

Jail/Prison Ministry

The Manistee County Catholic Jail/Prison Ministry has a mission to be the presence of Christ to those incarcerated, their families and the Jail/Prison Staff.

The Ministry provides the following for the incarcerated:

- Mass and the Sacraments by clergy
- Catholic Communion Service and Bible Study by Lay Persons
- Pen Pals
- Mentoring inside the Facility

Volunteers can provide limited counsel for the families of the offenders, as well as assistance with transportation for visitations.

Once the offender is released from custody, a mentor can be provided to assist the ex-offender with living accommodations, finding a job, help with moving back into society, and nurturing their faith.

Volunteers go into the prison once a week and conduct services for both the offenders in general population as well as those in protective custody. There are normally eight to twelve offenders who come to the services. In the jail, services are provided once a week to the male and female population. Attendance at these services varies depending on the current population of offenders in the jail. Outreach volunteers visit the offenders on a one to one basis if there is a specific request from an offender or there is a specific need.

Volunteers are provided with training prior to entering the prison or jail. Once trained the new volunteers shadow experienced volunteers until they feel comfortable to facilitate sessions. Each jail or prison session is usually handled by at least two volunteers.

The volunteers involved in the ministry find it a truly rewarding experience. For more information contact Fritz Sutter at 231.398.9656, or Greg Peters at 231.723.2922.