

Safety Sunday

April 24th, 2022

Church of the Annunciation Safety Plan Information

- Background of the Safety Committee
- Three sub-divisions of the committee
- Current status and future goals
- Phone and facility directory
- Building and utility information

History and Background

Early in 2020, a survey was conducted asking parishioners to express their knowledge of and satisfaction with administration, worship, pastoral ministry, faith formation, stewardship, outreach, social life, activities and programs at Annunciation. Responses coalesced into dimensions of parish life to celebrate and areas of opportunity for growth. It was evident that some parishioners were unaware of health,

safety and security protocols already in place. Our Pastoral Council established a Health, Safety and Security Committee. The committee is tasked with goals of clarifying, implementing and communicating our plans/procedures to make sure we are able to respond to any emergency. Allison Smerka is committee chair and Steve Flowers has prepared this document for distribution on our first



Safety Sunday April 23-24, 2022. The committee consists of people with different backgrounds and skill sets. Our attention is focused on Safety and Security, Health, and Buildings and Grounds.

Safety and Security

Greeters and Ushers play a key role of welcoming parishioners and guests, keeping watch and responding to health, safety and security concerns. Some of our ushers and greeters have received CPR-AED and first aid training. Some time ago, our ushers received police instruction on how to respond to a very rare possibility of an active shooter. New training sessions are being planned. Our greeters and

ushers have accumulated years of experience. They are familiar with patterns of behavior and would be the first to notice anything unusual or any potential problems. Training sessions are also being planned for office staff, organizations/societies and volunteers hosting events in the Church and Selbert Hall. Training will include discussion on how to handle a "suspicious" person and how to respond to trivial

situations up to catastrophic ones.

Camera surveillance within the church with recording and access to servers has been upgraded. Outdoor cameras have been ordered and will be installed. Cameras help as a deterrent and provide evidence if an accident, crime or vandalism occurs.



Health

- CPR dates back to 1740 and performing CPR can double or triple a victim of cardiac arrest's odds of survival
- Choking is one of the most common causes of accidental death
- Annunciation has successfully responded to various medical emergencies in the past

Response to an unexpected health related emergency was also a focus of the Safety, Security and Health Committee. The committee created a plan to provide guidance to ushers, greeters and parishioners who are qualified medical personnel willing to help. This strategy included how to properly manage a medical emergency on the surrounding Annunciation Parish buildings and grounds.

These individuals will receive appropriate training, and provide initial help and support until a more qualified person or EMTs arrive. Written guidelines for adult and child first aid have been placed on the walls near AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) located in the church, Selbert Hall, and other parish buildings. First Aid Kits are also present in parish buildings. When a decision to call 911 is made, the plan in-

cludes indicating the very specific location of the emergency and an individual will wait for the EMTs at a specific entry door.

During the course of any community health crisis, the Church of the Annunciation will consider all Diocese of Buffalo, local, state and federal guidance as it is issued and updated.

Buildings and Grounds



Our buildings and grounds are inspected regularly by Diocesan Insurance Services. Recommendations are made regarding the safety and maintenance of our physical infrastructure. With input from our parish maintenance staff and our volunteer St. Joseph Workers, a map has been drawn identifying the location of electric, gas and water shut offs to deal with emergency situations. A directory

has been created with emergency contact telephone numbers. The committee also discussed our response to weather events such as a tornado warning or winter blizzard. Our volunteer St. Joseph Workers work closely with our maintenance staff to ensure our buildings are well maintained. Annunciation has a very active Buildings and Grounds Committee that meets monthly to make sure our

buildings and properties are in the best condition and to plan capital projects in a timely manner and with best business practices.

Current Committee Goals and Objectives

The Safety, Security and Health Committee will continue to meet on a regular basis to update and implement our plans and to track/follow up on training. The committee's role will evolve with changing safety and health environments. We intend to invite parishioners to become more involved at Mass and to lend their ser-

vice at critical moments of need. We hope to identify people at weekend Masses who are willing to assist when issues arise within the assembly. Parishioners have always stepped forward to provide immediate medical care.

