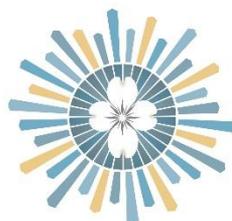
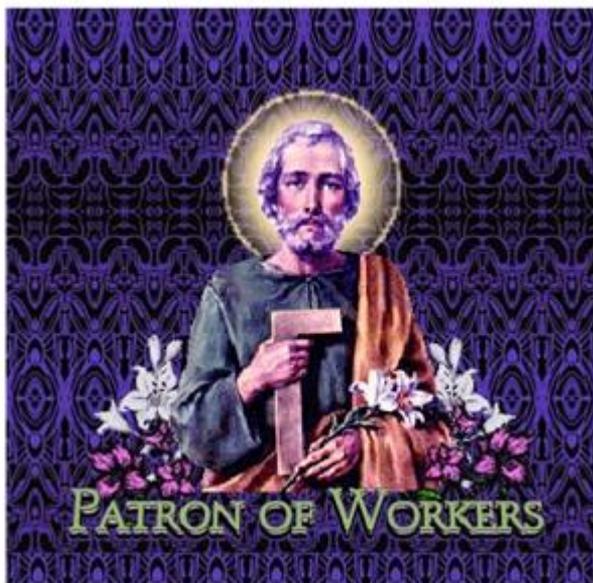


St Joseph's Helpers

*A ministry of
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
Alcoa, TN*



OUR LADY
— OF FATIMA —

St Joseph's Helpers: Guiding Principals

Matthew 6: 1-4 "1 [But] take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. 2 When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites* do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, 4 so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

James 1:27 "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

James 2:15-16 "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?"

Pope Francis; "The life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service." (7/28/13, WYD). "A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother — the poor, the sick, those in need of help, a brother in difficulty — is a sterile and incomplete prayer. But, in the same way . . . When time is not set aside for dialogue with Him in prayer, we risk serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother and sister." (7/21/13)

NO MEETINGS & NO DUES, JUST A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS

What is the significance of St Joseph? St Joseph is a man who says nothing in the Bible and yet has had a tremendous impact to us, simply due to his example of doing what God asks him to do. He married a pregnant girl after a vision from an angel. He took the new mother and child to a place in Egypt about 600 miles away to protect them from Herod after another angelic vision. This trip by foot would have taken around 25 days. He then returned to Nazareth, following another vision. He raised Jesus. He protected the Holy Family, which is why this righteous man who followed God's commands is the patron and protector of the universal church. We strive to be like St Joseph.



St Joseph's Helpers – A Multi-faceted Ministry

- * St Joseph's Helpers - Parishioners Helping Parishioners*
- * St Joseph's Treasures -
One Parishioners Excess is another Parishioners Need*
- * St Joseph's Veggie Share: Sharing God's Abundance*
- * St Joseph's Business Directory – Supporting Parishioners*
- * Community Outreach*
 - KARM (Knox Area Rescue Ministries)*
 - Hope Kitchen (Catholic Charities)*
 - Horizon House (Catholic Charities)*

St Joseph's Helpers Parishioners Helping Parishioners

We all have God given talents: cooking, driving, wood work, electrical, plumbing, moving heavy things, but especially praying. We are many parts, but all one body. We all need a little help from time to time. SJH connects those with needs with those with the talent to help. Here's the process:

- 1. A NEED is identified. A SJH lead person is contacted by a parishioner, the OLOF office, or a concerned friend. The need can be anything. There was an unusual request. A priest asked, "Does SJH do that?" The answer was, "I don't know, we can ask and see if the Holy Spirit directs someone". Five SJH's responded.*
- 2. A VISIT is typically done by a SJH project lead member. They gather info to fully understand the need.*
- 3. An EMAIL / TEXT is sent out to all the SJH's. It will provide basic info and needs without identifying the person in need. In certain cases, involving vulnerable individuals it will specify that SAFE ENVIRONMENT training is required. It seeks to find talent, known & unknown, and to let the broader community know, so they can pray and be aware of activity.*
- 4. We PRAY for someone to be touched by the Holy Spirit to respond.*
- 5. We CONNECT the person with the need, with the person(s) with the talent and willingness to help.*
- 6. There is never a charge for service. In some cases, the parishioner will supply materials.*

Since June 2011, there have been at over 200 significant acts of service to parishioners and others in our community.

