



**Word,  
Worship,  
Service,  
Community,  
&  
Witness**

*Saint Bede Catholic Church  
Williamsburg, Virginia*

January 12, 2016

**We are a Catholic faith community proclaiming Christ's message in word and action. Further inspired by a call to the New Evangelization, we seek to be a community of disciples going forth and creating new disciples in our families, parish, and throughout greater Williamsburg.**

Our directory shows the various parish life groups and ministries that are available to help you deepen your relationship with the Lord. We also maintain this information on our website including the contact person and the most up to date information on how you can get involved. Please visit [www.bedeva.org/85](http://www.bedeva.org/85)

## **Parish Information**

Church and Church Office: 3686 Ironbound Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23188  
Tel #: (757) 229-3631  
E-mail: [\*\*stboffice@bedeva.org\*\*](mailto:stboffice@bedeva.org)

The Annex: 4551 John Tyler Memorial Hwy.  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Tel #: (757) 603-6989

CCM Chapel and Parish Center: 10 Harrison Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Tel #: (757) 229-3700

**Mass Schedule (757) 258-7777**

*Holy Day Mass schedules are published in the bulletin and are available on our website [www.bedeva.org](http://www.bedeva.org)*

## Parish Life Groups and Church Ministries

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

The Adopt-a-Highway program is a partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Saint Bede Catholic Church that provides an opportunity for you, your family, and friends to help keep Williamsburg beautiful by cleaning up litter four times a year. VDOT provides trash bags, vests, important safety information, and highway signs that recognize Saint Bede Catholic Church for their community outreach in picking up trash on Ironbound Road (Route 615) from News Road to Route 5.

This volunteer group is open to anyone age 14 and older. No experience needed.

### **Adult Acolytes**

Adult acolytes were candle bearers and messengers in the early days of the Church. Today, the adult acolyte oversees the altar servers, coordinates the flow of the liturgy and serves as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

### **Adult Faith Formation**

*We simply cannot love what we do not understand. By deepening our relationship with Jesus through adult formation programs, we come to be transformed by Christ into becoming better wives and husbands, mothers and fathers, friends, co-workers and neighbors.*

*This ministry oversees a host of religious educational programs for adults, enabling them to seek and deepen an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In addition to the programs listed below, the Adult Faith Formation office hosts special programs in scripture, doctrine, and morality throughout the year.*

- **RCIA** - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (often abbreviated RCIA) is the process through which interested adults are prayerfully and gradually introduced to the Catholic faith. The RCIA is a communal process throughout the entire liturgical year and involves stages marked by liturgical rites to orient the participants as well as the whole Christian Community toward the final rite, at the Easter Vigil, when they become full members of the Catholic Church.
- **Small Faith Sharing Groups** is a way for parishioners to form small communities within the larger parish community. Each community is enhanced by the other. Small faith sharing groups gather together to pray and share their faith. Groups are continually forming and parishioners are encouraged to form new groups or join existing groups.
- **Welcome Home** is a new beginning for returning Catholics that offers spiritual reunion and a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. The seven week series is designed to make coming home to the Catholic Church easier and more fruitful.

- **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is for any married couple who desires a richer, fuller life together. The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife. This is a marriage enrichment program where the spouses spend a weekend away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life to concentrate on each other and their marriage. The weekend is not a retreat, a seminar or a counseling session, but rather an opportunity to revitalize your Christian marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together; to rediscover each other's unique gifts.
- **Young Adult Ministry** is a diverse ministry which includes young families, young married couples, moms groups, dad groups, singles, graduates and young professionals. Different groups gather together for fellowship, study and faith sharing. Adults between the ages of 18 and 35 are welcome!

### **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers are approximately 10 years or older, have been baptized, and have received First Holy Communion. The altar server has a special role in helping the priest during Mass. An altar server's responsibilities include carrying the crucifix, holding the Sacramentary, and carrying candles during the procession to the ambo for the Gospel and during the post-Communion procession.

### **Ancient Order of Hibernians**

*The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is a Catholic Irish-American Men's Fraternal Organization founded in New York City on May 4, 1836. The Hibernians take their name from the Roman word for Ireland, Hibernia. The Order has provided a continuing bridge with Ireland for those who are generations removed from the old country.*

The John Cardinal O'Connor Division is the local representative of the AOH. We sponsor the Irish Film Series at Williamsburg Regional Library as well as supporting various local charitable organizations including The Angels of Mercy Clinic, Olde Towne Dental Clinic, the Wounded Warriors Project, Saint Olaf's Food Pantry and Saint Bede Catholic Church Social Ministry. Membership is open to Catholic men of Irish heritage who are active in the faith. AOH meets at Rocco's Smokehouse on the Bypass Road the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. except December, March, June, July and August.

### **Art and Environment Ministry**

The Art and Environment Ministry creates seasonal decorations that help to set the mood for the liturgical seasons. The atmosphere of reverence and beauty all reflect the glory of God whether in the beauty of a flower arrangement, the care of a plant, or images and signs of the paschal mystery.

Extra help is always needed and welcomed during the Christmas and Easter holidays as the Church, Chapel, and Parish Center are decorated for these special celebrations. You will be trained and work every six weeks on a team with two other volunteers to

care for the plants in the Church. No experience is needed, however knowledge of floral design, sewing, and computer skills are an asset to the ministry.

### **Boy Scout Troop 1932**

Saint Bede Catholic Church is the chartering organization for Troop 1932 of Boy Scouts of America! We meet 2 to 3 times a month on Monday evenings at Saint Bede Catholic Church. Senior Scouts lead the meetings where the Troop works on Scouting skills and a wide range of Merit Badge activities, as well as planning for a monthly outing. Many outings are outdoor adventures ranging from weekend camping to multi-day Appalachian Trail hikes, James River canoe trips, and even a Catholic Retreat-o-Ree. Scouting helps youth achieve the aims of strengthening character, physical and mental fitness, and good citizenship.

Boy Scouting is a year round program for boys ages 11 through 17. If your son is interested in making friends and memories in the outdoors, while learning to live by the Scout Oath and Law, please consider visiting our Troop for a meeting to learn more about this exciting ministry.

### **Bread Ministry**

Panera Bread donates the baked goods that are not sold each day so that local charities can distribute baked goods to the needy in Williamsburg. Our parish participates in this program by picking up the unsold products at Panera each Wednesday evening and distributing them on Thursday mornings.

### **Catholic Campus Ministry**

The Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) at the College of William & Mary is a vibrant, growing community of faith in which college students are challenged to develop a deeper sense of their own dignity and mission in life through healthy relationships with others and, most profoundly, with God in Jesus Christ. This ministry includes Liturgy, Service, Social Justice, Hospitality, Spiritual Life, Fellowship, Ecumenical and Interfaith Outreach.

### **Children's Faith Formation, K-8, and Sacramental Preparation**

*This program addresses the religious, spiritual and human formation of our children and youth, including sacramental preparation of children making their first Reconciliation and first Holy Communion. We support parents as their child's first and primary teachers of the faith, recognizing that "family catechesis precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis" (John Paul II, Catechesis in Our Time #68)."*

To fulfill our mission as a parish community in passing on the faith to our youngest members, it is vital to have the participation and generous donation of each family's time and talent. Volunteers are always needed to serve as catechists and as part of the parent support team for the many activities of the program. We welcome all parents who would like to serve in the areas of Sacramental Preparation as well as the weekly Children's Faith Formation Program. Ongoing training is provided.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

This program is offered to children between the ages of 3 and 6. The Sunday scriptures are presented in a way that children will understand the stories of our faith. They will hear a brief talk at their own developmental level of how these scriptures apply to their lives. Children's Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Creed and Prayers of the Faithful in which the children can participate.

### **Communications**

The various methods of parish communications seek to inform, educate and encourage parishioner participation. This ministry includes the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, the parish website, the Commons' media screen, and poster advertising. Volunteers with writing, editing, designing, layout, computer, publishing, advertising-related skills and interests are welcome.

