



Ministry of Care at St. Patrick Church

The Ministry of Care at St. Patrick Church is a vital expression of our parish mission to bring Christ's presence to those who cannot join us at Mass. Rooted in Jesus' words, "*I was sick and you visited me*" (Matthew 25:36), this ministry ensures that our homebound, hospitalized, and senior parishioners remain closely connected to their faith community.

Currently, 24 parishioners serve as Ministers of Care, though the number fluctuates throughout the year as some members are temporarily unable to serve and others travel during the winter months. Our ministers faithfully reach out across the communities of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Lincolnshire.

Our ministers regularly visit Lake Forest Place, the Sheridan, and Green Oaks senior communities, serving between 40–50 residents each week through individual visits or Eucharistic services. We also serve Balmoral Rehabilitation Facility and bring Communion to homebound parishioners. Altogether, the Ministry of Care brings Communion to 50–65 people each month.

At the same time, there are facilities that we cannot serve. Neither St. Patrick nor St. Mary currently has enough ministers available to cover all the senior communities in our area. With more volunteers, we could extend Christ's presence to these communities as well.

This ministry not only nourishes those we visit but also enriches the spiritual lives of our ministers, who find joy and grace in these encounters. If you feel called to serve as a Minister of Care, we would love to welcome you. Your "yes" could make it possible to bring Christ's love to even more of our neighbors. To learn more — or to request a visit — please contact the parish office.