

Ministers of Care: Revised on June 15, 2009

Mission: The Ministers of Care of St. Mary Parish reach out to our homebound parishioners by bringing the Body of Christ to those who are physically unable to come to church. Through our ministry, our homebound parishioners are able to remain connected to our parish and the entire Body of Christ. The Ministers of Care of St. Mary Parish provide outreach to those who are unable to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist because of age, illness, or injury. By bringing the Lord to fellow parishioners who are homebound, in hospitals or in nursing homes, this ministry allows those who cannot attend Mass to receive and experience the presence of God through the Holy Eucharist.



Organization: Ministers of Care are specially trained Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who reach out to parishioners who are sick at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. They bring Communion to them, pray with them, and spend time visiting with them, as representatives of the parish community. It all starts with a phone call to the parish office by the family or the person who is sick. A Minister of Care arranges for a day and time for a visit at home, in a hospital, or in a nursing home.

- Visits are usually made on a weekly basis to fit the rhythm of the life of the sick person and the Minister of Care. Arrangements may be made on a permanent or temporary basis, as needed.
- After parishioners are released from a hospital, the Community-Service Director contacts them to offer them home visits with Communion and other Christian Service programs. Ministers of Care also regularly report back to the Community-Service Director with any special needs they observe, so that other Christian Service programs may be made available to those who are visited.
- The Ministers of Care sponsor Masses for the Anointing of the Sick, usually held in the spring. The Minister of Care program is a dual-ministry among parishioners from Worship and Community-Service.
- Training for this ministry is provided through the Aylesford Retreat House in Darien, and ongoing enrichment is also provided through the programs offered by the parish Worship and Spirituality Commissions.

A representative from the Ministers of Care serves on the Community-Service Commission. The Ministers of Care program is a dual-ministry, but for purposes of diversity in parish leadership, individuals may not serve in two different leadership roles on or among the parish commissions.