### **Cub Scout Pack 1932**

Saint Bede Catholic Church has continued this Scouting tradition since 2008 by being the sponsoring organization for Pack 1932. Since its beginning in 1930, the Cub Scout program has been a fun and educational experience concerned with values. Besides providing a positive place where boys can enjoy safe, wholesome activities, Cub Scouting focuses on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of community service.

Cub Scouting is open to all boys in the 1st through 5th grade. We encourage your son to visit our website or to attend one of our events to learn more about us.

<http://cubscoutpack1932.webs.com/>

### **Ecumenical/Interreligious Affairs**

The Ecumenical/Interreligious ministry plans services and other activities in conjunction with the clergy and members from other religious groups in Williamsburg. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity each January, the Ecumenical ministry sponsors services that are planned and attended by the Christian Churches in the greater Williamsburg community. The anniversary of September 11, 2001 has been commemorated by ecumenical and interreligious services with members of the Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Jewish, Lutheran, Muslim, Presbyterian, and Unitarian groups. Members attend the Virginia LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist) conferences in December. The ecumenical leaders have brought together the youth and social services ministries of the churches in town to discuss projects in which all can participate for the greater good of Williamsburg and the surrounding area.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** have a unique opportunity for a special communion with their fellow members of the Body of Christ. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are members of the church who have been confirmed and trained to assist with the distribution of the Eucharist. The ministry coordinators

not only train the ministers in the practical details of when, where, and how, but also provide information about the Eucharist and how to prepare spiritually. Once trained, ministers are scheduled for at least two Masses per month. Parishioners who cannot make a regular commitment are also invited to join the ministry to be regular substitutes and to assist at Christmas and Easter.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

*The Adoration Ministry provides spiritual support through prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.*

During his pontificate, Pope John Paul II pleaded for a return to the reverence and traditions of the past, especially for adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Rediscover your love for Jesus Christ by regularly spending an hour to be present with the Lord. 'Jesus Himself is calling you to spend one special specific hour with Him each week.' Saint John Paul II

- Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. until midnight at the CCM Chapel.
- Nocturnal Adoration is held on the first Friday preceding First Saturday of the month from Friday 9:45 a.m. to Saturday 8:00 a.m. at the CCM Chapel.

We are currently seeking individuals to make a commitment to a specific time and date. Please spend some time asking the Lord if He is calling you to support your parish through a weekly Holy Hour and visit our website to sign up for an hour a week throughout the year. <http://www.bedeva.org/175>

### **Family Ministry**

This ministry celebrates the Catholic Faith through worship, special events, parent education, and leadership. It serves as a foundation of support and religious counsel to parents and children through age-appropriate programming and event planning in conjunction with the liturgical calendar. We welcome parishioners who are interested in joining our group and supporting our activities. For current meeting dates, times, and location, email [bedefamily@cox.net](mailto:bedefamily@cox.net).

- **Homeschool Ministry** supports our parish families who are seeking to educate their children at home, taking seriously the call of parents to be the primary educators of their children.
- **Men's Ministry** allows men of the parish to meet twice a month to share experiences, common interests, and views in a relaxed environment. Discussion centers on face-to-face conversation about faith, life, families, and Catholic issues in society today. There is an opportunity for fellowship on the second Tuesday of the month, and a formation/apologetics program on the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- **Saint Bede's Holy Mama's** is a small faith group that meets each week for fellowship, support, and study. Our studies rotate through Scripture and other spiritual reading. Childcare is provided. All are welcome!

## **Finance Council**

The Finance Council oversees the financial interests of Saint Bede Catholic Church. Membership in the Finance Council consists of four or more members of the parish community appointed by the Pastor for a three-year term. Persons are selected for their expertise in financial matters, in economics, general business management, banking, law, insurance accounting and financial investment.

The Finance Council meets monthly throughout the year, except for August.

## **Front Office Volunteers**

### **(Church Offices, Parish Center Offices, More Hall Offices)**

These are dedicated parishioners who staff the three front offices. At all locations, they are responsible for greeting/welcoming parishioners and visitors and performing basic office tasks. Other responsibilities and hours for shifts are predicated on the location of the office in which they work and the needs of the office. They report to and are overseen by the Parish Administrative Assistant. They are trained by their immediate supervisor, who is the staff receptionist at each location.

