

Hi, my name is Rob Deddens and I would like to take a few moments of your time to tell you about the Holy Cross Bus Rider Ministry.

Holy Cross has a small bus that is able to transport up to 13 riders to and from Mass as needed. We typically offer this service for the Saturday afternoon Mass. In the most recent few years, due to the reduced numbers of riders, we have also had the choice to use our own personal vehicles. As ridership hopefully picks back up, however, the bus is always an option. My message this morning is for any potential riders and also potential drivers.

For the riders...if you or anyone you know is interested in getting a ride to Mass, the only prerequisite is...a desire to go to Mass! If you don't drive, can't drive or don't want to drive, we would love to help you out. You will typically receive a phone call on Friday evening, asking about your need for a ride the next day. The list of riders is then passed on to the weekly driver, who will contact you on Saturday with a specific pickup time, based on the route between the addresses. After Mass, the driver will return you safely back home. There is no fee for this service, and the only tip necessary is a friendly "Have a great week!" when we drop you off. We have a small bank of regulars who ride, so it is fun to see some of the same friends every week and catch up with what is happening in our lives. But we would love to expand our circle, so please contact us and we would be happy to provide this service for you.

For the drivers...this is a particularly meaningful ministry to be involved in as you are helping parishioners celebrate our faith within our community, when they may not have any other way of coming. You will need up to date insurance and a clean driving record, as well as a friendly smile and a big heart. We have a very small group of drivers currently and we would like to have more, so that each driver would typically drive once every 5 weeks or so. We have two drivers active, in the past we have had five, and six would be ideal, so we really could use 2-4 new drivers. If this interests you, we would love to have you. Twice a year, I will contact you (usually via email) to ask about any dates in the next six months that you are unable to drive. After reviewing those dates, I will make out a schedule and send it out for final approval. With enough drivers, you will only need to drive once every 5 or 6 weeks. That said, if something comes up on one of your scheduled dates, it is not a problem to get another driver to sub for you. As I mentioned, I will give you a list of riders on Friday of the week you are to drive, and you will be responsible for calling and arranging pickup times on Saturday.

This is a great ministry to be involved in, whether you are a rider or a driver. There is a nice sense of comradery in this group, and it is a great way to meet and stay connected with parishioners that you may not otherwise know. The riders are deeply appreciative of the service, and the drivers are kind and courteous and really do a great job of making everyone feel welcome and safe. I will be in the Commons after Mass, and I would love to talk to you more about being involved in this wonderful ministry.