

“Beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers.”

III John 2

“The major change for healthcare facilities and organizations is to involve parishes more actively in the process of healthcare. The major changes for the parishes is to reclaim a vital component of their healing ministry and to give their traditional services a health orientation. For both, there needs to be a shared vision of health ministry grounded in a mutual understanding of healing.”

-from Partners in Healing  
CHA of the United States

*For More Information...*

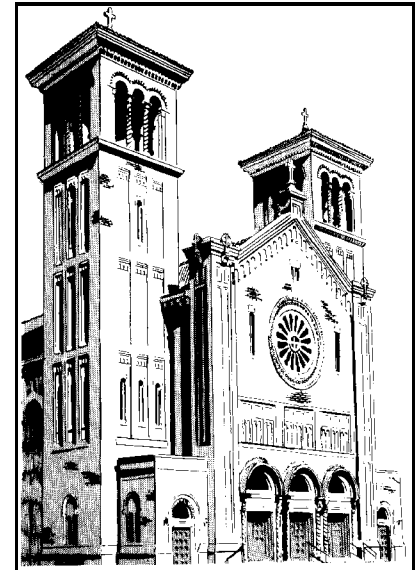
Your parish nurse at St.James is Sister Priscilla Weber. Her office hours in the rectory are every Monday 9am-12noon.

You may also reach her by calling  
255-1656.

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## Parish Nursing

St. James Catholic Church



1128 St.James Court

Madison, WI 53715

(608) 255-1656

## WHY A NURSE IN THE CHURCH?

A parish may want a parish nurse for a variety of reasons. A nurse in the church can help parishioners feel cared about and valued, bring healing and reconciliation to hurts and rifts, and may help parishioners to find meaning and purpose. The presence of a nurse in the church may also help to facilitate communication between faith and health care providers, help people to realize that church membership and faith are health strengthening, helping the church to reclaim its role in healing. While a nurse will help to empower pastors to become more effective as healers and advocates, s/he will also help create safe opportunities for sharing and will catalyze organized responses, thus helping to build a sense of community.

Parish nursing is a specialized form of nursing. While the nurse ministers to the congregation at large, s/he focuses on promoting health within the values, beliefs and practices of the faith community.

“St. James Health Commission extends the healing mission of Jesus by supporting developing and creating a caring health and wellness oriented environment.”

## WHAT DOES A PARISH NURSE DO?

The parish nurse works to facilitate the healing mission of the congregation by assessing the health needs of the community and developing and implementing programs and services accordingly. Parish nurses have many different roles, which include

- A health educator
- A health advocate
- A referral agent
- A personal health counselor
- An integrator of faith and health

- A coordinator of health promoting activities in the parish

### Some examples of what parish nurses do...

- Coordinates blood pressure screenings, CPR classes and relaxation and stress management classes.
- Coordinates support groups in times of crisis, or provides individual support to those in times of need
- Refers members to community services such as Meals on Wheels, and community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Acts as an advocate on behalf of the parishioners and their families for nursing home placement
- Visits parishioners in their homes, and in nursing homes and hospitals as a form of follow up care.