## **Funeral Ministry**

The Funeral Ministry assists at funeral Masses. Five or six ministers serve in various liturgical roles, such as altar server, lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, sacristan, usher, escort (for family members who are participating in the liturgy), and crucifer.

## **Funeral Receptions**

The goal of this group of Saint Bede volunteers is very simple – provide hospitality for friends and family of the deceased following the funeral Mass. The Funeral Receptions Ministry provides three volunteer hostesses for each reception in order to set up and serve beverages and baked goods so that the family need not worry about the needs of those in attendance. This ministry recruits both hostesses and bakers willing to take a turn assisting with this parish offering. Currently 125 bakers and 40 hostesses find joy in providing comfort for grieving families, keeping in mind that someone will do it for their families when the time comes. This ministry is always eager to add new volunteers to its rosters.

## **Hospitality Ministry**

The Hospitality Ministry coordinates various receptions for church activities that help promote community fellowship. The Ministry assists with the Confirmation Reception and provides refreshments following lectures and at other events as requested. Purchasing and preparation are done prior to the receptions. Various small committees are formed to prepare and serve the food and to cleanup following the event.

## **JOY Ministry**

The JOY Ministry is composed of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion whose mission is to bring the grace and healing power of the Holy Eucharist to any sick or homebound parishioner who cannot attend Mass either regularly or temporarily. If you have limited time to devote to a ministry but are still interested in bringing Christ to others, we may have just what you are looking for. Can you spare one day a month to sit and visit with your fellow parishioners? Our Hospital Ministry volunteers bring the Eucharist to hospitalized parishioners at Sentara, Doctors Hospital, or both. Substitutes are also needed to assist with our ministry. Training will be provided until you feel comfortable going 'solo'. All those willing to serve in this ministry must first be trained as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

### **Knights of Columbus**

*The Knights of Columbus (KofC) are devoted to the cross and the flag. Its core principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. These principles, when practiced, will make you a true Catholic gentleman.*

Our local council, the Father Rizer Council and Father Washington Assembly, promotes many family-focused activities and events designed to promote and support our parish and the Williamsburg community. The KofC meets in the Parish Center twice a month: a business meeting and a program meeting, respectively, on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. After these meetings, there is informal fellowship with light refreshments and soft drinks. There are many ways for each man and his family to grow and be supported under the umbrella of catholicity of our strong KofC programs. Please join us in this rewarding life of Catholic brotherhood.

### **Knitting Group**

The Saint Bede Knitting Group meets in the Saint Bede conference room to knit and crochet every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our mission is to provide handmade hats, sweaters, scarves, mittens lap robes, blankets, etc. for needy recipients. Among the recipients of our work are the HOPE Pregnancy Center, Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News, Catholic Charities, the Williamsburg Heritage Humane Society, Glenmary missions in Appalachia, Hospice House of Williamsburg, the Refugio mission in Ecuador, and Avalon.

We are always happy to receive yarn donations which may be left at the Church front office from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Lectors**

Those who are called to the ministry as Lector or Reader apply their talents and time to proclaim God's Word. This ministry requires preparation of the Old and New Testament Readings in the Liturgy of the Word. Lectors are also scheduled to serve as Commentators at the beginning of Mass and to lead the community in the Universal Prayer. After completing an orientation, Lectors are scheduled to proclaim the Word approximately once a month.

### **Legion of Mary    The Our Lady of Walsingham Praesidium**

*The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church. Members humbly strive to develop greater spirituality while performing spiritual works of mercy in the parish for our pastor.*

There are two categories open to both men and women:

- Active Members meet every Friday from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Room at Saint Bede Catholic Church. Flexible scheduling is offered for completion of weekly spiritual works of mercy. Anyone 18 years or older is welcome.
- Auxiliary Members collectively support the Legion of Mary through their daily praying of the rosary. They are the Blessed Mother's prayer warriors.

