



## **Gifts of the Spirit Fall 2009 Study & Reflection**



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**Parish Kick-off  
Sunday, October 4**

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Participant Workbook**

Weekly format for group prayer

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***Suggestions on how to use this workbook and other parish resources throughout these 40 Days:***

- † Prepare for each session by reading the First Reading, Second Reading, and Gospel for the week, allowing time for your own reflection, along with the assigned reading from *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit* by Mitch Finley.
- † During the week, spend time with the assigned reading, scripture insights and the reflection questions, using this workbook as a journal for your thoughts.
- † Try to develop a practice of spending quiet time each day reflecting on one or more verses from the Scripture.
- † Get engaged in the parish stewardship renewal process, considering your gifts and how you might feel yourself being called to a new area of ministry or prayer.
- † Faithfully enter into each weekend liturgy.

## **Session Timeline – 90 minutes**

### **Gathering – 10 mins.**

- Greetings
- Assign leader, gospel lector and reader of general intercessions

### **Opening Prayer – 20 mins.**

- Each week, the opening prayer will focus on the Sunday Gospel. Always choose the reference for the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. After the Gospel is proclaimed, take time to reflect in silence. Share reflections on this Gospel, each individual encouraged to share their thoughts. Encourage everyone to have a turn and limit crosstalk so that people may express their views freely. General intercessions are provided with the opening prayer but invite the special intentions of the individuals.

### **View DVD with Parish Commentary for the Week – 15 mins.**

- Each video should be approximately 7-10 minutes in length. They are designed to provide a pastoral and local view on the subject of the Gifts of the Spirit, with the unique perspective of some St. Joseph's parishioners. Keep a Bible with you at each session to refer back to the Scripture. You may pause the video when questions for discussion and sharing are posed on-screen.

### **Discussion of Video and Scripture – 30 mins.**

- Depending on the group, this can be done methodically working through the questions and Scripture insights, or you may spend 30 minutes on one question that really captures the interest of the group. Go with what works.
- Work at engaging everyone in the discussion. If the group is large, you might want to break into smaller groups of 3 or 4 for part of the discussion and then come back together to share as a large group.

### **Call to action/Business of the group – 10 mins.**

- Use this time to brainstorm opportunities for community service or to discuss specific strategies people will try that week to integrate their Scripture and gifts learnings into their everyday lives and stewardship commitments.
- Discuss any organizational needs of the group.

## Format for Group Prayer

### Gathering

Leader *(our Leader reads the following passage slowly or all read it in silence)*

As we begin, let us begin with a moment of silence to reflect, to focus, to be attentive to ourselves, to one another, and to the presence of Christ, who calls us all to renewal. Come, Holy Spirit, replace the tensions within us with a holy relaxation.

*(pause a moment)*

Leader

*(While making the sign of the cross say: )*

In the name of the Father +, the Son and the Holy Spirit. All: Amen

### Proclamation of the Gospel

*(reading the Gospel aloud: Before – ‘A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark or Matthew depending on the week... Following the proclamation of the Gospel passage, the reader says: The Gospel of the Lord. All respond: ‘Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ’)*

### Litany of Intercession *(read slowly)*

Leader

Come Holy Spirit

All

Replace anxiety within us with quiet confidence.

Leader

Come Holy Spirit

All

Replace the fear within us with strong faith.

Leader

Come Holy Spirit

All

Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of grace.

Leader

Come Holy Spirit

All

Replace the darkness within us with gentle light.

Leader

Come Holy Spirit

All

Replace the coldness within us with loving warmth.

Leader

Come Holy Spirit

All

Replace the night within us with your marvelous light.

Reader

For what else do we pray today? *(Pause . . . allow time for sharing of prayers)*

### Our Father

Leader:

Gathering our prayers, spoken and unspoken into one, we pray:

All:

Our Father ... For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

### Closing Blessings

*(Leader inserts specific weeks' Gift of the Spirit into prayer)*

Leader

Let us pray

*(pause as we offer our prayers in silence, then continue)*

Holy and Loving God, we pray that our emptiness might be filled with:

Week One: the gifts of Wisdom and Understanding

Week Two: the gifts of Counsel and Right Judgment

Week Three: the gifts of Fortitude and Courage

Week Four: the gift of Knowledge

Week Five: the gifts of Piety, Reverence, Fear of the Lord,

Awe and Wonder in the Presence of our God

Leader

May the Spirit dull the edge of our pride and sharpen the edge of our humility. May it light the fire of love within us and let us see ourselves as you see us. May we travel safely until we meet again. We ask this through Christ, the Lord.

All---Amen.

## **Key Scripture Passages**

### **Isaiah 11:1-3—The Gifts of the Spirit**

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-11—The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts**

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;  
to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit;  
to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;  
to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues.  
But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

### **Galatians 5:22-23—The Fruits of the Spirit**

...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

## **What the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* Tells Us**

*Holy Spirit:* To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." **CCC, no. 685**

*Water:* The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth: just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit. As "by one Spirit we were all baptized," so we are also "made to drink of one Spirit." Thus the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified as its source and welling up in us to eternal life. **CCC, no. 694**

*Anointing:* The symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit. In Christian initiation, anointing is the sacramental sign of Confirmation, called "chrismation" in the Churches of the East. **CCC, no. 695**

This Week ...  
Read Mitch Finely's  
*The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, vii – 31.

## **Gifts of the Spirit - Week One** **Wisdom & Understanding**

*“The gift of wisdom provides us with God’s view of things, a kind of divine perspective on reality that penetrates through events and perceives the divine presence and action at work, even in very tragic and painful situations. To see God in suffering is indeed a high level of the Gift of Wisdom.”*

*“The gift of understanding has two parts: it gives us penetrating insight into the truths of the faith and at the same time a realistic view of our own weakness...a laser that casts light into the depths of our spirit...”*

(Thomas Keating, *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit*)

Wisdom allows us to see the holy in the ordinary—experience takes on new meaning when reflected on in the light of God’s presence. Wisdom allows us to see others as God sees them. Everyone has infinite value from God’s perspective. Wisdom can open our hearts to even the most marginalized among us.

Understanding helps us to know Jesus as both fully human and fully divine—enabling us to see that the mystery of the Incarnation continues to this day. With understanding we can recognize the Spirit of the Risen Lord in the joys as well as the struggles of life.

Both wisdom and understanding are gifts of the heart, allowing us to see with the spirit-filled eyes of the heart.

## **Readings for ... Oct. 11**

*Wisdom 7:7-11*

*Hebrews 4:12-13*

*Mark 10: 17-30*

The start of our study is beautifully accommodated by this week’s first reading from Wisdom, an immediate reminder that wisdom is not something we acquire but rather is bestowed as a gift, “the spirit of wisdom came upon me.” (Wisdom 7:7)

This, perhaps, is easier to comprehend than the Gospel reading from Mark about the rich young man who asks what he can do to “inherit eternal life.” Despite his zeal for the one he called “Good teacher,” Jesus does not accept his devotion but points him to God—ultimately that is all any spiritual guide can do for us—help us see the way to deeper relationship with our Creator.

The young man is a good person, following all the rules. But Jesus challenges him to see that we must live our whole lives for God—we must surrender our human desires and wants for God’s wisdom. The young man was called out of his comfort zone.

Even more challenging is the second half of Mark’s Gospel. Surrendering all even means putting God before family. Or another way of looking at it—do we recognize that our own children are children of God? Do we treat and respect every member of our families as beloved children of God?

Even our “persecutions” and trials in this life are part of what lead us to God. And in so doing, lead us closer to a Gospel way of wisdom and understanding so that we may in turn share those gifts and be companions on the journey with each other.

Is it possible to live up to Jesus’ standard? Only if you believe that with *God* all things are possible.

## **Wisdom**

by Thomas Merton

I studied and it taught me nothing.  
I learned it and soon forgot everything else:  
Having forgotten, I was burdened with knowledge  
The insupportable knowledge of nothing.

How sweet my life would be, if I were wise!  
Wisdom is well known  
When it is no longer seen or thought of.  
Only then is understanding bearable.

In Mitch Finley, *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*.

## **Reflections**

Where is the Spirit acting in my life? Where do I recognize God's presence?

How do I relate to the young man in the Gospel? When I ask Jesus to show me the way to eternal life, am I ready for the challenge?

Do I believe that all things are possible with God?

Who for me is a Christ-like person who bears witness to the love of God in my life and in the community?

Who helps me claim the gifts of wisdom and understanding?

This Week ...

Read *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, 33-48.

