

These brief descriptions are just a glimpse of the many possibilities for being an integral part of the St. Maximilian Kolbe family.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During Saturday and Sunday Masses, children from ages four through fifth grade are called forth from the congregation to the parish center at St. Mary's and Epiphany. There, they listen to the readings of the day, hear a reflection on the readings by a caring liturgist, pray the Creed and offer their own intentions. Children return to their parents in church before the presentation of gifts.

For Children – Kindergarten through 8th

Classes are held on designated Sundays. At St. Mary's it is the classroom model held after Mass and at Epiphany it is the Home School/Family Model held before mass. Different themes are emphasized at each grade level. Training is necessary for volunteer teachers.

Junior High Happenings

Youth in grades 5-8 meet two times per month on Monday at 6 PM in the St. Mary's Parish Center. They share fellowship and faith, and take part in social activities, church and community projects, and church and group fund-raisers.

High School Youth Group – “Cross Connections”

This group meets twice a month – Sundays at 5 PM as well as other times. We meet for a variety of activities – bowling, miniature golf, movies etc...the teens are also involved in Community service – visiting Sanctuary House, Blossom View Nursing home, St. Paul's Soup Kitchen and many more. We also participate in a week long work camp during the summer here in our area. Every September we hold a two night “Teen Retreat” at Camp Stella Maris.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

This rite is the process by which the church brings unbaptized persons into the family of God, or brings baptized persons into full communion in God's family. The process culminates at Easter time with the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Lectors

These ministers proclaim the Word of God in the Scriptures at Mass. Those interested in this ministry will take a short class to help them become more comfortable as a reader. Being a lector is a great opportunity to serve our Lord and his people at mass.

Eucharistic Ministers

The ordinary ministers of the Eucharist are the ordained. Extraordinary ministers are members of the parish trained to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. They do so in a prayerful, reverent manner and make every effort to join in the spirit of the liturgy when serving in this capacity.

Ministers of Music

Part of the liturgical ministries, organists and other musicians, cantors and choir members all work with liturgy planning to lead and inspire by sharing their talent with their fellow parishioners.

Ministers of Hospitality

Ushers and greeters welcome everyone at the entrances to the churches. They help people find seats and count the number of attendees; they take collections during Mass, and enlist the aid of parishioners to carry the gifts to the altar.

Altar Servers

Parishioners who have received First Communion, and are in fourth grade or above, are invited to become altar servers. The altar server assists the members of the liturgical assembly by presenting or arranging vessels and other items used in the celebrations.

Prayers of the Faithful

Teams of people work ahead with the liturgical calendar to prepare the Prayers of the Faithful for each mass, then add current needs that occur in real time before the scheduled mass.

Environment Committee

Following the liturgical calendar, and in support of liturgy planning, this committee supplies the visual environment that surrounds us during the changing seasons of the church year - Advent to Christmas, Lent to Easter, and Ordinary Time.

Baptismal Preparation

When new parents come forward to have a child receive the sacrament of Baptism, they first meet with a volunteer couple from St. Maximilian Kolbe. During one meeting, the parents review the sacrament and are prepared to understand the responsibility they undertake in the name of the child.

Altar and Sanctuary Care

Volunteers care for the altar and sanctuary. This labor of love includes laundering altar linens and taking care of the flowers.

Parish Pastoral Council

Our Pastoral Council is a consultative body to our pastor, Fr. Symon. The specific purposes: to be a sign of unity for the larger parish community, to provide recommendations for parish priorities, directions and policies, and to promote communication, understanding and collaboration between the parish, the Diocese, and the Universal Church. Potential members are nominated (with their permission) from the parish at large.

Parish Finance Committee

As mandated by Canon Law, this committee advises pastors and pastoral administrators regarding stewardship of parish financial resources. Examples of responsibilities are: developing and overseeing the annual parish budget, producing and presenting the annual report to the parish, analyzing fiscal implications of proposed goals and programs, and providing long-range financial planning.

Stewardship Committee

Time, talent and treasure are the resources we have been given. This committee encourages awareness, discernment of gifts and commitment to stewardship as the disciple's response to the call to be Christian stewards—receiving gifts gratefully, nurturing them, and giving back in a spirit of abundance and generosity.

Catholic Community of Western Wayne County (CCWWC)

The CCWWC is given the task of advising the diocese on restructuring church populations based on the declining number of priests. The five area parishes are represented at regular meetings by small teams from each church. Recommendations or pending decisions are taken back to the parishes for consideration before being presented to Bishop Clark.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry in which one person reaches out to another in times of personal crisis such as sickness, grief, loneliness, depression, separation or divorce, etc. Volunteers complete 50 hours of training and experience ongoing supervision during their ministry.