### **Monthly Maintenance Ministry**

The Monthly Maintenance Ministry's (MMM) mission is: To get to know fellow parishioners while maintaining the Church property and grounds. This group is open to anyone who is interested in assisting with projects that focus on landscape, grounds, and facility maintenance at the parish properties. No experience is necessary and families are encouraged to participate; many hands make light work! Each of the projects that are completed help to save resources that our Church can allocate toward other needs or others in need.

The MMM meets on Saturdays in the Spring and Fall from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (weather permitting).

### **Music Ministry**

*At Saint Bede Catholic Church, we strive to make each liturgy a rich and fulfilling experience. To that end we consider the musical element of our worship to be of great importance. Every effort is made to help the worshipping assembly find their voice.*

*Choirs, cantors, and instrumentalists assist in the music ministry of the parish.*

*Christian worship throughout the ages has been closely linked to a great tradition of music that gives glory to God and inspires us to service. It is our intention to carry that mission forward as we bring Christ's message to our community and the world.*

- **Bells of Saint Bede** The handbell choir, while primarily composed of adults, is open to students in the 7th grade and upward. The choir rings our three octaves of Malmark handbells and three octaves of handchimes. The ringers rehearse on Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. and play at the Saturday 5:30 p.m. Mass every other week.
- **Cantors** are not soloists, but singers who proclaim God's word in song such as the psalm and Gospel acclamations and lead the sung texts when no choir is present. Cantors should possess a pleasant, clear and accurate voice. Auditions and rehearsals are scheduled individually.

- **Choral Scholars** are recruited to sing in the Parish Choir, the *Schola Cantorum*, and occasionally to lead responsorial singing and service music. Scholarships are available to degree seeking undergraduate or graduate students dependent upon demonstrable choral training and singing ability and following a successful audition.
- **Instrumentalists** are used at Masses to enhance the musical song of the Church. Auditions, rehearsals and Masses are scheduled individually.
- **Parish Choir** includes those from high school age and upward. Music sung ranges in style from Gregorian chant to the best of modern choral literature. The choir sings alternately at the Sunday Mass at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. from September to early June. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Schola Cantorum**, an auditioned choir, sings predominantly Latin and English a capella choral music every other week at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. It requires a good familiarity with reading music and individual confidence in singing a voice part. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 8:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.
- **Young Choristers** Children in grades 3 through 8 sing in this choir which rehearses on Tuesdays from 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. The Young Choristers sing every other week at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Based on the Royal School of Church Music model of music education, the Young Choristers sing choral music and are given Catholic liturgical formation. At Christmas and Easter, we invite students from the 2nd through 8th grade to join the choir to sing at the Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass and on Easter Sunday.
- **Youth Ensemble** leads the music at the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass and also provides musical accompaniment for the monthly Wednesday evening Eucharistic Adoration service. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings.
- **Tidewater Intergenerational Orchestra (TIO)** This ensemble provides an outlet and opportunity for string players (adult members of the community, concert artists, and accomplished students) of all ages to play together and learn from each other. Rehearsals are clustered around the performance dates with advance distribution of music. They present frequent concerts and programs in our church and around the community.
- **Saint Bede Orchestra School (SBOS)** The Saint Bede Orchestra School for strings is an outgrowth of the TIO. All students, ages 7 - 18 have full tuition scholarships. A minimum of one year of school, private, or group lessons is required for participation. SBOS also conducts a summer camp for strings, brass, and organ which provides full scholarships for all participants. The group performs for some Masses with the Youth Choir and as openers before some TIO concerts.

### **Noah's Nursery**

Noah's Nursery provides a loving, healthy environment for children while supporting the efforts of the entire family. Your family will find this a fun and safe place to leave your children ages 19 months through 4 years. The nursery is normally open year

round at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses, except for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas. Please check the church website for other closures. The nursery opens 20 minutes before and remains open 20 minutes after Mass. Children are invited on a first-come, first-serve basis – our nursery space can accommodate 12 children. Your children will learn about Jesus and begin to understand a sense of the Catholic Faith Community to which we all belong.

