

Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK, ELDERLY AND SHUT-IN

“I was sick and you visited me.”

(Matt 25:36)

Mission Statement

In our ministry to the sick, elderly and shut-in of our parish, we wish to bring to them the Good News of God’s love for them; to help them be aware of their dignity and of the value of their suffering; to convey to

them the assurance that they are an important part of our faith community, and that their acceptance of suffering helps the whole Church.

Our ministry includes:

- * Facilitating the celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick when it is hosted by our parish grouping.
- * Weekly visits to parishioners of our parish grouping in the Moncton City Hospital and the Dr. George Dumont Hospital when we know a parishioner is there.
- * Participation in the Sunday distribution of the Eucharist at the Moncton City Hospital
- * Bring Eucharist to the sick, elderly and homebound in private homes when requested.
- * Monthly [more often] visits to the sick, elderly and homebound through personal visits, phone calls

or mail [greeting cards]

- * Celebrating the Sunday Liturgy of the Word with Communion at the Senior Citizens’ Homes within our parish grouping - Royal Court; McNair Manor; Grass Home.
- * Collaborating with other pastoral ministries within the parish grouping, such as the Shawl Ministry
- * Sharing parish news through the use of bulletins, newsletters, experiences and printed resources.

We commit ourselves to:

- *praying for the sick and suffering of our parish communities
- * confidentiality
- * praying with the person if appropriate
- * bringing a cheerful disposition
- * being a good listener through attentiveness to the person; allowing the person to talk about his or her suffering; patiently hearing what is said and needs to be said by the sick and elderly
- * witnessing to the Gospel values through the living out of our faith
- * respecting the guidelines and protocol of the facilities we visit
- * attending periodic meetings of the Pastoral Care Committee to share experiences and to continue our formation
- * being a compassionate, caring, gentle presence to those who are ill, elderly, homebound and to their families

Lay Presiding at Nursing Homes

Our ministry includes a Liturgy of the Word celebration with distribution of Holy Communion at Royal Court on Sunday mornings at 9:00. A lector accompanies the presider. Training is provided for the presider.

A shorter Liturgy of the Word takes place at the Grass Home and McNair Manor Sundays at 9:30 am

Distribution of the Eucharist takes place each Monday evening to Catholic residents at Lakeview Manor.

Visiting the Sick

This ministry involves volunteers who visit parishioners who are sick or who are unable to get out of their homes. It includes visiting them, keeping them company, praying with them and bringing Communion to them, if they so desire.

The ministry of visiting the sick is one which requires sensitivity and commitment. As one “visitor” said, “It’s the whole idea of visiting and how to do it. You try to get to know the people and you don’t ask a lot of questions. You let the people say what they have to say. It’s so important that the infirm continue to feel that they are part of the Church.”

A message from some of our volunteers:

Jesus loved the sick and offered them healing and comfort. For me, this ministry is a way of sharing my time and talents with those in need. I find it very fulfilling to bring Christ to them at a difficult time in their lives.

Visiting the sick and elderly is, for me, being in communion with people in need of comfort. I am the stranger whom they welcome into their space. I truly feel blessed and honoured to be part of this important ministry.

I try to listen to those I visit, to encourage them, to help them feel that they are not alone - that we as a parish think of them, feel for them, and pray for them. I’m sharing with others what God has given to me.

Volunteers are welcome to call the church at 386-6178 for more information concerning this very rewarding and much appreciated ministry.