



EMMAUS PARTNERS

*A Ministry for Young
Families & Seniors*

HOW IT WORKS

A ministry that forms a two-way relationship

During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic many of us saw our lives limited by the state's Stay At Home Order. It was strange for us to not go anywhere except by necessity. But there are parishioners here at St. Mark who have had this experience for much, much longer before us. They are the homebound parishioners, our own neighbors who due to age or infirmity simply can't leave their homes often or at all, and for some this has been their life for years. As we all experienced it is not easy to be homebound! There can be loneliness, boredom, and sometimes a feeling of being forgotten by the world.

From this common experience St. Mark is beginning a new ministry to share life with those who are homebound and to love our neighbors in a new way through the forming of relationships that might never have an opportunity to form otherwise. It branches off of St. Mark's Homebound Ministry which focuses on bringing the sacraments to our homebound parishioners. The goal of this new ministry is to pair young families with a 70+ seniors who are homebound or still moderately active. This ministry is not just for the seniors, but is a two- way relationship; the seniors have much to offer to the young families as well!

This ministry will look different for each family as it depends on the needs of the senior, but a common aspect we encourage is to share a meal together. Most aspects of this ministry will require us to wait until this pandemic is over, so that it is safe to be in person with one another. For now we are inviting you to be part of the pilot group getting things started. Calling your paired senior to talk on the phone or helping them with errands or yard work or other simple needs that might not be simple for them is a way to begin something more in the future. And in turn your feedback and ideas will help us develop this ministry for the long term, and if you are willing some form of witness to the parish later on.

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*This new
ministry
will link
a deeper
friendship
between
families
new and
old as
they strive
to share
life together.*

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HOW TO START

The Commitment

The pairing of a young family with a senior will ideally be on location. We'd like to pair those who live on the same street or closest to one another.

The commitment entails meeting either biweekly or monthly, depending on the preference of you and your senior.



WHAT DOES IT CONSIST OF?



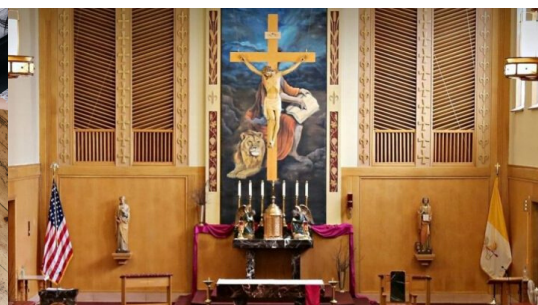
FRIENDSHIP

First and foremost, the purpose of this ministry is to develop a friendship between the young and elderly. This will develop out of the care and interest in spending time together.



SHARING A MEAL

Whether you have a potluck or bring take out, gathering around the table is a great way to create fellowship.



MASS BUDDIES

Meeting at St. Mark for Mass allows for you and your partnered senior to feel connected as you sit together during the liturgy.



SERVICE & ERRANDS

Offering to help with yard work or making a simple call to ask your senior if he/she needs anything from the store is a small act of kindness that can go a long way.



LEARNING A SKILL

Don't shy away from bringing your phones and tablets, some seniors may want to learn the technology. Some may have skills they'd love to teach you too!



SHARE STORIES

Gathering together gives the potential to hear the stories of the both the seniors and the young family, which is a great treasure to embrace and share.

GUIDELINES

Expectation: Again, we're hoping for you to meet with your partnered senior(s) either biweekly or monthly.

Contact: Please get in touch with Briana David if you are interested in participating. Share your preferred meeting time (biweekly or monthly) and share any questions or comments. She will then begin working on pairing you with a senior. Email bdavid@stmarkcleveland.com or call the Parish Office (216) 226-7577.

Introduction Meeting- There will be a short meeting with Dianne Gorsek (Homebound Minister) or Dc. Dave Lundeen to get your paired senior and learn more about them.

Visiting with Minors: While visiting your senior, please make sure you are with your children at all times. Children are not permitted to be dropped off at the senior's home or go for a visit by themselves. Parents should always be with their children during these visits.

Feedback: Please share how your partnership is going. We will be asking seniors and young families to report back after three months of fellowship. Sharing what is working and what's not can help as this ministry continues to develop.