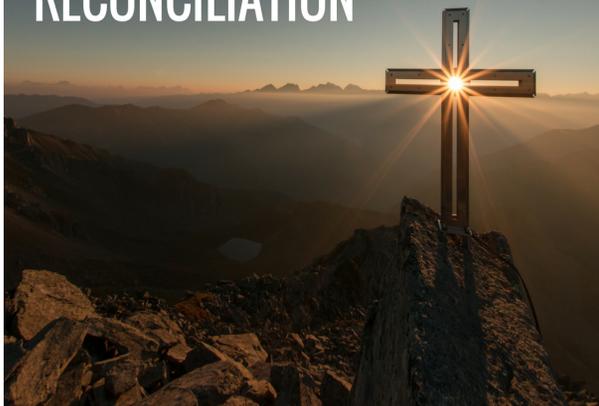


HOPE  
HEALING  
RECONCILIATION



We are here to help...

If you or someone you love is experiencing problems associated with alcohol or drugs, please call (XXX-XXX\_XXXX).

All calls are confidential.

At St. (XXXX) Parish, our SAM team serves as a bridge to God's grace and healing by providing understanding, acceptance, support, information, and referral to anyone seeking help. We also provide prevention education to parish and community groups.

## Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.*

*Amen*

Substance Addiction Ministry (SAM) is supported by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis through the Office of Human Life & Dignity

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ARCHDIOCESE  
OF INDIANAPOLIS  
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

# Substance Addiction Ministry (SAM)



# How Our Parish's SAM Team Serves Those in Need

## Mission Statement

Substance Addiction ministry (SAM) will provide education about addictive disease, and places where help can be found. SAM will offer spiritual and prayerful support, acceptance, understanding and healing.

*Lets open our eyes and recognize drug addiction for what it is. Lets make serious decisions about steps we can take as individuals, families, and communities to address all of the contributing factors to the current opioid epidemic.*

ARCHBISHOP C. THOMPSON  
PASTORAL LETTER

## SAM TEAMS .....

- are stewards of the parish's most valuable "treasure" - its people
- share their "time and talent," offering hope, healing, and reconciliation to parishioners touched by addictions
- provide a safe, confidential place for parishioners to call for help and referral.
- increase awareness of addiction through education to various ministries and parish groups and in the community.
- provide education, referrals, awareness/ resources, and support.

## Policy on Substance Addiction

When the life of one whom we love is at risk and when the quality of life for those close to that person is threatened, we are charged with the responsibility to respond in a direct and loving manner.

Alcohol and drug addiction is an epidemic in our society. The entire family is "affected," not just the "afflicted" member. Addiction is an illness that devastates the whole person, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Substance addiction is not a moral problem or weakness. The American Medical Association (AMA) classifies alcohol and drug dependence as a primary disease, characterized by distinct stages of development, with specific signs and symptoms. If left untreated, it can be fatal.

Denial is characteristic of addictive disease and is based in shame and maintained by a conspiracy of silence. The first step in addressing the problem is to begin talking about it, thus reducing shame, and opening the door to treatment and recovery of the entire family.

St. XXXXX  
Catholic Church

Referral Line: XXX-XXX-XXXX  
Address

Phone:

Email:

Website: [www.xxxparish.org](http://www.xxxparish.org)

# History of SAM in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Outreach to those affected and afflicted by addiction enjoys a long history in the Archdiocese, going back to Fr. Ralph Pfau, the first known priest to be helped by Alcoholics Anonymous and founder of what is today the National Catholic Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems (NCCA).



The Archdiocese is deeply grateful for the pioneering development and support of Mr. Erik Vagenius of the Diocese of Palm Beach for authoring the SAM ministry model and to Deacon Bill Jones and Fr. Larry Voelker for their leadership and initiative in bringing SAM to the Archdiocese in 2006.

*We must act in ways that are consistent with our baptismal responsibility to bring the healing power of Jesus Christ to all who suffer*

ARCHBISHOP C. THOMPSON  
PASTORAL LETTER