

Sts. Peter and Paul, Bechyne Altar Society By-Laws

Last updated April, 2004

Updated July, 2014-2nd reading on Sept. 28, 2014

We give gifts to members for Baptisms, Catholic Weddings, 1st Communions/Confirmation, and graduations. Graduates will be honored during mass in May. A wedding gift of a cross with two rings will be given to parish members and children of members.

A sympathy card is sent to any parish member who has lost an immediate family member. A mass is said for any church member. The vice-president sends cards and purchases gifts.

At Christmas time, gifts are given to the altar servers, musicians, shut ins from the parish, and the priest. Donations are made to the Pregnancy Help Center, St. Gianna's Maternity Home, and the Sunshine House of Grand Forks. Every other year we will alternate with the parish in giving a \$100 gift to the Father Al Almarras scholarship in the Seminary and Clergy Fund of the Fargo diocese. In 2014 the Altar Society will give this memorial.

The **school of religion** has a separate checking account. The altar society gives \$400 to \$500 per year in the fall, or as needed.

We will present a welcome information packet to any new parish members , along with an official welcome at mass.

We will serve only parish members' weddings. Cost will depend on the menu and the number of guests.

Kitchen rental will be referred to the Heritage Hall Association.

Donations: The fall soup and sandwich profit is given to the parish at the rate of \$20 per family. The proceeds from the bake sale go to the altar society. The spring Sts. Peter and Paul proceeds go to the altar society. The Heritage Hall Assn. serves the afternoon lunch and gets the proceeds.

Altar society meetings will be held after the first 8:30 mass each month or as needed. One summer evening meeting (July) will be held so we are not rushed. A quorum of 7 is required. An executive decision (4 officers) can be made if needed.

Cleaning: Names will move up one month each year. A cleaning checklist will hang next to the calendar in the sacristy. The liturgical colors for banners , etc. can be found on the calendar. Cleaners are to provide a live plant or flower except in the cold winter when the heat is turned down. The altar society will reimburse for two nice Christmas poinsettias and two nice Easter lilies. Cleaners that month purchase them. If the altar cloth needs cleaning that month, the cleaners take it to a dry cleaner and they will be reimbursed by the altar society.

A general spring cleaning will be scheduled and all members are asked to help.

The weekend near June 29th , the parish celebrates the feast of patron saints, Peter and Paul.

Our parish should have a sacristan. Ask for a volunteer, who must be approved by the priest. Duties include taking care of the altar, cleaning the mass linens, and washing the priest's alb and the altar servers' robes.

Candle supplies are ordered from Hurleys by the vice president, as needed.

Officers: Officers and necessary chairpersons will be drawn from a hat unless someone volunteers. For officers, 3 names are drawn and a written ballot election is held. A person does not have to accept the presidency more than twice, unless she is willing. After serving as president, there is one year of grace (no office).

At age 70 and beyond, a member should not be expected to serve as chairperson or officer, unless she volunteers.

The Caring and Sharing Committee is a subcommittee that sews and presents prayer quilts/blankets to members and community members when there is surgery or serious illness. A food donation basket is provided for members to give nonperishables to the Walsh County Food Pantry.

The altar society will entertain and provide birthday cake at a local nursing home once a year, usually in January. We will also visit shut- ins from our parish.

Work Circles: There are two work circles. The chairs will be called to find workers for funerals and special events.