



# Our Place of *Hope & Promise*

*Each month we will spotlight one of the many ways Blessed Sacrament is growing, serving, giving.*

## Parish Council of Catholic Women (aka Altar Society)

December 2024

### Main Work

The Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW), also known as the Altar Society, is a service organization responsible for many “behind the scenes” tasks in the parish. They launder the Altar linens and cassocks, maintain the votive candles in the Church, and take care of the Marian Garden. One significant part of the PCCW is providing luncheons for funerals in the parish. Some ladies provide salads and desserts for the meal, while others are responsible for actually serving the meal for the family and friends of the deceased. In this way, the group is helping with both the Corporal works of mercy of burying the dead and feeding the hungry! But the group is not entirely about service. The PCCW desires to help foster the spiritual life through prayer at meetings and sharing a Sunday Holy Hour, as well as the fellowship of the members through quarterly socials.

### Did You Know?

PCCW has multiple bake sales each year. Their biggest fundraiser is the upcoming Homemade Christmas Bake Sale on Sunday, December 15. The funds raised by PCCW help with

purchases such as altar wine, hosts, and candles. In the past few years, they have made multiple large purchases, including the holy water fonts, a thurible, and new cassocks and surplices. Most recently, the Knights of Columbus and the PCCW worked together to purchase a canopy for the Eucharistic Processions.

### How can you be involved?

All women in the parish are automatically members of the PCCW, whether they are active or not. But there is always a need for more ladies to become active. This can be as simple as providing desserts for a bake sale, or helping to maintain the votive candles in the Church. Ladies can participate however their time or talents allow.

The Altar Society meets bi-monthly (the 4th Tuesday of odd-numbered months), so the meetings are not a big time commitment. Last year, the PCCW averaged over 65 hours a month in service, spiritual, and social activities!



### Impact in our Parish and Community

Lois Korinek has been a member of PCCW for many years and shared, “I have so enjoyed being a member of the Altar Society. Years ago when my children were young, it was a night out that I not only could connect with my friends, but also pray together and above all feel that I was contributing to helping with all the needs of the altar and of the Church. In looking back, I feel that from my being a member, that I have received more than what I have given.”

Riley Jedlicka spoke recently during PCCW’s recruitment weekend, “I feel it’s a beautiful calling for a woman to use her defined set of skills to nurture and care for the Church which fosters our spiritual wellness, centers our families, and roots us in what is truly important in life, our Catholic faith.”