

Introducing Our Parish Commissions: Word, Worship, Community, and Service

In 2022, Bishop Bambera launched the Vision 2030 Blueprint for the Diocese of Scranton, focusing on four essential pillars of parish life: Word, Worship, Community, and Service. To support this vision, commissions were created to help coordinate parish ministries and ensure our mission is carried out with unity and purpose.

What Are Commissions?

A commission is simply a group entrusted with a shared responsibility. In our parishes, commissions bring together volunteers and ministry leaders to collaborate, communicate, and support one another in service to the Church. They do not replace existing ministries or groups. Commissions are not separate entities, but rather a way to connect and support the good work already happening in our parishes. Merriam-Webster defines a commission as “a group of persons directed to perform some duty.” The PPC sees each commission as a reflection of duty and purpose—and we’re grateful for the chance to share this understanding with you as we build together.

Why Do They Matter?

Each year, many parishioners generously give their time and talents—welcoming newcomers, caring for those in need, enriching our liturgies, and sharing the Word of God. While these ministries are diverse, they often share common goals. The commissions help:

- Coordinate efforts across both Holy Family and St. Ignatius parishes
- Avoid duplication of work
- Strengthen ministries through shared resources and support
- Expand participation by inviting more parishioners to get involved

Looking Ahead

As our joint Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) begins a new chapter— with updated by-laws, a renewed mission, and new members— we invite you to learn more about how the commissions can enrich your involvement in parish life. We will host a Ministry Fair (March 14 and 15 in the Church Hall at Holy Family and on March 21 and 22 in Conlan Hall at St. Ignatius Loyola) to provide you with more information about the work of each Commission and its connected groups. In the meantime, please speak with a PPC member to discover how your gifts can help build a stronger, more connected parish community. Current members are:

Preston Balavage
Diane Connolly
Stephanie Fernandes
Karen Hungarter

Gene Klimash
Scott Lamoreux
Ed Naperski
Donna Piekanski

Margarita Rose, Chair
Abby Singh
Mary Stchur, Secretary
Gina Weidow, Vice Chair

Do You Want to Know More?

Contact a parish office at OfficeManager@stignatiuspa.com (St. Ignatius; phone: 570-288-6446) or Hfamparish@comcast.net (Holy Family) and a Parish Council member or Commission chair will get back to you as soon as possible.

Activities, Groups, and Ministries Associated with Each Commission

Word

- Religious Education Program
- OCIA (RCIA) and Baptismal Preparation
- Bible Studies, faith sharing groups, retreats, presentations
- Little Black, White, and Blue Books

Worship

- Music Ministries
 - Holy Family Adult Choir, Pentecost Concert; Advent Evening Service of Prayer and Song collaborating with the following parishes: Holy Family, St. Ignatius, St. Anthony-St. Rocco, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Dunmore, Pennsylvania
 - St. Ignatius Contemporary Ensemble, Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Bell Choir
- Recruitment/training of altar servers, cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, hospitality ministry/greeters, ushers
- Altar and Rosary Society— liturgical preparation
- Altar Linens Ministry
- Art and Environment Committee

Community

- Communications with Parishioners— newsletter, calendar of events, online postings, welcome brochures, Ministry Guide
- Holy Name Society— Halloween and Christmas parties for children; Easter Egg Hunt; Night at the Races
- Mary's Ministry— Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bingo, Pro-Life Baby Bottle Project
- Altar and Rosary Society— social/fundraising activities (craft fair, Pro-Life Baby Shower, Bingo, and food fundraisers)
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Pancake Breakfast
- New Parishioners Brunch
- Youth Ministry activities
- Prison Ministry

Service

- Christmas Giving Tree
- Food Pantry
- Christmas Angel Wreath project
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Socks for Veterans collection
- Presentations on Social Concerns/Catholic Social Teaching
- Partnerships with other Commissions on service projects

Are You Ready to Participate in a Particular Activity?

Attend the Ministry Fair at either parish this March.