

## *St. Mary's Volunteer Liturgical Ministry Opportunities*

Liturgical Ministry is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to fulfill our baptismal call of service to one another. Our liturgies should utilize the talents and gifts that God has given this community to the fullest extent. Whether participation is through "behind the scenes" preparation and planning or through a public role of service within the Mass, parishioner contributions help our liturgies to be truly life-giving celebrations. To help you discern the many liturgical ministry opportunities at St. Mary's and how you can share your special gifts with us, we invite you to pray and reflect on how the Holy Spirit is calling YOU to serve.

### *~The Liturgical Ministries~*

**Lectors:** The most important message we hear all week comes to us with clarity and conviction from the Lector. A lector should have a passion for Scripture, an ability to interpret and understand scripture, and sufficient public speaking skills to proclaim the Word to the assembly. Individual training sessions can be scheduled by contacting our coordinator, Daniel Crawford. Baptized people of all ages are welcome to serve!

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC):** The faith of the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is shared by the Church, that when we receive Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood - the very person - of Jesus Christ. Each minister is urged to grow in love for the Eucharist and to personify the love of Christ for others. Eligible ministers must be fully initiated (Baptized and Confirmed) members of the Church. Individual and small group training is provided by contacting our coordinator, Lois Baumgartner.

**Musicians:** The role of the Church musician, whether a Cantor and accompanist, or an ensemble singer and instrumentalist, is to inspire the *full, conscious and active participation of the assembly*. Music heightens our worship celebration and encourages unity in prayer. Beth Shaver coordinates our music ministry.

**Altar Servers:** Children 8 years of age or older who have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to become active participants in the Liturgy through the Altar Server ministry. Attentiveness to the Liturgy of the Word and a reverence for the Eucharist are required when assisting the priest at the altar in all areas of the celebration. This is a wonderful ministry opportunity for families to serve together. On-going training for individual or small groups is provided by our co-coordinators Jim Neill and Catherine Merola.

**Environment and Art:** Special care is given to creating an atmosphere conducive for worship and prayer throughout the liturgical year. Decorators, floral arrangers, and seamstresses should have an appreciation for religious art and décor in many forms, all of which reflect and celebrate the spirit of our varied liturgical feasts and seasons. Kate Bixby coordinates.

**Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers and Greeters):** Ministers of Hospitality are the face of Christ and their greeting will *evangelize*. The goal of this ministry is to help each person who enters our church feel that he or she is an important and welcomed part of our joyous and spiritual community. Ministers of Hospitality begin the process of forming the community into the worshipping Body of Christ.

Families and teens are particularly encouraged to serve.

**Greeters** play an essential role in establishing a warm and inviting atmosphere for worship at our weekly celebrations.

**Ushers** are ministers who lead people to the appropriate places in church, direct processions and take up the collection in the church. Coordinator Felix Amenkhienan is available to train on an individual basis.

**Ministers of Incense:** As Catholics, we express our worship of Almighty God in words and gestures. Burning of incense is a prayer in itself; a prayer in action. The purpose of incensing and the symbolic value of the smoke is that of prayer, blessing, purification, and sanctification and lends and adds a sense of solemnity and mystery to our Mass. Training is provided to those interested in serving as Ministers of Incense at our seasonal holy day liturgical celebrations.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Currently offered at the 11:30am Mass, with the goal to expand to the 8:45am Mass, Children's Liturgy is designed to break open the Gospel message with stories, songs and prayers at a level that kids from pre-school age 4 through 2nd Grade can readily understand. If you can read a story to a child, you can lead Children's Liturgy of the Word! Sue Ellerbrock coordinates.

**Sacristans:** Our team of Sacristans take care of the behind-the-scenes details of our celebrations, making sure the priest and all our ministers have what they need to perform their ministries effectively. Church supplies are inventoried and maintained, vessels are stored appropriately and securely, and linens are laundered and well organized. Sacristans also help with the proper set-up for Masses, including the celebrations of funerals and baptisms and other rites. Jeanette Snider is our coordinator.

**Sacristan Cleaners:** Our sacristan cleaners perform an invaluable service by ensuring that our worship area and the narthex are in consistently beautiful condition. Many hands make light work, especially in this ministry! Nelson and Patricia Carey are our coordinators and the team meets Monday mornings.

## ***Interested in Serving St. Mary's Parish?***

The following training sessions will be held...

Altar Servers: October 17th, 5:30 to 8:30 pm (with a pizza and Bingo party)

Lectors: November 4th, 6:30 (dinner) 7:00 to 8:00 pm (training)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: November 8th, 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Ministers of Hospitality: November 15th, 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Ministry Commissioning: December 7th, 2nd Sunday of Advent, at all weekend Masses

Contact: Beth Shaver, Director of Liturgy, 552-1091 ext 15

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