



St. Mary's Church Parish Talents



Knights of Columbus (K of C) – The Ellis K of C was established on June 10, 1920, the Council's purpose is to be active in civic and charitable works. Their main goal locally is to help with and sponsor regional events for those mentally and physically challenged, assist and help sponsor the Ecumenical Lenten breakfasts', and assist with and contribute to fund raisers in support of our local parish and school. (Contact Person – *Wade King*)

Daughters of Isabella (D of I) – The Ellis D of I was established on February 8, 1925. The D of I are dedicated to the principals of Unity, Friendship, and Charity. Besides providing and attending Unity and Friendship events, the D of I contributes aid to charities in and outside our community through contributions, and assists in fund raising events (i.e. serve dinners for weddings, funerals, auctions, etc.) for our parish. (Contact Person – *Marian Ptaschek*)

Squires – The Squires are an organization for the teen men of our parish. Squires have meetings that center on prayer, reading and discussion of scripture. Squires attend the state convention, adopt a seminarian, and participate in church ministries. Squires help the K of C with the Tootsie Roll Drive, sponsor a yearly feather bingo game and breakfast with proceeds going to charity. Squire members may be available for senior citizens who may need help clearing sidewalks, washing windows, mowing lawns, etc. Senior citizens can call *Rick Cunningham* if they need assistance.

Salina Diocese Catholic Christian Women (SDCCW) – SDCCW isn't an organization you sign up for. It is a diocesan program that all women 18 years of age and older automatically belong to. The dues are \$1 a year, and can be paid to *Sally Flax*. SDCCW is a charitable organization for women not only in the Salina Diocese, but all women in the United States. There are three regional meetings women can attend during the year. The regional meetings provide educational opportunities.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) - CCD is the basic teachings of the Catholic Church. These classes are taught to school age children to learn the basic roots of their faith. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings September through April from 7 – 8 p.m. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up to teach the classes. (Contact Person – *Amy Rohr*)

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) – Through our programs and services, the CYO helps to develop a Catholic Community in which children and teens are recognized as being an integral part of the Church. Vicariate, diocesan, and national meetings provide Christian Leadership development programs for teens and creates opportunities for teens to share these skills and contribute to the growth of our faith community. CYO has fund raisers to help defray expenses for the meetings and conferences. CYO is open to youth/teens from grades 7-12. (Contact Couple – *David & Karla Schuster*)

Pastoral Council – The Pastoral Council acts and serves in an advisory capacity to and with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual, educational, and social affairs of the parish. The council's primary concern is the spiritual growth and mission of the parish. The council's functions are spiritual formation, parish planning, policy development, and communication. (Contact Person – *Mike Augustine*)

Finance Council – The Finance Council is a consultative council to the pastor in planning, providing for, and supervising the financial affairs and physical properties of the parish. Some of the duties are to prepare the annual budget, review the income and expenditures of the parish, assist in the raising of funds (needed to attain the parish goals), and inspect and prioritize the repairs and improvements of the parish. (Contact Person – *Jeff Augustine*)

School Council – The School Council is the specialized policy-making body for the operation of the Catholic school. The council's duties are to prepare a school budget for each fiscal year and submit it to the Finance Council to include in the total parish budget. The council is subordinate to the Pastoral Council in broad and general educational policies which affect the parish as a whole and in major financial and physical plant commitments. The ordinary and regular school policy decisions are not submitted to the Pastoral Council. (Contact Person – *Sarah Eck*)

Stewardship Committee – The Stewardship Committee helps parishioners recognize that everything we have comes from God and to help foster gratitude and awareness of our special talents. Stewardship is a way of life and is that unifying vision that holds all the different ministries and programs together and helps us appreciate them in the light of living as disciples of Jesus. The committee is responsible for providing parishioners with information about what stewardship is and how we can be good stewards of all the gifts God gives us. Stewardship Moments as it relates to the Sunday Liturgy will be provided each week in the bulletin. Pamphlets about stewardship will also be available. Each year the committee will oversee the Time, Talent, and Family-Life commitment sign-up forms. They will also be in charge of Commitment Sunday. (Contact Person – *Roberta Augustine*)

