

Frequently Asked Questions

The Basics

Where can I volunteer?

St. Bernadette Parish has over 100 volunteer areas where you can serve. Volunteers make our parish activities and programs possible by serving on the front lines or behind-the-scenes. We have a place for everyone, please join us!

How long do I serve?

That depends on you and the area you choose. We have short-term opportunities that are 1 day, other activities that are 1 time a month and then we have long term opportunities that are once a week for a year. We also have some opportunities that you can do from home.

I have children. Can I bring kids?

Volunteer areas vary in their capacity to accept volunteers with dependents. To help you find a family-friendly volunteer area, we have a special volunteer form for families/children. These identified volunteer areas provide hands-on activities for volunteers of all ages. Visit our website at www.stbchurch.org/volunteer and click Child or Teen volunteer form or call Suzanne at 281-486-0337, x110, to identify volunteer areas that allow you to serve with your children.

Do I have to be a certain age to serve?

It depends on the ministry. Many areas offer opportunities for parent/child teams, or opportunities for Jr. High and High School aged youth.

Can I get service hours for volunteering?

Adults can obtain a letter of service for an employer and may list service on a resume. Sorry, we cannot accept individuals who have court ordered hours or need hours for any type of discipline.

Teens can obtain hours for honor society and school clubs. Let the staff member or ministry representative know that you need hours before you begin volunteering and what group the hours are for. After volunteer work, have the Staff member or Ministry Representative sign your form. Sorry, we cannot accept individuals who have court ordered hours or need hours for any type of discipline.

What if I don't hear from someone?

If you do not hear from a Ministry Representative after signing up, please contact the Time and Talent Office at 281-486-0337 x110. It could be that there was a computer error if sending online or a simple administrative error. We will correct the situation if you let us know.

Volunteer Placements

What type of work can I do?

Almost anything you can think of. Placements include positions in social service, health care, grounds maintenance, administrative, child care, teaching, religious education, social justice ministry, and more.

What type of experience or certification do I need?

Again, that depends on the ministry and the placement. Certain positions require someone who already has a specific job skill, but most positions are open to anyone with a willingness to learn. Opportunities in fields as varied as education and social service are available to those with no previous training or experience. A volunteer placement can be an excellent way to gain experience in a field and to develop your professional skills.

What is VIRTUS or Keeping the Promise Alive? Do I need to Take It?

The VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children for Adults Workshop (PGCA) is a 3-hour session including 2 videos and facilitated discussions focusing on the prevention of abuse and the protection of children. Participants learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms that an adult is a potential risk of harm to children and how to know that a child is being abused or exploited in some way. In addition, they will learn about steps that the faith community can take to create a safe environment for all God's children and how to respond when adults behave in a way that raises concerns. This workshop credit is valid for 5 years. After 5 years employees/volunteers will need to take the VIRTUS Keeping the Promise Alive Refresher Workshop. A background check is also completed on the volunteer. Some volunteer areas require that you complete VIRTUS before you can volunteer. Sign up for a class under the Learning Center on the Time and Talent webpage.

Keeping the Promise Alive for Adults Refresher Workshop

Keeping the Promise Alive is a 1.5 hour session with 1 video that is taken by employees/volunteers after 5 years of taking the Protecting God's Children® program. It provides ongoing awareness for the prevention of child sexual abuse. The material covered in Keeping the Promise Alive is designed to identify and reinforce the lessons of the original Protecting God's Children program by clarifying some of the more challenging aspects of the sessions and strengthening the participants' ability to recognize risky adults in their environments and take action to intervene in potentially threatening situations. An updated background check is also required. Some volunteer areas require that you complete KPA before you can volunteer. Sign up for a class under the Learning Center on the Time and Talent webpage.

Religion/Spirituality

Do I have to be a Catholic or Christian to volunteer?

While not all of our ministries require volunteers to be practicing Catholics or Christians, all are faith-based. Ministries vary in the level of religious or spiritual commitment they expect. Some ministries require participants to be Catholic while others may ask that you simply be open to participating in group prayer. Some ministries will not require any type of participation in religious activities. Each ministry has different requirements, so be sure to ask about this regarding the area in which you are interested if you have any concern.

Do I need to be a member of St. Bernadette Church to volunteer?

While not all of our ministries require parish registration, at the very least all will require some basic information such as contact information. Most areas will require you to be registered in the parish especially if VIRTUS is needed.

Questions? Contact Suzanne at the Time and Talent Office at 281-486-0337 x110 or email from the Contact Page (under the About Menu) on the website.