Noah's Nursery coordinators are happy to welcome your child/grandchild to the Nursery, and are pleased to offer care for them allowing you to attend Mass.

Volunteers are welcomed and will be provided the necessary training required by the Diocese of Richmond.

### **Parish Life Ministry**

The Parish Life Ministry is a parishioner led group whose mission is to support fellowship and community building for the many diverse members of our parish through intergeneration activities and large parish celebrations. Currently, the Ministry sponsors the Saint Bede Block Party (June), the All Saints Festival (Fall), the Turkey Trot a 5k run/walk (Thanksgiving), the Father Daughter Dance (February), and the Easter Vigil Reception.

To become involved in one or any of these activities, interested parishioners should call or email the contact person on the list of ministries on the website. It is possible to be a member of the ministry committee or to just help with one or more of the events. Formal meetings are infrequent. The activities are spread throughout the year so that time commitments are never too intense or prolonged. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

### **Pastoral Council**

The Pastoral Council strives to ensure that the parish is carrying out its stated mission and that the pastoral needs of ALL parishioners are met. The Pastoral Council is the Pastor's primary visioning and planning entity within our parish. The Pastoral Council looks forward with the Pastor to envision where our parish should be in five years, and then builds the plan to take our parish there.

Pastoral Council membership is a three year commitment with members appointed by the Pastor. Approximately one third of the members are replaced each year. New members are selected from the community of practicing Catholics who have been registered members of Saint Bede Catholic Church for at least one year. The Pastoral Council normally meets during the evening on the fourth Thursday of each month.

### **Pope Benedict XVI Religious Book Collection**

Through the years generous donors have donated rare and unique religious books for the use and enjoyment of our parishioners and visitors. Volunteers organize and maintain the Pope Benedict XVI Book Collection located on shelves of the Church Commons.

Every age volunteer with a love of books works approximately 10 varied hours monthly organizing and maintaining these shelves throughout the year; hours are

flexible. Good eyesight is helpful when putting books with small labels in the proper location and sometimes lifting heavy books is required. Assistance with various projects is always welcome!

### **Retreat Ministry**

The Retreat Ministry seeks to assist fellow Catholics and seekers in reconnecting with God on a deeper personal and spiritual level. A retreat is a spiritual gift allowing us to focus on what is truly important in our lives by temporarily getting away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. We see God through others' eyes, replenish our spiritual reserve so that we may "go out and serve", connect with friends and fellow parishioners in sharing spiritual support, and bring about a renewal of our faith, hope and love. A variety of retreats are offered throughout the year from evenings of reflection, to one day retreats, to overnight retreats. Please refer to our website for more information <http://www.bedevea.org/164>

### **Sacred Linens Ministry**

These linens include the corporals, purificators, and finger towels. All members must receive special training in the proper handling and care of the linens used at Mass.

### **Sacristans**

Sacristans are vital ministers at each liturgy. They are trained Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who are responsible for the materials and personnel needed for the celebration of the liturgy. Experience as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is helpful for this ministry.

Sacristans arrive at church one hour before their scheduled Mass. Once trained, Sacristans are scheduled for at least two Masses per month. Using the computer program, Liturgy Schedule Pro, ministers have the option to pick specific masses and specific dates.

### **Safe Environment**

The parish is guided by the Diocesan Regulations as it relates to "Protecting God's Children" programs. The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is committed to ensuring that diocesan institutions and ministries provide a safe and nurturing environment for children, young people and vulnerable individuals. The mission of the diocese Safe Environment Program is to create a safe environment incorporating the standards as outlined in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. These regulations are focused on all programs that minister to children ensuring a safe environment for them and that all adults understand the expectations of the Diocese and the Church in this area. Please contact our parish Safe Environment coordinator for additional information.

