

# Ministries of North Merrillville

Tri-Catholic Community:

St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Joan of Arc

SS. Peter & Paul



God has made each of us in a special way. We are all called to pray and serve in His Church here in North Merrillville and the surrounding community. God has given the three Merrillville sister parishes many ministries and opportunities for prayer & service, to share our time, talent and treasure.

This booklet is a list of our current efforts, as we reach for new opportunities to serve, so we might share what we do and include others to live like Christ.

Unless noted otherwise, please **contact** your parish office to learn more or get involved in a ministry:

## St. Andrew the Apostle:

Carrie Martinez or Lynn Schneider 219 769-8534 standrew73rd@gmail.com

## St. Joan of Arc:

Nancy Maretich 219 769-1973 StJoanMerr@comcast.net

## SS Peter & Paul:

Roxanne Poturalski 219 980-2693 sspchurch@msn.com

## Cluster Parishes website:

<https://www.merrillvillecatholiccluster.org/>

## Prayer & Liturgical Ministries

### Sacristan

Helps prepare the worship space for Mass. With the priest, makes sure the books and sacred vessels are placed and other ministers such as altar servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers are present. After Mass, cleans vessels and put everything away.

**Required:** Arrive at church 45 min. before Mass to open the doors and stay at least 15 min. after Mass.

### Music Ministry- Musicians, Cantors & Choir Members

Music ministry has a variety of roles based on a person's or family's talents and interests. We need musicians who play piano, organ or other instruments. Also needed are singers to be cantors (lead the church in song) and choir members who add their voice to others during Mass.

**Required: Attend choir rehearsals**

In addition, **Funeral Choir** members sing for parish funerals which are often during the weekdays.

St. Andrew : 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973

SS. Peter & Paul: Mike Cierski 708 785-4985 mcierski@hotmail.com

### Prayer Chain (St. Joan of Arc)

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer for any reason, call us and we will add your intention to the prayer chain.

Alice Gorski 219 942-3320

### Holy Hour for Vocations (SS Peter & Paul)

Every 4th Sunday, we gather in SS Peter & Paul Chapel to pray a Holy Hour for Vocations at 11:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

### Usher

Assists the people to be seated, holds doors open, passes collection baskets, directs the people for Communion and on other occasions.

**Required:** Arrive at Mass at least 15 min. early to assist in seating people and check with Priest/Deacon for special duties (e.g. 2nd collections).

### Altar Server

Assists the priest at the altar during Mass. Adult servers & youth servers (after making their First Communion) assist at Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

**Required:** Arrive at the church at least 15 min. before Mass.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973

SS Peter & Paul: Debbie Bosak 219 736-5888 zocbo51@att.net

### Altar Server For Funerals

Men and women perform all of the altar server duties at Funeral Masses (Often on weekdays, during school hours)

**For more information contact above**

### Greeter

Welcomes the people as they come through the doors into church. Hands out song books to everyone with a friendly greeting. Also, may hold doors open outside of church.

**Required:** Ideally arrive at church

### “I Am Special” Program (St. Joan of Arc)

Pre-schoolers are engaged in a special time of prayer and engagement during Sunday Mass.

St. Joan of Arc: Judy Collins 219 769-1973

### Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Assists the priest (and deacon) in distributing Holy Communion during Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers should have received all their sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation). If married, the marriage should be recognized by the Church.

**Required:** Arrive at least 15 min before Mass to sign in.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: Debbie Oliver 219 677-7686

SS Peter & Paul: Debbie Bosak 219 736-5888 zocbo51@att.net

### Extraordinary Minister to the Sick & Homebound

Visits & prays with people who are sick & homebound , bringing Holy Communion from Mass.

**For more information contact above**

### Lector

A lector proclaims the first and second scripture readings at Mass. Prior to Mass he or she reviews the readings using provided books so that they're prepared.

**Required:** Lectors should arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so they can sign in & check their readings.

### Prayer Leader (Prayers of the Faithful)

Leads the congregation in provided prayer petitions after the homily when the Deacon isn't present.

**Requirements:** The prayer leader should arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so they can sign in & review the prayer petitions.

### Vocation Cross

Individuals or families may take the Vocation cross home for a week to pray for our seminarians and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, for young men and women who will give their lives in service to God & neighbor.

## Religious Education & Formation

### Becoming Catholic - RCIA

For those individuals or families who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith and become Catholic by journeying through Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: Deacon Steve Zubei 219 769-1973

SS Peter & Paul: Debbie Bosak 219 736-5888 zocbo51@att.net

### Youth Religious Education (classes held at St Andrew)

SS. Peter and Paul, St. Joan of Arc, St. Andrew and Our Lady of Consolation Parishes in Merrillville are joining in a common religious formation program for our younger parishioners.

**Classes will be held at St. Andrew Parish, 801 West 73rd Avenue.**

**Please call your respective parish office or consult bulletin for current enrollment info & dates**

### Aquinas Catholic Community School at St. Andrews

Aquinas Catholic Community School at St. Andrews is a highly rated school accredited by the state of Indiana as well as the Advanced Ed Corporation. We provide a Catholic education of the highest quality within a safe and nurturing environment, and we've been doing it for over half a century! We seek to engage children both intellectually and spiritually, setting them on the path to college and heaven.

Mrs. L. Gutierrez 219 769-2049 lgutierrez@aquinas.school Site: [www.aquinas.school](http://www.aquinas.school)

### Home and School Association (Aquinas School)

This association raises funds to support our school and promote family involvement in school activities.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

### Adult Faith Formation

Learning is a lifetime task. Opportunities for Adult faith formation appear throughout the year.