St Joseph's Helpers Parishioners Helping Parishioners-activities

She had just moved into a Habitat home. Her home furnishings were in storage. She didn't know what to do because of her health issues. While she hadn't been to church in years, she called OLOF. Five SJH's picked up boxes in storage and unpacked them in her new home. She passed away later knowing she was loved by her church.



"The Arc", an organization dedicated to improving the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities was preparing for their big Halloween event. It is a favorite with families driving 50 miles to participate. Two days before, the students from Maryville College who volunteered were suddenly placed in lock down due to COVID. Fortunately, someone thought of St Joseph's Helpers. It was a big success.

St Joseph's Helpers strives to help in a variety of situations. The combined talents of everyone and relying on the Holy Spirit allows us to be able to meet most needs, even the unusual. We never know what the next opportunity to serve will involve. We just trust that God will allow us to continue to serve.

St Joseph's Helpers Parishioners Helping Parishioners- activities

MOVING THINGS



- Rides*
- Yard work*
- Project Advice*
- Minor Repairs*
- Support*



St Joseph's Treasures

One Parishioner's Excess is another Parishioner's Need

In June 2011, St Joseph's Helpers was introduced to Our Lady of Fatima. During the introduction, the speaker mentioned that he had an extra washing machine. He'd rather give it to a parishioner than simply donate it to Goodwill. A young mother approached him after Mass. Do you really have a washing machine to give away? He said yes and SJT started. Since then, hundreds of items have found new life with parishioners who needed them. About a dozen washer and dryers have been given away.

Six pianos have changed families. Due to financial hardship, a piano teacher was forced to sell her piano. Through SJT, another piano was found and donated so she could experience the joy of teaching music and earn some money.

St Joseph's Treasures bulletins are sent out several times a month. Parishioners advise SJH of items they have available to donate. They also advise SJH of items that they need. We make the connection and sometimes help with the moving of the larger items.



Updated April 25, 2021

Contact Jennifer Baldwin
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St. Joseph's Veggie Share Sharing God's Abundance

"My garden is out of control. I have too much." And she asked if there was any way that SJH could share them with others, who might not have access to locally grown fresh veggies, or perhaps couldn't afford them. From here, Veggie Share was started. Parishioners drop off their veggies on the Veggie cart at the front of the church. They are available to anyone. If you grow zucchini and I grow cucumbers, we swap.

One Sunday, a woman was unloading tomatoes and jalapenos. She had tears in her eyes. I recognized her. Her husband had recently passed. This was the fruit from his garden. They were placed on the cart. After Mass, a young couple with children walked by the cart. They looked at the fresh vegetables on the cart. They didn't quite understand. They started to walk away. I said "It's FREE". Their eyes grew wide and they took the fruit of this man's garden. He had made their day a little brighter.



Plant a garden.

Watch God's miracle.

Share your abundance.

St Joseph's Business Directory Parishioners Supporting Livelihoods

Owning a business to support your family is very challenging these days. The rules, regulations, and taxes can be complicated and difficult. This is true even for those parishioners who have a small business or hobby on the side, to generate a little more income. SJH seeks to support these parishioners to help them be successful.

There is a higher degree of trust and comfort when working with a parishioner due to our common bond in the Catholic church. This is very important, especially for those who are seniors and alone. There are too many sad experiences of people who have been cheated.

When you need to hire someone to do a job, please consider a fellow parishioner. They still need to be able to meet your expectation of price and quality and you will also be rewarded knowing that you've helped a Catholic family member.

If you have a business, large or small, or have a hobby to generate some money, please advise us of your business.

The business directory is now on a spreadsheet. These are periodically emailed out. The list includes a wide range of business'; printing, dog washing, electricians, handymen, realtors, financial advisors, and more.

***WANTED: A person who is willing to develop this to a much higher level to promote these parishioners.
Contact Joe Szmids***

St Joseph's Community Outreach

Helping Beyond Our Parish

There are many people outside our parish that need our help. Our Lady of Fatima has a Haiti mission which continues to help the recovery from the 2010 earthquake. However, there are mission opportunities within our area. SJH seeks to help where we can.

