

Ministry Opportunities at St John the Evangelist Church, Kitchener Parish Visitor

At St. John's, our various ministries support our intention to be a faithful and thriving community.

Connecting individuals and ministries is an act of mutual discernment – you may wonder which ministry is the best fit for you at this time, and the community may recognize gifts in you and encourage you to share them as we seek to be a thriving community.

The community also has some expectations for ministries. Knowing these expectations can help you and the community discern which ministry makes sense for you at this time. Some ministries have a time trial to assist further with this discernment.

How does this ministry contribute to living as a faithful and thriving community and your life of discipleship?

Jesus deliberately chose to be with those people who are vulnerable and in need.

Parish Visitors offer a prayerful, supportive presence to parishioners who are unable to come to church because of a variety of difficulties and help these fellow parishioners stay connected with the life and ministry of St. John's.

What gifts and skills are helpful for this role?

- Knowledge and understanding of pastoral care approaches (or willing to learn).
- Strong interpersonal, communication and listening skills.
- Sensitivity, compassion and respect for people of diverse backgrounds.
- Able to set and maintain personal boundaries.
- Able to assess situations and problem-solve or refer appropriately.
- Able to work as part of a team.

What to expect:

- Training (e.g., role of visitor; boundaries/limits; sharing faith and praying with the person you are visiting; records that need to be kept; when to make a referral or contact the clergy).
- Regular meetings (to share information, support one another, and plan upcoming events).
- Spending time connecting with isolated parishioners via the telephone, in-home visits, or hospital or residential care setting visits.

Responsibilities

- Make scheduled home, hospital, and nursing home visits as assigned.
- Offer presence and prayer.
- Make referrals and communicate concerns to the pastoral staff as appropriate.
- Maintain appropriate and confidential records.
- Attend parish visitors meetings and training.
- Communicate regularly with the Coordinator regarding scheduling, availability, and information about the person you are visiting as appropriate.
- For a complete description of the Guidelines for Parish Visiting please see Preston

Accountability: To the Rector

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