### **Social Ministry and Human Concerns**

*Saint Bede strongly supports the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy through financial contributions and volunteerism for the various social ministries. Heeding the*

*command of Jesus to take care of those in need, parishioners place a high priority on the works of our Social Outreach Ministry. There are many other ministries in which to participate.*

- **Fil-Am Ministry** was created to promote spiritual awareness and Christian unity among the Filipino-American parishioners at Saint Bede Catholic Church through worship and outreach, and to foster religious, social, and cultural camaraderie among its members. All are welcome!
- **Friends for Life** is dedicated to promoting and protecting the sanctity of life of all of God's children. We work with compassion and faithfulness through prayer, legislative advocacy, education, social support, and pro-life information resources. We meet the third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m. in the Commons. You are welcome to join us!
- **Food Pantry** provides emergency food assistance for those in need in our parish and the greater Williamsburg community. The pantry is stocked by the generous donations of Saint Bede parishioners. Each month, 40-50 families receive food assistance from our Food Pantry.  
Donations can be dropped off at the entrances to the Church on Ironbound Road or at the Parish Center at 10 Harrison Avenue during office hours (Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Please check our list of needs on the website <http://www.bedeva.org/148>
- **Haiti Outreach** ministry assists our twin parish of St. Joseph in Thomonde, Haiti. We have built a relationship in which we share friendship, resources, and our cultures. We accomplish this through awareness, education, prayer, parish visits, and financial support.
- **Hispanic Ministry** strives to meet the spiritual and social needs of our growing Hispanic community. We bring Christ to this community by coordinating and conducting liturgies **in Spanish** such as: a weekly Sunday Mass, Church Special Liturgies (e.g., Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration, Stations of the Cross, and Divine Mercy Adoration), Weddings, Rite of Baptism, and the beginnings of on-going Adult Formation. We also aid to coordinate and celebrate **in English**: Religious Education Grades K-9, First Penance and First Communion. In conjunction with the Office of Social Ministry, we similarly work to assist those in need of material support. It is important for our parish to know the people in this growing and diverse community, and develop programs that integrate (not assimilate) different cultures into our existing church community. Wonderfully, the Catholic Church is universal, so no matter what language you speak the Rites are similar. Hence, we welcome Spanish and Non-Spanish speaking volunteers alike to serve with us. For the latter, there are many opportunities where you can contribute your gifts (e.g., music, liturgical service, religious education) and learn a little or practice your Spanish along the way. All are welcome to participate as each community offers its own unique charisma to the other.
- **Homeless Ministry** seeks to meet the immediate needs of families and individuals and to support their transition to a more permanent and stable

home. In addition to the services offered by our Outreach Office, the Homeless Ministry participates in community planning efforts and emergency sheltering programs like PORT and Community of Faith.

- **HOPE Pregnancy Center** supports a woman during a crisis pregnancy and in caring for her child after birth. The HOPE Pregnancy Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. and provides layettes for newborns, baby clothing up to 18 months, maternity clothing, counseling referrals, and advocacy.
- **Outreach Office** provides assistance and support to those in need from our parish and the greater Williamsburg community who are in precarious financial situations and at risk of losing stable housing or access to vital utilities. The Outreach Office also provides financial assistance for transportation, medical prescriptions and temporary housing for the working poor. Assistance is provided through cooperation with other area agencies, churches and/or diocesan programs. Through the generous financial and in-kind donations of our parishioners, this ministry serves over 1,000 families each year who have nowhere else to turn. The Outreach Office is always in need of dedicated volunteers to offer confidential assistance and counseling in social services. Training is provided.
- **Parish Disability Ministry** consists of three Parish Advocates who work in conjunction with the Diocesan Office for (and with) Persons with Disabilities to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the full life of the Church. Efforts include extending a welcome to parishioners with disabilities, making Church facilities accessible, promoting to the entire parish an awareness and understanding of disabilities, and encouraging and supporting parishioners with disabilities in the use of their God-given gifts for the building up of our entire Church.
- **Parish Nurse Ministry** is a visible symbol of the healing ministry that embraces the whole person – body, mind and spirit. As qualified health care professionals, Parish Nurses help to enhance the stewardship of life and health through education, counseling, consultation, referrals, and the facilitation of various groups. Volunteers must be qualified Health Care Professionals.
- **Prison Ministry** seeks to bring the word of the gospel to those individuals held within our local area criminal justice system including both the incarcerated and recently released. The Prison Ministry works closely with both Outreach and various community resources to address the needs of individuals, and families of the individuals, recently released and about to be released.

