIA/Adult Ed: OCIA is the journey through which adults receive instructions in the teachings of the Catholic faith and prepare them to receive the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at Easter Vigil. OCIA is a great resource for current Catholics who want to learn more about the Church teachings.

†Service

Altar Society: An organization that unites women of the parish in dedication to the mission of the Church. All women of the parish 18 years of age and older are automatically members of the Altar Society.

Counting Collection: Volunteers that help count and record the monetary gift offering collected during Mass.

Daughters of Isabella (D of I): is a charitable Catholic Women's Organization founded in 1897 in New Haven, Connecticut as an auxiliary to the Rev. John Russell Council of the Knights of Columbus for the purpose of uniting all Catholic women in a sisterhood to practice and grow to achieve its motto "Unity, Friendship and Charity". It is open to all Catholic women 16 years and up.

Decorating Church: This group of parishioners takes charge of the church decorations for Christmas. It also includes the taking down and storing of decorations. Many hands make light work!

Finance Council: To serve on the finance council to assist in preparation of the budget and financial decisions of the parish.

Flower Beds: Help with the maintaining of flower beds and landscape around the Church grounds.

Knights of Columbus: A Fraternal service organization of Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, whose precepts involve charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Activities are in the areas of youth, community, church, and family.

Laundering Linens: Help with the laundering and ironing of Altar linens.

Maintenance/Repair: Be willing to help with small maintenance or repairs around the Church, Hall or Rectory.

Parish Council: An advisory group that assists the Pastor in achieving a fuller participation of the whole parish in fulfilling the mission statement of St. Michael Parish.

Cantata: An event that is held during the Christmas season. A great opportunity for our local Churches to gather together and share their beautiful voices. The event alternates between Arma Methodist & Catholic Churches.

†Hospitality

Clothes Closet-Thrift/Discount store: multi-denominational group of volunteers, supported by the Ministerial Alliance of Girard, that uses donated time to unpack, arrange, and sell used clothing. 107 W. Buffalo, Girard.

St. Charlotte's Craft Group: The craft group meets on Wednesdays at the St. Michael Hall. Service projects that we have worked on include hats for newborns, receiving blankets and burp cloths, blankets for the Kidney Dialysis Center, scarves for Special Olympics, and teaching aids for children with special needs. Please join us and bring your talent, or just come and share in Fellowship! New projects are needed and ongoing! Donated yarn and material may be needed.

Fall Bazaar: St. Michael's annual Turkey Dinner is a fundraiser for the St. Michael Altar Society. It brings lots of people together each year. It's a great opportunity to work together as a parish family to provide a wonderful meal for others and to help our Altar Society.

Food Pantry: There are Food Pantries in Girard & Arma. Armas Food Pantry is at the library. The volunteers distribute food, stock shelves, and help with other services. It has an ongoing need for donations, whether it is food or monetary. A suggested grocery list for the Girard Pantry can be found on the bulletin board and items purchased can be placed in the baskets in the Church entrance. Monetary Donations can be placed in an envelope in the collection basket marked "Food Pantry".

Funeral Dinners: Members of the Altar Society offer to serve a meal for the family and friends of a deceased member. This meal is served at the parish hall following the funeral.

Homecoming Breakfast: Arma parish offers a "Homecoming Breakfast" during the Arma Homecoming. You can volunteer your time with helping prepare and serve our guests.

Meal in His Name: Volunteers help provide a Meal and Fellowship to the Community every Thursday evening at the St. Michael Hall. All are welcome to the free meal, especially the less fortunate. A group of volunteers help with meal preparation, serving and clean up.

Visit Shut-Ins: This is a way to give fellowship to the Church members that are homebound, in nursing homes or assisted living.

Community Garden/Arma: Help with planting and maintaining the Community Garden in Arma.

†Prayer

Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Joseph/Arma every Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and at St. Michael/Girard every Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Hourly segments are scheduled but all parishioners are encouraged to spend a few quiet moments with our Eucharistic Lord in prayer.

Altar Server: Boys and girls are trained to assist the priest at the altar during Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Father will determine the youngest age they can begin and through High School PSR students are eligible and will receive training.

Sidewalk Advocate: Sidewalk Advocates for Life is a non-profit that provides resources, including training, tools and prayers, to those who counsel to women and men at the sidewalks outside of Pittsburg's abortion clinics, supporting those they encounter there and beyond.

Eucharistic Minister: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. These Parishioners are called to serve as ministers of Holy Communion, to offer in Body and Blood of Jesus Christ to other members of the church weekend and Holy Day Masses.

Gift Bearer: Presenting of the gifts representing the congregation and bringing the gifts of bread, and wine to the altar at the Offertory of the Mass.

Lector: The Lector is called to do readings and petitions during Mass.

Choir/Musician/Cantor: It is a wonderful way to share the talents God has given you, leading the parish in praising the Lord in song. The musician instruments-organ, guitar, etc. lead the music selection to be sung. The cantor is a lead member of the choir that leads the parish in the appropriate sung response during Mass.

Prayer Chain/Prayer Squad: St. Joseph has the "Prayer Chain" and St. Michael has the "Prayer Squad", where parishioners can share a list of people needing prayers. We have volunteers that organize these lists and responsible in sharing with the group.

Sacristan: Prepare altar bread, wine and sacred vessels for the weekend, weekday and special Masses. Training given! Volunteers rotate.

Usher: We encourage men and women of any age to assist with seating at Mass and taking up the collection.