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## Parish Best Practice

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St. Joseph Parish in Sault Ste. Marie, under the leadership of Fr. Mike Chenier, began FUSION groups to engage the faithful in their efforts to be spirit-filled evangelizers. Below is a description of the efforts.

### St. Joseph's FUSION Small Groups

*Families Unite Spiritually In Our Neighborhoods*

Fall 2017

Parish small groups will be continuing again this fall with a few new additions. The heart of small groups is to meet in homes or other comfortable settings to grow in knowledge and love of God together through study, prayer and fellowship. Each group decides on its own course of action in terms of what they study, who their patron saint will be, and whether or not they will take on a mission. Some groups are based out of the same host home each week, others travel around, and one meets in the parish hall. Groups tend to meet an average of 4-8 times throughout the course of a season.

If you would like to join a small group: We have ten (10) groups from which to choose this fall. Please contact the leader(s) of the group that appeals to your interest so that you may join them. Take a look at the variety of ministries to help make a decision about the group you wish to join. If none fit your needs, let us know, so we can attempt to start a new group.

#### COMMUNITY

- (Catholic Men's Beer Society) This is a group hoping to help men of The Church get to know and support each other in a relaxed social setting. We help each other to be better Christian leaders of our families and better role models to the younger men of our Church.  
Meet one Wednesday a month at a local watering hole. Our fall start-up date is yet to be determined.
- (Hospitality Ministry) The Hospitality Ministry group is a new group starting up this fall. Their mission is to serve the parish community with hospitality events. The initial focus will be making and delivering welcome baskets for new parishioners and newly baptized.  
If you are interested in learning more about the group and possibly joining this new group please contact the host
- (Parish Social Ministry) The Parish Social Ministry Fusion Group will hold its' first meeting on Thursday, September 28th at 7:00 pm. Our address is 4001 Shallows Beach.  
Our mission will include serving the Parish community by hosting the Coffee Sundays and Appetizer Saturdays. Our meeting focus will include a book study to be determined at our first meeting.
- (Young Families Group) The Young Families Group meets on the second Sunday of the month after the 10:00 am mass in the Parish Hall. Our starting date will be September 10th.  
We have organized a couple of potluck picnics to celebrate Mother and Father's Day, and have been making welcome baskets for the new babies of our parish. Goals for the fall season will be discussed at the first meeting, but include a variety of family activities. Childcare is provided for young children (and those not attending Faith Formation) during our meetings.

## PRAYER

- (Mom's Prayer Group)
- (Rosary Group) The Rosary Group meets each Thursday, 10:00-11:30 am in the McGahey Community Room. The focus of this group is prayer. In addition to the rosary prayer, they pray petitions, read weekend scripture readings, pray for vocations, pray to defend human life, pray for our country, pray for Pope Francis and pray the Marian prayer.  
Social time follows each meeting. A collection is taken once a month and when there is enough they donate to an organization or people in need of a monetary donation.

## SERVICE

- (Elder Ministry) The Elder Ministry group will be starting back up on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 pm. Location for the meeting is at 1150 E. Spruce Street.  
Our group mission is serving the elderly which includes visiting our elder parishioners in their homes, in assisted living homes, or nursing homes. We also pray for and send cards to the sick and elderly of the parish. In October, the group will plan the Remembrance Mass for All Souls Day in November.  
Our group will continue their discussion of *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Discussion for the September meeting will include chapters 7-11 and will continue with 5 chapters each meeting.
- (Food Pantry Ministry) The Food Pantry Ministry group plans to start up in October. Their meeting dates include October 30, November 20 and December 18. Location: 5737 S. Scenic Drive, SSM, MI.  
This group is using the book *WRAP* to study scripture.
- (Prayer Shawl Ministry) The Prayer Shawl Ministry group meets once a month on the second Friday of the month and meets all year long. The group meets from 9:30 to 10:45 am. Our mission is to provide comfort, healing and hope. Our prayer shawls will spread the message of God's love, mercy and compassion. Our group is open to all who knit, crochet and quilt. During each meeting a chapter is read from the book, *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission*. We have a small discussion of the book afterwards.
- (Prison Ministry) The Saint Maximilian Kolbe Prison Ministry Fusion Group will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 6 and continue every other week thereafter on Wednesdays. The first meeting will be at 1413 Augusta Street, and starts at 7 pm.  
Our group mission is to engage fully in all aspects of prison ministry: volunteers going in to the services, outreach volunteers visiting the prisoners, pen pals, fundraising for donation to the prisoners, re-entry programming, prayer team, county jail visits.  
Our focus this fall is to go into LSSU inviting/recruiting new volunteers. During our bi-weekly fellowship meetings, we will continue to *WRAP* ourselves in scripture.