**Consult the website/ bulletin for more information**

### Marriage Preparation

The Sacrament of Matrimony is a sacred covenant between man and woman with God standing witness through one of his ordained representatives. To prepare for marriage, some education is required to understand the breadth of this union.

**Sign up for marriage preparation or find ways to assist in this ministry by contacting your parish office.**

### Vacation Bible School (St. Andrew)

Young people and adults volunteer by assisting with fun & enriching summer religious activities for elementary-aged children.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

## Service & Outreach

### Knights of Columbus

Our parishes are blessed with two fraternal order of Columbus, men growing stronger in faith, serving the Church & community in Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

**Mssgr. Ryder Council #4047** (meets at St. Andrews)

**Mssgr. Ralph Hoffman Council #13003** (meets at St. Joan of Arc)

**Call your parish office for more information or get involved**

### St. Vincent de Paul (Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Food drives)

This outreach organization assists our neighbors by helping to provide important needs. A person can contribute by giving food or monetary donations in donation box in narthex of SS Peter & Paul worship space. For Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, help is needed to organize and pack food baskets for several dozen neighbors in need.

SS Peter & Paul: Tom Sanchez 219 980-1200

### Social Justice Committee/Commission (St. Andrew & St. Joan of Arc)

Members at St. Andrew host parish pro-life initiatives and activities, such as the annual coat drive, baby shower and Angel Tree. At St. Joan of Arc, a Thanksgiving & Easter food drive.

### Pocket Change (Lent) (St. Joan of Arc)

Ministry of Lenten almsgiving to observe the Lenten journey in humility and trust.

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973

### Stitching Sisters of St. Andrew

We quilt, crochet and sew homemade baby items and prayer shawls for pro-life organizations and nursing homes.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

### Angel Tree (Advent & Christmas) & Apple Tree (New School Year) (St. Joan of Arc)

During Advent at St. Joan of Arc, we put up the Angel Tree! Everyone picks an ornament tag which lists a Christmas gift needed for a child or family in need. Parishioners help in making Christmas wishes come true! Before the new school year, the Apple tree is set up, school supplies are collected for children & families to be prepared to hit the books (and computers) in the classroom.

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973

### Baby Shower (St. Joan of Arc)

Ministry of service

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973

### Migrant Mass (Multi parish initiative)

Our parishes have been honored to help organize and sponsor an outdoor Migrant Mass during the summer months to assist migrant farm workers. Much help is needed preparing and assisting at the liturgy and preparing food and helping at the potluck style picnic. Come join us for the Mass and picnic or inquire how you can help.

SS Peter & Paul: Maria Wallace 219 742-1783

### Feeding the Flock (Multi congregational initiative)

A weekly meal is offered to all in the community at no cost through the generous hearts and hands of many church communities in Northwest Indiana. Hosted by **First Presbyterian Church**, 7898 Taft Street, Merrillville, IN, 219-736-0707, a meal is offered **each Saturday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.** Many of our parishioners help weekly and the church leads the meal certain weeks through the year.

St. Joan of Arc: Sharon Berrier 219 769-2869

## Other Parish Groups & Ministries

### Art & Environment Committee

This group works together to decorate the worship space for liturgical seasons and special feast days and holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Also, help is needed for get-togethers like coffee & donuts if scheduled.

(Check parish bulletin)

### Funeral Luncheon Committee (St. Andrew & St. Joan of Arc)

This heart-filled group prepares and serves food after funerals for the comfort of family and friends of the deceased.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: Alice Gorski 219 942-3220; Flo Mack 219 769-7053

### Parish Pastoral Council

The parish pastoral council assists the pastor in discussing important topics relevant to the families in the parish, diocesan initiatives and topics in the Church.

St. Andrew, St. Joan of Arc and SS Peter & Paul meet jointly. Please call the parish office if you're interested in joining.

### Finance Councils

Each Merrillville sister parish has their own finance council to discuss the status of the parish budget, capital projects, Catholic Services Appeal, and other important financial matters.

### Collection Counters (St. Andrew & St. Joan of Arc)

Parishioners count and organize our weekly parish collections

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973

### SS Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery (Cemetery located at corner of 56th & Delaware)

Sacred burial ground for those who rest in the peace of Christ. Options available for cremation or traditional burial. Call to plan ahead.

Gary Diocesan Cemeteries: Mike Welsh 219 844-9475

### Parish Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committee (St. Andrew & St. Joan of Arc)

Ministry to help maintain and beautify our parish grounds. Any able bodied person is welcome to join in this ministry.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

St. Joan of Arc: Frank Gorski 219 942-3220

SS Peter & Paul: Bill Mindas 219 980-2693

### Women's Guild (St. Andrew)

Unites women of the parish in our church community, helps support our parish and works to foster a devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary.

St. Andrew: 219 769-8534

### Serra Club of NW Indiana

A group praying for vocations to the priesthood & encouraging seminarians studying for the priesthood. We meet every 1st and 3rd Monday at St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart. Join us at 5:30 for food and 6:30 for the meeting on the 1st Mon. & Holy Hour for Vocations on the 3rd Mon.

Deacon Malcolm Lunsford 219 769-3925 w9malx@gmail.com Site: [www.nwpriest.com](http://www.nwpriest.com)

### Parish Life Commission (St. Joan of Arc)

Harvest Dinner, Soup & Bread Lunch, Annual Parish Picnic

held at St. Joan of Arc which support the parish and other fundraisers.

St. Joan of Arc: Alice Gorski 219 942-3220

### ARCs for seniors (St. Joan of Arc)

Retired Catholic Seniors 55+ gather in the parish hall

St. Joan of Arc: 219 769-1973