### **Sound Ministry**

Sound Ministers provide proper sound amplification for the celebrant, readers, cantors and others, who use wireless microphones to proclaim the Word of God in speech and song. They arrive no later than 20 minutes before the scheduled time of the service and perform simple technical tasks to ensure all wireless microphones are in working

order; and, to assist, if necessary, individuals unfamiliar with proper wearing, placement and operation of his/her microphone

Male and female volunteers young (late teens), retired, and in between, who are mature, dependable, unafraid of simple technical challenges, and have reasonable hearing acuity would find involvement in Sound Ministry to be a rewarding experience. Training and ongoing mentoring is provided. Sound Ministers are automatically scheduled to serve once or twice a month at weekend Masses, based on Mass time preference and availability.

### **Usher/Greeter Ministry**

Saint Bede Catholic Church is an active, welcoming faith community energized by the Eucharist and sensitive to the needs of all. We create an atmosphere of joy and reverence and a spirit of hospitality and friendliness among and toward the worshippers gathered to celebrate the Mass at the weekend Masses and Holy Days. We are organized into teams for each Mass. Our greeters arrive 30 minutes before Mass and are the first to greet parishioners and visitors as they enter Saint Bede. Our ushers assist with seating, collections, and providing attentive listening devices for those with hearing disabilities.

If you enjoy speaking with others and want to get to know more of your fellow parishioners, please call to join this ministry!

### **Virginia Catholic Conference Email Advocacy Network**

The Virginia Catholic Conference is a state organization that allows you to provide your voice to ensure the Church can still live with the Gospel mandate to feed the hungry, heal the sick, visit the prisoner and respect human life without violating its conscience. Join to receive pre-drafted (editable) messages to send elected officials about religious liberty and other critical issues.

### **VIRTUS**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Dallas Charter mandates that all employees, clergy, religious, teachers, staff, and all volunteers who work with children or youth participate in a training session for adults, *Protecting God's Children*. Our parish has a diocesan certified facilitator who presents numerous training sessions throughout the year. Registration is easy and convenient – simply visit [www.richmonddiocese.org](http://www.richmonddiocese.org) and click on the VIRTUS link. Please contact our parish VIRTUS/Safe Environment coordinator for additional information.

### **Votive Candle Ministry**

This ministry ensures that the votive candle stands are filled with new candles and that the stands are clean and neat in appearance. This is an important ministry in that many people show their devotion to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother by lighting candles, thus requiring vigilant attention to the stands.

### **Wedding Liturgy Ministry**

Every wedding liturgy celebrated at the Church or the Chapel is assigned a wedding liturgy coordinator. This person assists at both the rehearsal and the wedding; is versed in all facets of the Rite of Marriage and our procedures and facilities; and can be a source of answers and assistance to the wedding party and participants. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact the Church Office.

### **Women's Circle of Faith**

The Women's Circle of Faith is a group of Saint Bede women parishioners who meet regularly to discuss topics pertinent to our Catholic faith and to share prayer and fellowship. Meetings are held at More Hall on the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The group also meets for lunch once each quarter. All women are invited to join the group.

### **Young at Heart**

The Young at Heart Ministry is open to parishioners over the age of 55 who are seeking fellowship, food, and fun. We connect with each other for a meal on the second Tuesday of each month except for the months of July and August. There is a \$20 annual membership fee and each meal is \$10. We invite you to join us.

### **Youth Ministry**

Saint Bede High School Youth Ministry is open to all 9th -12th graders. Our goal is to bring Catholic faith to all teens by guiding them in a relationship with Christ, and by offering retreats and social activities in a wholesome environment. We are here for the teens of the parish to help them on their faith journey in order to help prepare them for the rest of their lives. We try to introduce them to as many aspects of the faith that we can, and to show them that the Church is home for all. We offer a variety of programs for the youth including Sunday night youth groups, Confirmation preparation, male and female groups, summer trips and social events.