How to Get Involved

The Safety, Security and Health committee is always looking to identify parishioners who have specific skills in the areas of safety/security, medical and building trades. If you have experience in any of these fields and would like

to become involved, please reach out to committee chair Allison Smerka at 716-867-7616 or allisonsmerka@gmail.com



Church of the Annunciation

7580 Clinton Street
Elma, NY 14059

Phone: 716-683-5254
Email: eug.annunciation@gmail.com

Annunciation Church Website:
<https://annunciation.cc>

Current Committee Members

Father Gene
Mark Bergmann
Kim Driggs
Steven Flowers
Mike Geary
Frank Lewalski
Anthony Pivarunas
Mike Skrip
Allison Smerka
Chris Smerka
Homer Wilde

Phone Number Directory

NYSEG: 1-800-572-1131

Erie Water Authority: 716-684-0900

National Fuel: 1-800-444-3130

**Non-Emergency Police:
716-652-6554**

Church Rectory: 716-683-2077

**Mark Bergmann (Parish Staff):
716-870-2156 (mobile number)**

Annunciation Church and Property Building Services Information

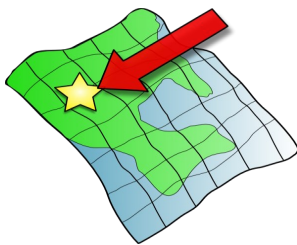
National Fuel and NYSEG are the utility companies which serve Annunciation Church. Detailed information on how to handle a gas or electrical emergency are listed on their websites and are also summarized below. Homer Wilde also created a layout map which indicate the location of utility shut offs.



NATIONAL FUEL GAS CO - NATURAL GAS SAFETY: SMELL GAS? LEAVE FAST.

If you smell rotten eggs, it could be a natural gas leak. Leave the area immediately and go to a safe location, and then contact National Fuel Gas at **800-444-3130** or call **911**. If you **SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK**, warn others, and avoid creating sparks or sources of heat that could ignite gas. Do not light a match. Do not start an engine. Do not use light switches. Do not light a flare. Use a phone at a safe location.

CARBON MONOXIDE is an odorless, colorless and dangerous gas. It is released when appliances that use natural gas are not working properly. Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and learn the symptoms - fatigue, coughing, headache, irregular breathing, dizziness, overall paleness, nausea, cherry red lips & ears, and carbon monoxide poisoning could lead to death



In case of emergency or accident inside the buildings, it might be necessary to shut off the power, gas or water facilities. Maps are located in Selbert Hall, the parish office, and the church utility room showing the location of utility shut offs and other details. While normally only handled by experts, these maps contain the required information and instructions so that any parishioner could shut down utilities in an emergency situation.



NYSEG - ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Call NYSEG's Electrical Emergency Line at **800-572-1131** and **911** to report a **LIFE THREATENING ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY**. Call the same NYSEG number to report a **POWER OUTAGE**. When reporting an outage, try to determine that it is not an internal problem. Is the whole building without power? Are other buildings, houses, traffic signals, street lights without power? If NYSEG sends a crew out and it is Annunciation's internal problem, there may be a charge. **WARNING!**

It is extremely dangerous to touch a power lines whether it is overhead or fallen on the ground. Call NYSEG's Electric Emergency Line at **800-572-1131** to report down power lines. Assume all lines are energized.

When reporting emergencies to the Power or Gas Companies or Fire or Police give specific locations especially if calling on a cell phone.

Example: Annunciation Church or Selbert Hall behind Annunciation Church, 7580 Clinton St, Elma NY, north east corner of Clinton St & Schwartz Rd

Example: Annunciation School or Office, 7580 Clinton Street, Elma NY, south east corner of Clinton St and Girdle Rd.