**A SAMPLE OF CHURCH MINISTRIES**

**TIME AND TALENTS**

**Worship Ministries**

**Altar Service**Altar Service is open to Orthodox Christian boys who would like to learn more about the worship services and assist as sanctuary helpers during the Divine Liturgy.

**Greeters and Ushers**On Sundays, our dedicated ushers do everything from greet parishioners and visitors as they enter the Church, to answer questions and usher the faithful in an organized manner.

**Church Choir**Members of the Choir give a very special gift to the Church community: they offer their musical talents and gifts to God by leading the singing during Sunday and feast day services.

**Feast Day preparation**This group of volunteers is entrusted with the spiritual and physical task of assisting the clergy with the decoration of the Church for each feast day.

**Education Ministries**

**Bible Study and Christian Education for adults**The teaching ministry of the Church includes the study of the Holy Bible for adults in the parish who regularly gather to learn its form and contents, especially as it relates to the worship in the Church.

**Church Bookstore**
Come visit our bookstore and explore the wealth of materials—from books and CDs to incense and icons, all there to help us grow in the Orthodox Faith. Volunteers have a wonderful time helping out and are always needed and welcome.

**Cultural Heritage Education**
Our Cultural Heritage committee offers creative programs and instruction in not only language skills, but the Christian history and culture of the Serbian people as well.

**Family Life Conference**The purpose of the annual Family Life Conference is to assist parents and children in meeting the challenges each one faces in preserving the family as has been created and given by God and in harmony with the biblical, moral and sacramental teachings and experience of the Orthodox Church.

**Spiritual Pilgrimages**

Join the clergy and others in the community for occasional pilgrimages to holy places and other points of interest, both here and abroad.

**Library**The Church Library has been established by the parish to be educational resources on the Orthodox faith and the World and Serbian history and customs of the Serbian Orthodox people.

 **Children and Youth Ministries**

**Junior Choir**Through this ministry, the children are offered the marvelous opportunity of learning Serbian Orthodox Christian music. The program is designed to encourage their God-given musical acts of stewardship through song.

**Summer Day Camp – Vacation Church School**During month of June children from our parish attend three day Bible Camp.

**Summer Camp**
Each year during the summer, children from our parish join others for a fun and educational camping program sponsored by the Midwestern Metropolitanate and held at the Saint Sava Monastery in Libertyville, IL

**Youth Athletics**
Our youth athletics program is available to young people from elementary school age to high school. Games and activities and are led by qualified, ded­icated and caring volunteer coaches.

**Sunday School**All Sunday school classes PK through 12th grade begin after Holy Communion each Sunday during the school year from September to May.

**Youth Group**This committee of volunteer youth leaders strives to equip and enable our young people to live the Orthodox Faith through service to Christ, the Church and the world on a daily basis.

**Service Ministries**

**College Age Ministry**Keeping ties with college age young adults is among the most challenging, yet rewarding ministries of the parish. The competition for their attention is fierce and too often peer pressure is attractive. This ministry keeps communication lines open and continuous, so that these young adults know that their parish does not forget them and that they are an integral part of the Church community.

**Executive Board**The Executive Board is entrusted with the management, use, upkeep, repair, extension and remodeling of all Church properties. They also oversee the work of parish employees, making decisions which represent the overall interests of the church, assist the clergy in creating new programs and ministries for the faithful, and complete a host of other important duties.

**Circle of Serbian Sisters**Circle of Serbian Sisters provides fellowship for the women of our cathedral. They organize the regular Sunday luncheons and feast day banquets, and always financially support the ministries of the Church.

**Stewardship Committee**This invaluable committee works to spread the word about the need for stewardship, the many ways to give, and the joy of supporting our parish. Yearly programs include the annual stewardship luncheon and outreach programs.

**Ministry to the elderly**We do not want our elderly parishioners to be forgotten. Project Compassion is a phone outreach ministry particularly to those who are seniors who no longer drive and are unable to come in contact with their friends and church family. The calling assignments are done at home, at the volunteer's convenience.

**Marriage and Family enrichment**Our program for engaged and newly married couples is dedicated to growing in the Orthodox faith and particularly in the Sacrament of Marriage. Marriage enrichment classes offer insight into the biblical teaching on marriage as a Sacrament. The annual marriage seminar offers a time for sharing wedding and marriage experiences as well as develop closer Church friendships through fellowship.

**Property Building and Grounds Care**This team of volunteers is responsible for the continued maintenance and repair of church property. They make regular inspections of parish properties and make recommendations to the board of any needed repairs or improvements.

**Fellowship Ministries**

**Annual Festival**The annual festival features delicious Mediterranean cuisine, Church tours, entertainment, folklore dancing, carnival-style games for children, and a host of other activities. This is not only a celebration for our community to enjoy within itself, but also a vital opportunity to reach out to the neighborhood-sharing our faith, cultural backgrounds and communal spirit with all of our guests.

**Humanitarian Ministries**

**Soup Kitchen**In following the Biblical parable of the sheep and goats, the duty of the church and each member is to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, clothe the naked, comfort the sick, and visit those in prison. The Three Angels Ministry serves also to satisfy the most fundamental need of all—the spiritual hunger for God, by feeding the body and feeding the soul of the homeless and needy.

**FOCUS North America**

FOCUS Centers are setup in cities/regions to provide a hands-on outreach to the poor, needy and suffering in an area. The centers are established in a neighborhood or community with great need and are run by a local director employed by FOCUS North America and staffed with volunteers from local Orthodox churches and others. They are initially centered around a feeding program but also have several life-recovery ministries.