



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

“There are different gifts but the same Spirit, there are different ministries but the same Lord ...

To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Every person is called to contribute to the liturgy in a manner suited to his or her unique talents. It takes the help of many people serving in a variety of different liturgical ministries to help the liturgy flow smoothly and enable the participation of the assembly.

We invite young and not-so-young to prayerfully reflect on the gifts God has given you and consider volunteering your talents for one of our liturgical ministries. **Come, join us!**

Information on the Liturgical Ministries may also be found on the parish website:
www.stjosephmiddletown.com

- **Training:** Spiritual formation and hands-on task training is provided to help you get started in all of the listed ministries.
- **Scheduling:** Liturgical ministers are generally scheduled at the Mass time of their preference as often as fits their schedule and are asked to arrive 20 minutes before their scheduled Mass begins.
- **Contact:** Please contact the individual listed at the end of each section for more information about any of the following ministries and to find out when training will be held.

ALTAR SERVERS

“Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...” Matthew 20:28

The primary role of the altar server is to assist the priest in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. This involves presenting or arranging vessels and other items used in the celebrations. As members of the assembly who are often visible to all, the altar servers also model good liturgical participation by actively joining in the hymns, prayers and responses of the liturgy, and by sitting, standing, or kneeling at the appropriate times. Servers are needed for both St. Rose of Lima and St. Joseph Churches.

Requirements:

- Must be in 5th—12th grade and regularly attend Mass.
- Must be a baptized member of the Catholic Church and have already received First Eucharist.
- Must be willing to participate fully as a member of the liturgical assembly.

- Must have parental permission to serve.

Training:

Training to become an altar server is held once or twice a year, as needed.

For more information about the altar server program, contact the parish office, at 302-378-5800 or via email at vbenn@stjosephmiddletown.com.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT

“For everything there is a season...” Ecclesiastes 3:1

This team works behind the scenes to transform our Worship environment to heighten the awareness of the festive, solemn, or penitential nature of the different liturgical seasons. Their quiet presence is often unnoticed, yet the results of their labors are visible to all the parish community. A variety of helpers are needed to prepare a prayerful atmosphere in the worship space throughout the liturgical year. This includes:

- **Seasonal Decorating** - People are needed to arrange flowers and plants, to iron and hang banners, and to place other items appropriate for the liturgical season or special liturgy in both churches and the entrances of the churches prior to major feasts and seasons such as Christmas and Easter.
- Seasonal decorating assistance is also necessary at the end of the major seasons to remove the decor and properly store it for the next year.

No experience is necessary. Helpers must enjoy working with others, be willing to accept direction, and be able to assist with moving, lifting, and preparing items to be placed in the environment. We also welcome artists of various medias to help envision new ideas and work on our various projects throughout the year.

For more information about helping on the Art and Environment Team at **St. Joseph Church**, contact Liz Teixeira, at 302-373-7865 or via email at texieras4@verizon.net.

For more information about helping on the Art and Environment Team at **St. Rose of Lima Church**, contact Barbara Zasowski at 443-553-9824 or via email at blzasowski@gmail.com.

BEREAVEMENT

***“O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console...”*** Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

The **Bereavement Committee** provides a comforting service for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Our members support the family during the Funeral Liturgy, and by welcoming family and friends to our Parish. We also have members who help and assist in the Parish Hall should the family desire a luncheon.

Bereavement is a rewarding, important ministry to our Parish. We welcome men and women who may have an hour or more to dedicate when called upon.

Seasons of Hope is a bereavement outreach ministry offered by our parish to support those who have lost a loved one. This support group is centered on Jesus Christ and grounded in the teachings of the Catholic Church. It explores mourning by using scripture, prayer, reflection, activities and faith sharing giving the bereaved an opportunity for healing and spiritual growth.

If you believe that God is calling you to serve the Church in one of these ministries, or **for more information**, please contact Dee Headley at 302-740-4212 or via email at kheadley@stjosephmiddletown.com.

LECTORS

***"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse
them." Isaiah 50:4***

Description:

Lectors strive to make the Liturgy of the Word as meaningful as possible for the worshipping assembly by speaking God's Word as storyteller, telling how God has acted and is acting in our lives. Lectors must proclaim God's Word in a clear and compelling manner so that the worshipping assembly will be inspired to ponder and meditate on God's words in their daily lives. Lectors also raise the prayers of the faithful to God on behalf of the assembly. Two lectors are needed at every weekend and holy day Mass. The first lector proclaims the Old Testament reading; the second lector proclaims the New Testament reading and acts as intercessor by raising the prayers of the faithful (petitions) to God. Lectors are needed at both St. Rose of Lima and St. Joseph Churches.

Requirements:

- Must be in at least 11th grade or older and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Must have a clear, steady voice and be comfortable reading in public.
- Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.
- Must be willing to study the Scripture passage and take time to practice proclaiming the reading before each liturgical assignment to achieve effective liturgical proclamation.
- Lectors are expected to dress in a modest and respectful manner.

Training:

Guidelines for the ministry and practical training are provided. Lectors receive a workbook with the readings for the current liturgical year as a resource in their preparation.

