



Our Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need. With that in mind and heart we are excited to announce that our Pastoral Care and Social Concerns ministry teams will join together with the Alzheimer's Association to provide education, resources, and prayer support to our St. Mary Parish Community. June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month and we thought this was a perfect opportunity to share this news.

Alzheimer's and dementia touch the lives of many of our parishioners; a spouse, a parent, a neighbor or a friend. An estimated 6.2 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's or dementia and it's the sixth leading cause of death. In Wisconsin, there are more than 120,000 people living with the disease - this is roughly the amount of people that it would take to fill Lambeau Field and American Family Field COMBINED. There are also more than 196,000 Wisconsinites serving as caregivers for those on this journey. The burden of this disease is staggering.

Parishioner and St. Mary School parent, Mary Pat Rick, works at the Alzheimer's Association and approached the Pastoral Care and Outreach teams about creating more awareness for the free resources that are available to families in Wisconsin: education, support groups, care consultations and 24/7 helpline support.

Parishioner, Joyce Roesler will help spearhead the initiative by serving as a Faith Representative, working with Alzheimer's Association staff to share educational and our unique St. Mary Parish pastoral support. Joyce is caring for her husband Bob, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in November 2020.

Fellow parishioners will work together to help bring awareness for resources to support families on a journey with Alzheimer's or dementia. In honor of Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, we will have materials in the bulletin during the month of June. All information will be available on the website. Please note that on the weekend of June 26/27 there will be resources in the gathering space. We will be happy to answer questions at that time. We extend an invitation to anyone called to join us.

If you would like to get involved or find out more, please don't hesitate to reach out to either Mary Lang or Pam Lownik (see contact information below).

God Bless,

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