Arts & Environment Committee – This committee along with the pastor, plans church events such as: blessings of various kinds; scheduling of Mass times for holy days, holidays, communal penance, anointing of the sick, food drive, etc. The committee also assumes responsibility for decorating the church for various feast days and ordinary times. (Contact Person – *Donna Honas*)

Respect Life Committee – Peggy Waldschmidt

Home & School Association – All parents are members of the Home and School Association, which plays a vital role in the yearly operation of the school. Home & School promotes a quality Catholic Education for our students by providing a means of effective communication among the pastor, parents, educational leaders, and students; and promoting mutual understanding between parents and teachers of association sponsors and assists in fundraising activities for the benefit of the school (i.e. School Carnival). Home & School funds are used primarily for textbooks, supplies, copy machine care and upkeep, and special purpose funds. (Contact Person – *Cristi Werth*)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) Weekend – The weekend is designed to help married couples communicate more intimately with one another in order to deepen and enrich their relationship. The weekend is free from everyday routines. An atmosphere is created where the couple can concentrate exclusively on one another in a private, confidential environment. A series of presentations that touches on many aspects of marriage is given by three couples and a Catholic priest. After each presentation, the couple has time in the privacy of their own room for personal sharing using the communication techniques learned on the weekend. There are no "group discussions". The weekend starts at 8 p.m. on Friday and runs until 4 p.m. on Sunday. You will benefit if you want to expand and deepen your communication, enrich a good marriage, learn to love more deeply, and enhance the love you share. (Contact Person – *Steve and Stacy Befort*)

Children's Sunday Liturgy – Children's liturgy is open to all children 3 years old up to those who have not yet received First Holy Communion. The Children's Sunday Liturgy is held during the Sunday Mass. The Children's Liturgy gives the young members of our church the opportunity to study the Sunday's Liturgy in a manner in which they can understand the gospel. The Children's Liturgy takes place after the opening prayer. (Contact Person – *Roberta Augustine*)

Guitar Choir – The Guitar Choir, under the direction of *Cheryl Lang*, provide another facet of music at the Sunday Liturgies (approximately twice a month). Any age group and accompanist are welcome to become members.

Parish Choir/Music Ministry – The Parish Choir/Music Ministry is for anyone who would like to participate as a group for special occasion singing (i.e. Christmas/Easter) or for those who would like to be cantors/musicians at weekly Sunday Liturgies. Any age group and accompanists are welcome to become members. (Contact Persons – *Nancy Cunningham or Sister Doris*)

Ushers/Greeters – Ushers/Greeters do their ministry for a month at a time. To be an usher/greeter involves coming to church 10 or 15 minutes before Mass, greeting parishioners as they come to Mass, and handing out missals. Ushers may also need to find seating for those who attend Mass if space is limited. At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, ushers/greeters take up the Sunday collection. After Mass, ushers/greeters hand out the parish bulletins, see that the missals are stacked neatly in the bookshelves, and check the church for items left behind in the pews. When there is a second collection, which is taken up before the final prayer, ushers/greeters are responsible for this. Generally, there is a special collection once a month. (Contact Couple – *Mike & Jacque Grogan*)

Lead Communion/Prayer Services (Church or Nursing Home) – If a priest is not available for long periods of time, the parish may be required to have a Communion Service in Church or the Nursing Home. This service consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the distribution of Holy Communion. Other prayer services may include leading the Way of the Cross, Litanies, and Prayer Services that do not require the priest's presence. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Clean Altar Linens/Server Robes – This involves the washing of these items and ironing if needed. The server robes are washed approximately 4 times a year. The Altar linens are washed and ironed approximately two to three times a year. The corporals and purificators are washed and ironed monthly. (Contact Person – *Kathleen Wolf*)