## **Gifts of the Spirit—Week Two Counsel/Right Judgment**

*“The more we are open to the Spirit, the more the Spirit takes over our lives...”*

*The Gift of Counsel is not limited to the perfect or well behaved, but engages each of us right where we are, guiding us subtly, but sometimes very bluntly, as to how we are to behave.*

*The inspirations of the Gift of Counsel are usually practical, concrete, and down to earth—suggesting what to do in practical affairs...*

*Practices that we think are essential for our carefully laid plans for holiness tend to get shot through with holes by divine providence.”*

(Thomas Keating, *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit*)

The gift of counsel helps us to determine how we are going to live our lives of faith in specific situations—at home, at work, at Church, in the local and global communities. Trust in God’s plan for each of us is at the heart of accepting the gift of counsel. We must allow ourselves to be moved by the Spirit.

“Be it done to me according to your Word,” said the young Mary at the Annunciation. We too need to be servants of the Lord’s plan, knowing God walks with us always.

*“Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to  
what the Spirit  
is saying to the churches”*

(Revelation 3:22)

## **Readings for... Oct.18**

Isaiah 53:10-11

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mark 10:35-45

Compared to last week’s Gospel, some find this one more straight-forward. Indeed, Mark tells a very straight-forward account of the disciples posturing for their places of glory. Matthew, on the other hand, attributes this story to James’ and John’s mother—perhaps a more palatable way to reflect on our human desires. Mark, as always, tells it as it is.

In a similar way to the Gifts of the Spirit we are studying, it is a continuation of similar themes. Like the young man of last week, we can relate to the disciples. Like Peter, they mess up, even becoming boastful, but are loved nonetheless by Jesus and invited to enter into his baptism and to drink of the cup of suffering that is a necessary part of discipleship.

When the disciples receive the gift of counsel, they are not elevated to places where they dispense sage advice. Rather, they can better discern what Jesus’ teachings mean to them, they can begin to understand that theirs is a ministry of service and servant leadership. As with wisdom and understanding, counsel is not a gift for the individual alone, but a gift that allows one Christian to better serve another. How are we called to serve one another?

To walk with Jesus means that the disciples must accept the trials that come with drinking of Jesus’ cup, just as we say “Amen!” when we receive the Precious Blood along with the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. When we say “Amen!” we accept the spirituality of the cup, the crosses of our lives. The gift of counsel, of right judgment, helps us to better reflect on the individual circumstances of our troubled human existence and how our trials are meant to bring us into closer union with God. The capacity to relate our difficulties to the movement of the Spirit in our lives is a gift.

**“...the gift of counsel is to be open to the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.”**

Mitch Finley, *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

## **Reflections**

What are one or two decisions or choices I made this week? How were they informed by the Spirit's gift of counsel?

Am I able to let go of anxieties about money and finances and trust in God's loving plan for me?

Do I trust in God's plan or more often see myself in the driver's seat?

What is Jesus asking of James and John when he asks if they can drink of the cup that he drinks or be baptized with the same baptism? How does Jesus ask me to drink of his cup?

This Week ... Read *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, 49-62.

### Gifts of the Spirit—Week Three Fortitude/Courage

*“...little by little, the Gift of Fortitude, in conjunction with the other Gifts, transmutes the energy of anger designed by nature for defensive purposes into zeal for the service of God and the needs of others. It sustains difficult ministries and welcomes vicissitudes of daily life instead of fighting or resisting them or giving way to feelings of frustration. It establishes a certain firmness of mind and heart in doing good and enduring evil, especially when these are difficult. It manifests its inspiration in the beatitude:*

*‘Blessed are those  
who hunger and thirst after justice,  
for they shall be satisfied.’”*

Matthew 5:6

(Thomas Keating, *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit*)

Courage is another word for fortitude—it is a gift, not something that comes naturally. Fortitude helps us to face our fears and to confront controversy for God’s sake. It helps us to stand up to the pressures of the society around us. Can we be countercultural when we are called to shed light on the corrupt ways of the world or even in the day-to-day shortcomings we all experience as money is wasted on wants, natural resources are squandered, and people laugh at the expense of others?

### Readings for ... Oct 25

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

It took courage and fortitude for Bartimaeus, the blind man, to cry out to Jesus and ask for sight, even when others tried to silence him.

