ST. CATHARINE’S HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Our Purpose
- To assist and minister to the homebound members of St. Catharine’s Parish
- To encourage our members to remember this group with kindness
- To provide our members an opportunity to serve God using their gifts and skills

Many of our homebound have been lifelong members of our parish and have served our Lord faithfully for years. They long to be with their Church family. The Homebound Ministry provides an opportunity to minister to these, love them, and give back to them as they have given to others throughout their lives. This ministry is a wonderful blessing to the homebound members.

Who are our Homebound?
Persons 18 years of age and older who cannot regularly attend Mass are considered homebound. They may be persons severely handicapped physically, persons with declining health, or aged persons unable to get out. The Homebound Ministry recognizes the persons who care for their homebound family members are also in need of ministry.

The homebound are in need of socialization to help with their feeling of isolation. Some may have had to leave their homes to have the medical care they need and experience grief at this loss. They deal with the frustration of declining physical ability and mobility. They often experience spiritual isolation and need individual attention.

Caregiver Qualifications
The caregivers must...
- Be willing to spend time needed to minister to their assigned person
- Demonstrate the ability to listen with empathy and understanding
- See value in the homebound and express it
- Be friendly, positive, and encouraging
- Be a living testimony
- Believe in prayer and be willing to be a prayer partner with their homebound member

The caregiver, Homebound Ministry Coordinator, and parish staff work together in the best interest of the homebound person. Some of the ministry actions caregivers may be involved in include:
- Helping the homebound adjust to change
- Encouraging a strengthened faith in God
- Assisting in locating resources for physical, financial or emotional needs
- Promoting an understanding that the homebound person is needed and useful
- Giving love and helping develop a sense of belonging to St. Catharine’s Church
- Encouraging homebound members to help themselves and others, if possible
- Providing social contact and personal interaction with the homebound
- Witnessing to persons about Christ
- Bringing Communion for the homebound
Responsibilities
The caregiver serves under the direction of the Homebound Ministry Coordinator. Specific duties and responsibilities may include:

- Visit the homebound assignees 1-2 times each month
- Call/write cards weekly
- Be open to spiritual discussion
- Minister to homebound member and family as appropriate
- Encourage the homebound member to find ways to minister to others
- Recruit assistance in ministry as necessary
- Bring Communion to the homebound

Guidelines for a Caregiver Visit

- Select best time for your visit
- Make visit personal
- Visit with a purpose
- Engage in warm and friendly greetings
- Discuss good things happening at St. Catharine’s Church – bring Sunday Bulletin
- Be open to spiritual discussion
- Be aware that the homebound member may want you to turn in their church offering for him/her and be prepared to assist
- Be a good listener
- Leave helpful materials as appropriate
- Make a graceful exit

Do not be discouraged. Sometimes it is difficult to see those we love suffering. Our hearts reach out to them and we want to help when many times we can do nothing. Know that God is using you in a very special way. Not only are you ministering to the homebound person, but you are a source of encouragement to their family. You are demonstrating God’s love to all those who see.

If you have a loved one who is homebound and a member of St. Catharine’s Church and you would like to put them in touch with our Homebound Ministry, please phone Ken Lee at 353-1915, or the Parish Office at 359-0542.

Our Parish Clergy take turns visiting the homes of our sick or homebound parishioners every First Friday of the month. If you, or someone you know, can no longer get out to Sunday Mass, please give our Parish Office a call and we will gladly add you to our Communion Visit List. If you would like to receive Holy Communion more frequently, please contact our Eucharistic Minister for the Homebound Coordinator, Eileen McCaffrey at 359-9315.

“Not all of us can do great things. But, we can all do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa