

## Senior Ministry Priorities for 2015

As we stated last week, the Senior Ministry Committee which met on Thursday, the 11<sup>th</sup> would be laying out a plan for meeting the needs of older adults at both parishes. We have six priorities for the year. The plan will be outlined in the bulletin over the next five weeks and laid out on the parish website.

1. The first priority will be engaging more volunteers who wish to serve the needs of older adults, either through the parish or through Interfaith Older Adult Programs. Committee members are cognizant of the parishes' finances and staffing. The ten members are committed to taking a leadership role as we interact with volunteers and/or refer older adults to Interfaith which offers a plethora of programs designed for older adults. In short, volunteers of all ages will be needed to help us serve our older adult parishioners.
2. Continuing our quest to lay-out our priorities and goals for 2105: we intend to put more effort into serving our home bound parishioners! The survey and the cards requesting home bound care are making us more aware of the needs of our older adults. Our first effort has to be making sure that all our members who request to receive Eucharist at home have that request met. As we mentioned last week, we will rely on volunteers. We are looking for parishioners who are willing to serve as Eucharistic Ministers to the home bound. Deacon Ralph and his wife Jane are more than willing to train volunteers on how to serve in this ministry. We will have all the materials available for those who wish to serve in this ministry. And lastly, please make sure that you contact us if you wish to serve in this ministry or know of someone who wishes to receive Communion in their home on a regular basis of if you have a family member in this situation. You may contact Steve O'Connell if you are willing to serve in this ministry at: 445-7472 or by e-mail: [iconsase@gmail.com](mailto:iconsase@gmail.com).
3. The third priority for the 2015 calendar year will be to continue the presentations on End-of-Life Issues. Last year, the committee hosted two presentations; they were held on Saturday mornings. In order to draw more people, the 2015 quarterly seminars will be presented on Thursdays mornings at 10:00 AM. Following each presentation there will be food and a chance to mingle with those in attendance. We will be contacting everyone through the bulletins, pulpit announcements, on-line, and through the parish websites. Mark your calendars—the first presentation will be Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Sebastian's. The discussion will focus on End of Life Decisions.

As we mentioned last week, the Senior Ministry *End of Life Series* will kick off 2015 with its first presentation—End of Life Decisions. Attorney John Conforti, Financial Advisor, Jim Schiller, and Ed Duncklee, our Faith Formation Director will present the basics when facing the end of life. We will be meeting at St. Sebastian's on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Faith Formation Room. A light lunch will be served which will give us a chance to discuss the presentations. Committee members look forward to being able to engage our fellow older adults

as we reflect on seminal decisions as we age. Questions or concerns, contact Steve O'Connell at 414-445-7472 or on-line at [oconsase@gmail.com](mailto:oconsase@gmail.com).

4. Our fourth 2015 priority is called **Curbside Hospitality**—providing safe passage from the parking lots at both parishes. We are working with the scouts at St. Seb's and ushers at St. Catherine's. These volunteers would be present to assist those who need a helping hand getting to each building. Not only is it reaching out to provide a helping hand, but it is a way for our young parish members and ushers to meet our older adults.
5. Our fifth priority in 2015 is a focus on collaborating with our two Interfaith Boards. Almost from the beginning of refocusing our efforts to meet the needs of older adults at the two parishes, the overall priority has been the spiritual growth of our older adults. Interfaith meets the social and daily needs of older adults; the Senior Ministry committee designs programs to meet spiritual needs. There are two parish representatives who are considering joining the boards. We will be highlighting the social events offered at both Hart Park and Washington Park Senior Centers. Presently, we are collaborating with Interfaith to insure parish members who are volunteering as drivers for older adults who wish to attend a
6. Our sixth priority is to keep older adults in our two congregations apprised of the social events and programs offered at the three local senior centers: Washington Senior Center and the Hart Park Senior Center—both staffed and coordinated by Interfaith and the Sherman Park Gathering Place at Capitol Drive Lutheran Church. In the next three weeks, we will have a schedule of the weekly events at the three centers. The committee will also continue to work with parish staff and committee members to host cross-generational events in the parishes. The goal is to bring families together with all the other members of the parish through educational and social events and sacramental, worship, and prayer events.

Following up on our efforts to keep parishioners informed about the events at Washington Park Senior Center, Hart Park, and the Sherman Park Gathering Place, we want to point out some of the events being offered at Washington Park this week. All three of these sites are coordinated by Interfaith.

This week at Washington Park the following events might interest you. On Monday morning there is a presentation about Heart Disease at 10:00 AM. Senior Ambassadors from Interfaith will be present on Wednesday morning; they answer questions about community services for older adults. The February book club kicks off on Wednesday, February 11th. The discussion features *Sea Creature*, by Susanna Daniel on the 11th; February 25<sup>th</sup> features *The Hired Man* by Aminatta Forna.

The Interfaith **The Connection-A monthly guide to activities and community resources for adults age 50+** will be available on the ushers' stands starting this month.

This week's featured senior center is Hart Park Senior Center. Interfaith is now partnering with the City of Wauwatosa to manage the Center. The staff offers exciting trips, exercise classes, arts

and crafts classes, a book club, cards, interesting speakers, special events and much more. Meals are served weekdays at 11:30 AM. Membership is required: annual membership for Tosa residents is \$15 for those 62+ or \$21 for those 50-62 years old. Residents from other communities can join for \$28 per year. The Interfaith staff invites all older adults to stop in to say hello and check out this wonderful facility in Wauwatosa. It is located at 7300 Chestnut Street.

Interfaith's **The Connection**-*A monthly guide to activities and community resources for adults age 50+* will be available on the ushers' stands starting this month.

We have featured the two larger Interfaith Older Adult Centers in the last two weeks. This week's featured program is the Sherman Park Gathering Place located at Capitol Drive Lutheran Church, 53<sup>rd</sup> and Capitol Drive. When the program opened 15 years ago, participants voted to keep it a neighborhood drop-in center with a religious focus. Bible classes are held each session; the YMCA offers an exercise program and there are guest speakers and presentations each week. A very important element of the program is the celebration of all the religious holy days and secular holidays in prayer. Pastor Alexis plans the religious celebrations with the participants. The Gathering Place meets on Monday and Wednesday with programs starting at 10:00 AM; Wednesday features a hot lunch. For more information, please call Steve O'Connell at 414-445-7472.