The gifts of courage and fortitude help us to throw aside our fear, as the beggar did his cloak, and to follow Jesus, even when the culture rebukes us.

The physical sight the man receives is a metaphor for the spiritual sightedness we all need. With spiritual sightedness we can use the gift of courage to live an authentic kind of Gospel faith. With courage and fortitude we can move beyond ourselves and do as Jesus did—answer the call of those crying out in our immediate worlds but also in the wider community.

Can we make commitments as individuals and as a parish to bring justice to the oppressed among us?

Like the blind man, when we lay bare our needs to Jesus, when we come to him in faith, when we follow in gratitude and loyalty, we too become disciples.

Perhaps the hardest part is to hear Jesus asking the question, “What do you want me to do for you?” Often we are more inclined to ask God what it is we are supposed to do.

We are wired for doing, not for listening.

In the first reading, Jeremiah offers us the hope and recognition that when we do let God lead, we will come to “brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble.” Ultimately, as people of faith, our job is to let go and to let Jesus lead the way.

## Reflections

When has the gift of fortitude helped me to overcome a particular fear or anxiety or shortcoming of mine?

Can I name someone who possesses the gift of fortitude? How is it evident?

How do I respond to the Lord's question:  
What do you want me to do for you?



### **Dorothy Day— A Woman of Courage and Fortitude**

**Dorothy Day** (November 8, 1897 – November 29, 1980) was an American journalist, social activist, anarchist, and devout Catholic who was received into the Church as an adult. Day founded, with Peter Maurin, the Catholic Worker movement, a nonviolent, pacifist, movement which combines direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. Pope John Paul II allowed Day's case for sainthood to be opened in 2000, making her a Servant of God in the eyes of the Catholic Church.

Bethany House in Rochester is a Catholic worker house and an excellent example of providing direct aid for women and children in need while also fighting for justice on their behalf, specifically in creating more just models of reintegration for women leaving incarceration. As we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the coming year, it is our hope that we, as a parish, can more fully engage with Bethany House and provide a wider range of opportunities for all to become involved in supporting and leading these efforts.

Learn more about Dorothy Day at:  
<http://www.catholicworker.com/ddaybio.htm> or  
read Day's autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*

This Week ...  
Read *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, 63-77.

## Gifts of the Spirit—Week Four Knowledge

*“The Gift of Knowledge reveals to us that God alone can satisfy and that the pleasures and satisfactions of life are only stepping-stones to happiness. They all have limitations, and to seek to draw from them absolute happiness is not only naïve, but just won’t work. We have a motive now within us to let go of those emotional programs for happiness, and thus the false self shows cracks, and through the cracks comes deep self-knowledge and the awareness of the dynamics of our unconscious. We begin to see how these programs interfere with our relationships with other people, with ourselves, with God.”*

*The Gift of Knowledge is the right ordering of creation in relationship to God.”*

(Thomas Keating, *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit*)

Keating refers to the Beatitudes as the exercise of the Seven Gifts of the Spirit, especially “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.” In mourning our old ways of damaging ourselves, others and our relationship with God we are cleansed and comforted.

“This gift, this grace we call ‘knowledge,’ is the key not just to a way of seeing the world, not just to a vision of life and the cosmos. Even more, it is the key to a Catholic way of life.”

Mitch Finley,  
*The Seven Gifts of the Spirit*

## Readings for ... Nov 1

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12a

This week we take a break from the Gospel of Mark and hear the Beatitudes from Matthew in celebration of All Saints Day on Sunday, November 1.

While we tend to perceive the canonized saints as the holiest of all, the gift of knowledge we receive from the Holy Spirit calls us to see that holiness is all around us in everyday life.

As Christians, every bit of knowledge we need is our gift in the Gospel of Matthew, in the Beatitudes. Some say that the 10 Commandments represent the lowest common denominator of what is expected of Christians; the Beatitudes represent all to which we are meant strive. Yet, they are spoken by Jesus in the present tense—meaning that in accepting the call to discipleship we enter into this special blessedness.

The Beatitudes tell us we are blessed in our mourning, meekness, hunger, mercy, peacemaking, and when we are persecuted.

Blessed also are the “poor in spirit,” those who recognize their own spiritual poverty—the need for God’s redeeming grace.

The Beatitudes also offer the knowledge that we are blessed when we recognize and accept the support of the community around us—comfort and mercy.