Martha Ministry

Following a Funeral Mass, the family and all who have participated in the liturgy are invited to the Parish Center for brunch. The Martha Ministry performs this unique and much appreciated service to parish families, at both St. Mary's and Epiphany, who celebrate the funeral of a loved one. Tables are set, food is served, and all leftovers are sent home with the family. Volunteers from the parish provide the food without cost to the family.

Small Christian Communities

These are small groups of parishioners formed to help people unite more effectively in our faith in Jesus Christ. They meet regularly, usually in homes, to pray, reflect on Scripture and help each other to live out their call to put the Gospel into action

Buildings and Grounds

This committee of experienced individuals provides practical help in the inspection and maintenance of St. Maximilian's buildings and grounds and oversees the upkeep of the physical plant.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Men's and Women's Retreat

Many men women from St. Mary's and other parishes in the CCWWC gather for a retreat each year. The men meet in February and the women in May at Notre Dame Retreat House on Canandaigua Lake. All who have made retreats have learned to let the Holy Spirit rejuvenate them and to get reacquainted with the Lord, strengthening and deepening their relationship with Him.

Christmas Sharing

St. Mary's and Epiphany provide leadership for this longstanding community-wide program. Long preparation and planning by the core team set up the collection of gifts for needy families and for donations of food and money. Then, many volunteers meet to assemble the boxes of food and gifts for specific families.

Prayer Ministry

The parish responds when people ask for prayers for a specific intention. A group of volunteers has committed to pray for one of these intentions over a designated period of time. Persons or intentions can be placed into our prayer ministry by calling the parish office.

Social Ministry

Social ministry identifies and responds to the needs of the poor. It works toward a just and compassionate society through subgroups for the elderly, migrant farm worker, and those with emergency concerns.

Migrant Ministry

One of the social ministries, the ministry to migrant farm workers involves collaboration with a Spanish-speaking priest who is dedicated to a wide area of migrant groups.

Birthright of Ontario

Birthright provides alternatives to abortion in the form of support, both emotional and practical, for a young woman about to have a baby.

Knights of Columbus

Men from St. Maximilian Kolbe are members of the Knights of Columbus whose meeting site is in Webster, New York.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Senior Citizen Breakfast

This annual event takes place each year on or near December 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Since 1990, the breakfast has been a way to express our love for our older parishioners.

Gardening Ministry

This group of joyful gardeners beautify the surroundings of our churches. They plant, water, weed, trim and feed. Anyone who is interested is invited to become involved, as an individual or as a family. Help is needed all spring and summer, beginning with the first planting.

Collection Counters

The collection committee has teams which count and deposit the weekend collections. This is an important task that must be done with integrity and confidentiality. St. Maximilian Kolbe complies with all Diocesan regulations, audits and properly credits each parishioner's account.

Office Volunteers

This gift of time is invaluable to the smooth operation of St. Maximilian Kolbe's many office tasks. Volunteers answer the telephone, copy, and mail and provide whatever office support that might be needed.

Food Sense

This is a program that provides food staples at a reduced cost, using the resources of FoodLink. This program is open to all people.

Food Pantry

Food Pantry is a store of donated food that is given out as needed in emergency situations. Volunteers sort and store nonperishable foods and maintain an inventory, periodically announcing needs. It supplements the work of the Come-Unity Center in Williamson and the Ontario and Walworth food cupboards.

Fund Raising

There are a number of social activities at St. Maximilian Kolbe, the biggest are the Pancake Breakfasts offered several times a year, the Lenten Fish Fry and the St. Maximilian Kolbe Annual Golf Tournament.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A group of ladies (men are always welcome) the first Saturday of each month in the St. Mary's Parish Center from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Please join us in this very meaningful and enjoyable ministry whether you knit, crochet, quilt or weave. Join us for prayer and fellowship as we create shawls for those who need comfort after a loss or during an illness. Donations of completed shawls and yarn are always accepted. Visit the Shawl Ministry Website at www.shawlministry.com

St. Maximilian Kolbe Garage Sale

The garage sale held at St. Mary's is a very popular project. More than a fundraiser –although it is a good one—and beyond the hard work, is fun and fellowship. It is an opportunity to come in and say, "I'm here! What can I do??" Some jobs involve weeks or hours of commitment; others involve an hour, or even just a few minutes. The garage sale takes place every other year alternating with a Youth Garage Sale at Church of the Epiphany.

Parish Photography

Talented photographers have taken on the responsibility of recording events as they occur.

Blossom View Ministry

Each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

volunteers provide a Communion Service to a group of residents at Blossom View Nursing Home. Blossom view ministers also assist Father Symon at a monthly mass on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. This ministry involves reading of the scripture and distribution of Communion.

Homebound Ministry

Lead / offer a Communion

Service to our homebound community. Enjoy pleasant conversation with a short visit on Sunday mornings.

Sodus Estates

The Sodus Council of Churches

takes turns offering a prayer service to residents of Sodus Estates. Time involved is 1 hour 4-5 times per year.