



The Steps

Addiction Recovery
Ministry Newsletter

July, 2023

Addiction Recovery Ministry

Bringing hope and healing to those suffering from a substance use disorder
and those who love them.

Support

12-Step meeting—Every Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Matthew Talbot Center for Healing and Hope at St. Francis of Assisi Hall,
2599 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Also meetings in Sharpsburg at the JPI Center, 201 9th Street

NA - Mondays at 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m., Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

NARANON Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

ALANON Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

The Brother Mark Lowery Resource Library is open daily Monday through Thursday
from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in the Matthew Talbot Center for Healing and Hope. All are
welcome to come and borrow available literature.

We also have continuing grief support sessions and a 6 Steps to Sanity class. Please
watch for further information on beginning dates.

Enrichment

1:00 p.m.—Every Monday Father Michael Decewicz gives a brief presentation on
issues surrounding addiction and recovery. The topic starting in April will be the 12
Traditions. You can watch Father live on our Facebook page, Addiction Recovery
Ministry Pittsburgh, and then later on our website,
<https://www.addictionrecoveryministrypittsburgh.org>

7:00 p.m.—Third Monday of each month Father Michael gives a reflection
in St. Francis Church, also on Facebook (live streaming,) and the next day it can be
viewed on our website. The topics and dates are listed below:

Monday, July 17—Scripture Psalm 13

Topic: The Gift of Desperation

Monday, August 21—Scripture James 2:14-19

Topic: Necessity of Service

Monday, September 18—Scripture Luke 15:1-7

Topic: Service - Gratitude and Joy

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Special Event

Addiction Recovery Ministry is hosting a Celebration of Recovery on Sunday, September 10, from 6-9 pm in Atithi Studios, 1020 North Canal Street, Sharpsburg. Come and join us for an evening of music, food, speakers, and an art project as we celebrate the grace of recovery.

Spiritual Enrichment

Mass—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Noon in St. Francis Church

Continuing Activities

Don't forget we continue to pack lunches on a monthly basis for Light of Life Rescue Mission. We fill brown bags with non-perishable items, such as tuna salad or chicken salad with crackers in a box, raisins, granola bars, small bags of chips, small bags of cookies, powdered drinks or juice boxes, chewing gum, fruit cups, and candy.

In addition, we collect funds for our Bill Dixon Memorial Hope Fund sponsored through Gateway Rehab. Addiction Recovery Ministry helps with funds for people who have completed a program and need assistance with bus passes, first month's rent, clothing, and food.

Never put a period where God put a comma

I came across this phrase a few years ago and I really believe it speaks profoundly to the person in recovery. You notice we always say, "recovery," never "recovered." Recovery is not static. Rather, it is dynamic and fluid. There is no cure for a substance use disorder; that is addiction/alcoholism. There is treatment, but no cure. Addiction is a fatal, progressive disease and if left untreated, will be fatal! That is why we say recovery. That being the case, then there is only a comma on our journey of recovery. Because this journey into honesty, humility, and growth never ends. The longer we are in recovery, the more we learn about ourselves. The more honest we become, the more we see our strengths and weaknesses. The more humble we become, the more we understand, embrace, and celebrate powerlessness. We understand how powerlessness relieves us of the burden to be self. And remember, powerlessness is not the same as helplessness. We are not helpless; we chose recovery. We choose to follow the program. We choose not to take the first drink or drug. And in recovery, we never stop growing. As we continue with the adventure of recovery, the more we see, own, feel our God, and live our truth. So there is no period! No graduation into sobriety, no report card, or measuring our progress. There is only constant growth. The clearer our sight, the more we see. The more we see, the greater our experience of God, who knows us, warts and all, and loves us; loves us extravagantly and unconditionally. We come to see that God's love is a gift. We did not earn it and we cannot lose it. There is never a period or end to recovery. It is a whole way of living. Living in humble, honest gratitude. Knowing and believing with our whole heart that for God, there is no period. There is always a comma, allowing us to continue to grow into the miracle of recovery.