Clean Sanctuary/Sacristy – This ministry cleans and dusts the furniture and altars and vacuums the floors in the sanctuary and south sacristy. At present, we do this twice a month. It takes about an hour of your time every 6 weeks or so depending on the number of volunteers. The altars are dusted only as high as you can reach. There is no climbing ladders or chairs. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Help Count Parish Collections – Parish collectors meet after the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday in the parish meeting room and count the collection of the current weekend. Counters serve with two other people and a parish staff member in doing this task. Counters count the loose money and open and record the amounts in the envelopes. All the money is banked after you have finished. This ministry requires 30 – 45 minutes to complete. Depending on how many people sign up for this ministry, a counter usually counts every 7 or 8 weeks. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Help with Parish Mailings – If you can fold papers and put them in envelopes, you qualify for this ministry. You will be contacted by the parish staff whenever assistance is required. Generally this is a day-time ministry, but if enough people are available the same night, mailings may be an evening ministry. Most mailings take about 45 minutes to complete. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Help with Parish Auction – If you are an organizer, have computer skills, are artistic, or have vision and are not afraid of hard work, this is the ministry for you. The upside to this ministry is the camaraderie you build with the other members and the fun you have. Couples and individuals can sign up for this ministry. (Contact Couple – *Doug and Terri Rohr*)

Help with Electrical/Plumbing/Painting/Minor Repairs to Buildings – If you have expertise in electricity, the parish always has a switch that needs repair, bulbs that are too high for staff, and cords that need replacement or repair. If you have expertise in plumbing, the parish has dripping faucets, minor pipe leakage, stopped up sinks, etc. that need repairing. If you have expertise in painting or minor repairs, the parish has windows and frames that need attention, rooms and halls that need paint, and replacement of rotting boards. If you are handy with the above mentioned skills, the parish can provide you with needed work. (Contact Person – *Perry Mick*)

Visit Nursing Home Residents – This is a flexible schedule ministry. The parish can provide the names of people who may enjoy a visit now and then from other parishioners. You may choose to visit either the homebound or residents at the Good Samaritan Center or both. The amount of time you spend with the homebound or nursing home residents is up to you. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Assist with Grounds Keeping – In our Parish, we do not have hired help to do the lawn mowing, weeding, and trimming of small trees or bushes. Any voluntary help is appreciated. As a grounds keeper, you come and see what needs to be weeded or trimmed and do the trimming when you can. You will receive direction on what to mow. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Snow Removal – The parish always needs help to remove snow from around the church, rectory, and convent. Snow removal usually involves working with a snow shovel, snow blower, or small garden tractor with an attachable snow blade to do the sidewalks. Parishioners must bring their own snow-removal equipment. The parish also needs parishioners with equipment to remove the snow from the south parking lot and circle drive. No one will call you when this needs to be done; you merely show up and begin the snow removal process on your own. (Contact Person – *Sister Doris*)

Welcoming Committee – Meet and greet new parishioners. (Contact Person – *Rick Rupp*)

Returning Home Catholics – Visit parishioners who are no longer attending church. (Contact Person – *Mike Grogan*)

Foster Grandparents – This is not a parish program, but this program is a way you may contribute to the Ellis community. Foster grandparents give individual attention to a child who may not otherwise have time with a caring adult. The foster grandparent may tutor students in a school, teach life skills, and give consistent unconditional love. Foster grandparents must be 60 or over and be willing to dedicate 15 hours each week helping a child. Foster grandparents are given a tax-free stipend for transportation allowance, training, and accident and liability insurance while serving and having the joy and satisfaction in helping a child succeed in school and in life. (Contact Persons – *Parish Office or Jolene Niernberger*)

Senior Companions – This is not a parish program, but this program is another way you may contribute to the Ellis community. Senior companions visit the homebound; visit isolated and frail adults; assist with transportation needs, appointments, and errands; provide respite care for family caregivers; and assist people to live independently. Companions may also help with grocery shopping; take seniors for walks; read to seniors or help them write letters; prepare meals; or offer friendship. Companions serve on a one-to-one basis. The requirements and benefits are the same as for Foster Grandparents. (Contact Persons – *Parish Office or Jolene Niernberger*)