

SERVANT OF THE WEEK—

ROSE SOKIRA



Rose Sokira has been married to hubby Walter for 57 years, and she's very proud of her family of 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren (5 adopted) and 2 great grandchildren. For 18 years, Rose was an assistant V-P for First Merit Bank, but retired to help with grandchildren. Later she went to work for Macy's part-time, but retired in 2009 to care for her husband. She's been a member of OLV for 26 years, and got active soon after joining us. She said, "I felt a calling to put my past experiences that God allowed me to share in order to help the people and families of our parish. When I was young, my mother encouraged me to be involved with girl's sodality in Portage, PA. We met on Sunday's to plan the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This, I believe, was

the foundation of my desire to serve." Rose became a Minister of Communion in 1989, and a Lector in 2002. She had to interrupt her service to recover from several surgeries that prevented her from moving up and down the stairs. She came back to the schedule a few years ago, but that too was short-lived with another serious health issue. She's now back at 5:00 Mass as a Commentator—the ministry that takes just one step to serving God's people at prayer. Rose has shared Our Lord Jesus as an EM at Mass, and as a Minister to the Sick to homebound and at our nursing homes. "I love people. It is hard to explain the feeling one has when you walk into a room of a person not feeling well, and their eyes light up and a smile appears on their face. I love giving and sharing because God has always given so much to me." In addition, Rose has been a Bloodmobile volunteer, enjoys baking her famous nut rolls for the Bazaar, participates with Walt at K of C gatherings, and looks forward to Sponsi. "I particularly love the Sponsi Dinners, where we are able to sit down in a casual setting to enjoy a meal and special entertainment with members of the parish. This setting gives one the opportunity to develop close relationships within our parish family." From the beginning, Rose has been happy at OLV. "When I joined OLV, the first day I went to Mass, I felt as if I had come home. Everyone was so friendly, and it still feels that way all these years later."