- *KARM (Knox Area Rescue Ministries)- A Christian organization focused on helping the homeless in practical ways. They house about 400 homeless each night. OLOF/SJH supports them by encouraging parishioners to make donations to their THRIFT stores. **Drop off your excess stuff and tell them you're from Our Lady of Fatima.** KARM will provide OLOF/SJH, KARM THRIFT store cards based on the amount of donations made. These are used to help families with significant needs. They may also be used to support local Veterans and others.*
- *Horizon House (Catholic Charities)- This is in Maryville. It is a group home for high functioning mentally challenged individuals. SJH has provided support by providing a relationship with their Catholic members to attend Mass and attend meetings. SJH provided a Thanksgiving dinner.*
- *Bridge Ministry – SJH supported Deacon Scott's ministry of feeding the homeless by providing socks.*
- *Hope Kitchen – Catholic Charities along with Holy Ghost church provide food to homeless. SJH helped by supplying funds and toiletries.*

St Joseph's Helpers Lead Team & Mass Contacts



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Signing Up for St. Joseph's Helpers 3 Methods

- 1) **TEXT:** Stjoehelp To: 84576
- 2) **INTERNET:** Computer/web browser, visit:
<https://StJosephsHelpers.flocknote.com/Helpers>

Both of these will take you to a screen where all you need to enter is your:

First Name, Last Name, Email address, Cell phone#

- 3) **REALM:** Computer/web browser, visit:

<https://ourladyoffatima.org/realm>

Follow the instructions to sign up & setup your account and login. **REALM is the parish platform.** It manages the database of parishioners; faith formation, sacramental prep, **online giving**, RSVPing to parish events (Epiphany dinner), payment for things (Spaghetti dinner, faith formation materials) and is a tool for ministry and parish-wide communications.

St Joseph's Helpers has NO MEETINGS & NO DUES

You don't need to login with a password. All of our messages will be through email, as long as we have your address. You just have to recognize a need that you can respond to when a message comes.

We do not share your information with anyone.

Don't be surprised if the Holy Spirit leads you to help in some way you have never imagined.

St Joseph's Helper



Patron of Workers

PRAYER to St. Joseph

Blessed St. Joseph, patron of all working people, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of repentance for the forgiveness of my many sins. Help me to be conscious in my work so that I may give all that I have received. May I work in a spirit of thankfulness and joy, always aware of all the gifts I have received from God that enable me to perform these tasks. Permit me to work in peace, patience, and moderation, keeping in mind the account I must one day give of the time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and pride of success, so fatal to the work of God. Glorious St Joseph, may my labors be all for Jesus, all through Mary, and all after your holy example in Life and death.

*Loretto Chapel
Staircase, Santa Fe,
New Mexico. Legend
has it that St Joseph
built this unusual
double helix staircase
which seems to defy
physics. It was built
around 1880 with no
nails. Legend says a
single man
mysteriously appeared
and worked alone.
Afterward, he was
never seen again.*



Some Questions You Might be Thinking About

Why do we need a network of service?

There used to be many smaller parishes across the country. They were a tight knit community. Parishioners knew when someone needed help. While some still exist today, many churches were closed and consolidated into larger ones. This was in part due to a shortage of priests. Multiple Masses were setup. While good in one sense, it made being community more difficult. I tell people that our church is four villages separated by time, the 5pm, 7pm, 8:30am, & 11am Masses. In addition, due to privacy concerns, a parishioner's needs are not shared during a homily or announcements. That's where St Joseph's Helpers comes in.

What is St Joseph's Helpers? *A grassroots lay movement of parishioners who seek to follow God's command to serve each other in the everyday needs of life. Some examples include giving rides, fixing meals, and minor home repairs. We also share our abundance of goods and gardens. We support each other's businesses.*

Who are St Joseph's Helpers? *Parishioners who simply have a desire to serve. For many, life is very full with the challenges of work and family. So, committing to a formal organization for an extended period of time is difficult. However, we all have windows of opportunity where we can serve. It can range from a few hours, to a few days, a few times a month, or in a quarter. St Joseph's Helpers serve in the moment.*

Why do we need to serve? *Serving demonstrates our willingness to follow Jesus' example. In John 13:14-15, Jesus says this after He washes the feet of His apostles, "14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."*

Do other Catholic churches have a St Joseph's Helpers ministry? *To our knowledge, we are not aware of any other church that has a program with the scope that SJH's has. The St Vincent de Paul society does provide rent & utility assistance. Many operate a thrift store and food pantry. If you are aware of another church that does something similar, we'd like to be able to learn from them. We are open to anything that helps us to serve better.*

This booklet was printed by Advanced Printing & Shipping, owned by parishioners, John & Krista Meason. The Meason family joined OLOF in 2018 and opened Advanced Printing & Shipping in April 2021.

For printing, shipping & business project needs, please mention St Joseph's Helpers for a 10% discount.



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