For more information about being an lector at St. Joseph or St. Rose of Lima Churches, contact Ed Fitzgerald at 302-378-3622 or via email at edfitz39@verizon.net.

MARTHA'S GUILD

"LET THE FAVOR OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON US, AND PROSPER FOR US THE WORK OF OUR HANDS – O PROSPER THE WORK OF OUR HANDS!" PSALM 90: 17

The duties of the Martha's Guild are to clean the sanctuary, the sacristy, both gathering spaces, the body of the church, and the conference room. Cleaning consists of:

- Dusting the pews and all the furniture.
- Cleaning out the hymnal racks.
- Sweeping under all the pews and aisles. These same areas are then wet mopped.
- Washing all of the lower windows in the body of the church as well as the three sets of doors at the entrance to the church.
- Altar Server robes are laundered by volunteers of Martha's Guild.
- The Guild also launders and irons the linens used at Mass and other special liturgies.

There are four rotating groups of volunteers. Each group consists of about 14 people. We meet every Thursday after the 8:30 mass. The entire cleaning process takes approximately one and a half hours.

This committee gives you the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord through the sharing of time and energy.

For more information on Martha's Guild, contact Loretta Williams at 302-378-8635.

MUSIC MINISTRY

"SING JOYFULLY TO THE LORD, ALL YOU LANDS; BREAK FORTH INTO SONG; SING PRAISE." PSALM 98:4

The members of the assembly are the primary music-makers in the liturgy, and it is the goal of the music ministers to bring the song of the assembled community to life during each Mass. Our music ministry provides sung and instrumental music for weekend Masses, funerals, weddings, and special liturgies using a mix of traditional and contemporary styles containing lyrics that are consistent with Catholic teaching. There are a variety of opportunities available for people wanting to share their musical gifts with the parish, including the following:

CANTORS

Cantors proclaim the Word of God in the Psalms and lead the assembly in sung prayer. They are assigned to Masses on a rotating basis, generally serving 22 4 times per month. Rehearsals/coaching are generally held every other week, but may be more frequent during the seasons of Advent and Lent or for other special occasions. Cantors do not need to belong to one of the choirs.

Those wishing to serve in this role should possess:

- Vocal confidence, including the ability to speak clearly and distinctly
- A good sense of rhythm and pitch
- The ability to learn music quickly and accurately
- The confidence to stand before the assembly and make poised gestures of invitation
- An engaging manner and joyful spirit

Practical training is provided and singers who are not yet comfortable singing alone can be paired up with another to lead the singing at Mass.

PARISH CHOIR

The Choir is open to all parishioners high school age and older. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. The Choir generally sings at one Mass each weekend; the Mass assignments vary, but are predominantly 9:30 or 11:30 a.m. The season generally runs from September to June. The Choir also leads sung prayer at various special liturgies such as Christmas Midnight Mass, the Sacred Paschal Triduum, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. No audition is required. Members do not need to know how to read music. All we ask you to bring is a love of singing, a willingness to learn, and a desire to serve the parish through song!

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

Prayer, friendship, and music. The Contemporary Choir is a family of “friends in faith” brought together by our love of music and a desire to lead the parish community in prayerful worship. We are blessed to have talented musicians on vocals, guitars, flute, drums and percussion to add a contemporary sound to liturgical music. The Contemporary Choir generally rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. Any changes are communicated via email. New players are welcome to join! We are open to musicians of various levels and will provide mentoring experience for playing music during liturgy. Bring your voice or your instrument and come join us in making music to praise the Lord!

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Do you play brass, percussion, string, or woodwind instrument and are willing to share your talents at Mass? Musicians who are proficient in their instrument are always sought for enhancing our liturgies, especially at Christmas, Easter and other important celebrations. If you would like to serve the parish with your gift of music for special occasions, rather than weekly, please contact us and let us know what you play and when you would be interested in playing.

For more information about any of the music ministry opportunities at St. Joseph Parish, contact Rosemary Hadland, Coordinator of Music Ministries, at 609-947-5619, or by email at rhadland@stjosephmiddletown.com

USHERS/MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew

25:35

Ushers are signs of familiarity and stability for the worshipping community. Extending hospitality imitates God's gracious welcome and furthers the assembly's ability to worship. Ushers serve with discretion, creating an atmosphere conducive to prayer and worship. Their role is one of hosting with warmth, friendship, respect, and with a true attitude of service. The ministry is open to men and women high school age and above.

The primary responsibilities of ushers include:

- Helping seat assembly members as they arrive
- Taking up the collection
- Assisting the gift bearers
- Guiding the communion procession
- Distributing bulletins after Mass
- Assisting parishioners in case of illness or emergency
- Preparing the worship space for the next liturgy by picking up trash, etc.

The commitment is generally not more than two liturgies per month. Ushers are asked to arrive fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of their assigned liturgy and remain until the assembly has departed.

Guidelines for the ministry and training on hospitality, the flow of the liturgy, responsibilities and procedures are provided to assist those interested in becoming ushers.

For more information about being an usher at St. Joseph Parish, contact Phil Czerniak 302-981-0862 or by email at pmcinde@hotmail.com.