As children of God, we need to live in community with the family of God, nurturing and bolstering each other’s capacity for holiness and the ability to recognize holiness in the ordinary things of life.

## One Modern-Day Saint's Poverty of Spirit ... Mother Teresa

A new, innocuously titled book, *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light* (Doubleday), consisting primarily of correspondence between Teresa and her confessors and superiors over a period of 66 years, provides the spiritual counterpoint to a life known mostly through its works. The letters, many of them preserved against her wishes (she had requested that they be destroyed but was overruled by her church), reveal that for the last nearly half-century of her life she felt no presence of God whatsoever — or, as the book's compiler and editor, the Rev. Brian Kolodiejchuk, writes, "neither in her heart or in the Eucharist."

That absence seems to have started at almost precisely the time she began tending the poor and dying in Calcutta, and — except for a five-week break in 1959 — never abated. Although perpetually cheery in public, the Teresa of the letters lived in a state of deep and abiding spiritual pain. In more than 40 communications, many of which have never before been published, she bemoans the "dryness," "darkness," "loneliness" and "torture" she is undergoing. She compares the experience to hell and at one point says it has driven her to doubt the existence of heaven and even of God. She is acutely aware of the discrepancy between her inner state and her public demeanor. "The smile," she writes, is "a mask" or "a cloak that covers everything."

**Excerpt from TIME magazine, 8/23/07.**

**Read the full article at**

**<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1655415,00.html> or read the book: *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light* (Doubleday)**



## Reflections

With the gift of knowledge, how do I view pain, struggle and illness in my life?

With this gift, how do I view capital punishment?

How do the Beatitudes provide a gift of knowledge? How do I use them as an exercise of the gifts of the spirit?

What is my understanding of Mother Teresa's spiritual poverty?

This Week ...

Read *The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, 79-106.

**Gifts of the Spirit—Week Five**  
**Piety/Reverence,**  
**Fear of the Lord/Awe & Wonder in the Presence of**  
**God**

*“The Gift of Piety mellows the sense of reverence for God and over-strictness with ourselves. It inspires a great spirit of kindness and understanding toward others, meekness in bearing their faults, willingness to forgive, and genuine affection for them.*

*The Gift of Piety awakens in us a child-like attitude toward God and also a sense that everyone is our brother and sister. It sees people as companions on the journey rather than competitors, even when they have different religious persuasions or no religion at all. The Gift of Piety does not label or put people in boxes. At the same time, it fosters both respect for tradition and creativity in trying to adapt to contemporary culture and the circumstances of daily life.”*

*“Fear of the Lord...the term ‘fear’ does not mean the emotion of fear, but rather fear in the sense of wonder, awe, and reverence. This is the fear of offending God; it is prompted by love and not fear of punishment.”*

(Thomas Keating, *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit*)

Let us always give thanks for the movement of the Spirit of God within us.

**Readings for ... Nov 8**

*1 Kings 17:10-16*

*Hebrews 9:24-28*

*Mark 12:38-44*

“For where you treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matthew 6:21)

Jesus chooses to immortalize the story of the poor widow. In biblical times, it is likely she would be in the temple’s “Court of the Women” and would likely have made her contribution in “The Trumpets,” receptacles for the gifts of women to the everyday upkeep of the synagogue. Others would likely have been able to contribute more significant sums. Jesus, our God of salvation, marvels at her generosity and, for all time, pauses to appreciate the beauty of her gift.

Mitch Finley says that the gift of fear of the Lord is meant to bring balance into our lives—to help us live not as the scribes but as those in touch with their spiritual poverty.

A Shepherd Home volunteer shared that she feels reverence, awe and wonder when she observes the love and care that volunteers offer to those in their final earthly days at the comfort care home. This is an example of “authentic community” that arises out of our common worship and prayerful communion with God—our common, healthy fear of the Lord, our love for one another.

When we have true reverence, when we feel awe and wonder in God’s presence, a new understanding of stewardship comes to life.

Christian giving is sacrificial; it is reckless; it is less about monetary and material value than the understanding that in the hands of God, anything is possible.

For further learning...on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they can lead us deeper into centering prayer, read *Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit* by Benedictine monk Thomas Keating, OCSO, founder of the Centering Prayer Movement. Quoted throughout this workbook it is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Reflections

Blessed with the gift of piety, how do I see myself as part of the lifeblood of the faith community of St. Joseph's?

