In September 2018, Guardian Angels began an intentional process of discernment around the scandal of abuse and coverup in the Catholic Church. A major part of this process was a series of listening and dialogue sessions where over 150 parishioners gathered to share their grief and anger, and also their hopes and dreams for the future. Out of these gatherings we created a parish team called GA Responds: Church at a Crossroads. This team has been meeting for a year, working on healing, structural change here at GA and planning for the future. One of the most frequent comments during the parish-wide sessions was a request for the reinstatement of the lay preaching program that had flourished at GA for many years. Our parish leadership, including Trustees, Parish Pastoral Council, Staff and Liturgy Commission have all approved the renewal of our lay preaching program. A Lay Preaching Task Force has been formed to provide structure to this initiative.

The parish is contracting with Partners in Preaching, a non-profit team dedicated to the training and formation of lay preachers. The training is comprehensive, will unfold over six months, and will require a serious commitment of time from the candidates. The selected candidates will be asked to contribute $300 toward the cost of their training. (Payment plans and/or scholarships are available if needed.) The training will be conducted over 6 months, with one Saturday session, and an evening session each month from June to November.

All interested parishioners are invited to attend an informational session at Guardian Angels on Monday, March 16, 2020, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in Rooms M-4/5. RSVP’s helpful but not required. Any questions you may have about time commitment, content of the training and formation sessions and other considerations can be answered at this informational session.

We invite all parishioners to spend time in thought, prayer and conversation with others about whether you might be called to this ministry. We encourage you to think about this ministry for yourself and also to consider other parishioners you believe ought to apply and encourage them. To apply, please complete the Lay Preaching Candidate Application, either electronically through bit.ly/laypreaching or in paper form to the Parish Office. Application deadline is Monday, April 6, 2020.
Guardian Angels Catholic Community
Lay Preaching Candidate
Application

Name: ______________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________

Email: ______________________________________________________

Occupation: ________________________________________________

Please submit a separate written document, answering these questions in essay form.

1. Why are you interested in the preaching ministry?

2. Please describe your current or previous involvement in the Guardian Angels community, and what that means to you.

3. How would you describe your familiarity with Sacred Scripture?

4. Please summarize those aspects of your life experience and educational background which you believe are significant in preparation for this ministry.

5. Please describe how comfortable you currently are in a public speaking role.

6. Please list and briefly describe what you see as the major strengths and weaknesses you would bring to the lay preaching ministry.

7. There is a significant commitment required for the lay preaching ministry. Do you feel you will receive support for this ministry from your family, friends and colleagues?

8. Provide any additional personal statements you wish to make.

Submission deadline: Monday, April 6, 2020

If possible, please submit your application via this link: bit.ly/laypreaching

Hard copies also accepted at the Parish Office.