Is it difficult for me to use the word fear in describing this seventh gift of the Spirit?

What gifts of the Spirit do I see as witnessed by the poor widow who gave from her poverty?

As this program wraps up, do I have a better sense of the seven gifts of the Spirit?

What about my own giftedness? In what ways has God blessed me with special talents and strengths that are meant for service of God and others?

***What are your unique gifts? We offer a list for your reflection and prayer.***

- Exuding hospitality, welcoming
- Organizing and planning
- Challenging, outspoken
- Creative communicating with technology
- Calling forth the best in others
- Skilled at building physical things
- Motivate and inspire others to get things done
- Walking with others in times of distress
- Comforting, nurturing, consoling
- Recognizing the spiritual dimensions of life
- Leading, visioning, motivating
- Zeal for liturgy as the source and summit of Christian life
- Building relationships, connecting others, collaborative
- Comfortable with sharing faith, breaking open Scripture
- Mentoring youth, reaching out to young adults
- Working well with families
- Passion for social outreach and social justice ministry
- Positive thinking, willingness to call on the power of God in the face of adversity
- Teaching, sharing knowledge
- Possess a great appreciation for the things of nature, God's creation
- Proclaiming God's Word
- Gentleness, sensitivity to others, able to be fully present
- Celebrating liturgy as the work of God's people
- Sharing the Good News in song, music, and creative art forms
- Forgiving, compassionate, peacemaking
- Willingness to do whatever's needed

### ***What's Next?***

We have formed an ongoing Gifts Ministry so that the process of identifying your gifts for service is always a work in progress. Looking for ways to reflect on your gifts and where the Spirit is working in your life? A few ideas—try something that suits your style of prayer, learning and giving:



- Read Chap. 9 of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (available in the Parish Library, PRC lounge).
- Order a copy of *Living Your Strengths* (A. Winseman, D. Clifton, C. Liesveld—available online through Amazon.com) and take the online “Clifton Strengths Finder” inventory of your God-given strengths. A personal access code is included on the inside jacket of every book.
- Want to get involved in a ministry at St. Joseph’s or do something right now? Contact one of our Ministry Leadership Chairs and they will help you identify a ministry to try. (Contact info and meeting times on the next page)
- Go to Rochester’s Mercy Prayer Center website and consider a retreat, [www.mercyprayercenter.org](http://www.mercyprayercenter.org).
- In the New Testament, reflect on the first two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles where the evangelist Luke writes about the earliest Christian communities and how all were commissioned for service.
- In the Old Testament, read Chap. 11 of Isaiah.
- Spend quiet time in prayer and listen to what God might be telling you. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open 24/7 through the side entrance near the Malley Building. Light a candle to invite the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Watch our bulletin and website for special prayer opportunities throughout the year.
- Contact a member of our Gifts Ministry Team for one-on-one support and direction in reflecting on how the Spirit is moving in your life to help you achieve your full Christian potential. (contact information on next page)

## *Contacts at St. Joseph's*

***Ministry Leadership Teams—Contact the team chair or attend a meeting to learn more about their ministries and ways you can offer your gifts***

### **Worship**

Meets 2nd Tuesday every month, 7pm, meet in Church.  
Chair: Kathy Best, 671-4757  
Staff Liaison: Nancy Veronesi, 586-8089 x124

### **Faith Formation/Youth Ministry**

Meets 1st Tuesday every month, 9am, Malley Building.  
Chair: Mike Nesbitt, 787-1427  
Staff Liaison: Patrick Fox, 586-8089 x.114

### **Pastoral Care/Social Outreach**

Meets 3rd Tuesday, every other month, 7:30pm, Lounge.  
Chair: Marleen Riley, 381-0545  
Staff Liaison: Deacon Bill Coffey, 586-8089

### **Community-Building/Evangelization**

Meets 3rd Wednesdays, 6:45pm, Malley Building.  
Chair: Paul Groschadl, 425-8961  
Staff Liaison: Cathy Kamp, 586-8089 x. 115

### **Operations**

Meets 1st Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Malley Building.  
Chair: Dave Reynolds, 381-6009  
Staff Liaison: Bud Gurnow, 586-8089 x. 123

***Gifts Ministry Team—Available to meet with you one-on-one to explore your gifts***

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