

ST. MARY'S PARISH

Opportunities to Serve

LITURGY

Altar Server

Altar servers play an important role in assisting the priest during the celebration of the Holy Mass, including processions, preparation of the altar and ringing of bells. Our parish youth are eligible to serve after they have received First Holy Communion. Training is provided!

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Altar Server Coordination

To assist Father John, the parish needs an adult to be responsible for coordination of servers, and assistance with training of new servers.

Contact: Fr. John Maria and Sudarshan Fernando

Funeral Ministry/Adult Server

Funeral Masses are often held during times when youth Altar Servers are not available. Adult servers help with basic tasks during Mass, including procession, bells and assistance with incense.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Decorate Church

We seek assistance in decoration of the church throughout the year, but typically focused on Christmas and Holy Week. Typically, this requires just a few hours before the major feasts.

Contact: Sudarshan Fernando

Rosary Leader

Take a turn in leading the Holy Rosary which is prayed at 4 pm each Saturday before the 4:30 Mass. Each week of the month a different person leads the rosary according to a rotating schedule.

Contact: Valetta Eshbach

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Assist in the reverent distribution of the Holy Eucharist during weekend Masses. Some may also be able to visit the sick at homes and nursing homes, according to schedule. Requires training, commissioning and humble devotion to the Lord's Real Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Contact: Sister Patrice

Greeter

Welcome people at door to sanctuary, and bring gifts to the altar during the offertory procession. Help distribute bulletins after Mass.

Contact: Sister Patrice

Usher

Provide assistance to those in need, take up collections and supervise processions during Holy Communion. Tidy up church after Mass.

Contact: Sister Patrice

Lector

Proclaim readings from Scripture during weekend Masses, according to rotating schedule.

Contact: Valetta Eshbach

Music Ministry

Our Music Ministry is vital to assisting our parish family in the worship of the Lord, during Mass and other liturgical services. The beauty of music can draw souls closer to the heart of the Lord.

According to the great St. Augustine, those “who sing, pray twice!” Must be present for scheduled Masses. May participate seasonally or year-long as schedule permits. Particular roles are described below.

Contact: Anne Sitarik

Choir

Choir members are scheduled for selected weekly Masses, with weekly rehearsal during the school year.

Cantor

From among the choir, cantors step forward to lead the congregation in song, including the Responsorial Psalm and Alleluia verse.

Instrumentalist

Accompany the choir in enhancing worship and prayer during the Mass. Those who are skilled in organ, piano, guitar or flute add great beauty to our prayer.

Organist

The organ has great pride of place in the Catholic musical tradition. Organists are needed for weekly music ministry, as well as particular liturgies such as weddings and funerals.

FAITH FORMATION: EVANGELIZATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**Religious Education – Children**

Our parish takes seriously the provision of devout religious education to prepare our parish children in lifelong fidelity to the Lord! This is to guide and supplement the teaching and example of parents, who are the primary educators of the children. Particular roles are described below.

Contact: Ann Pergosky

Baptism Preparation

Provide reflection and instruction on the Sacrament of Baptism and parental responsibilities in preparation for their child’s baptism. Review baptismal liturgy with parents who attend two meetings, as needed.

Catechist, K-8

Teach our parish youth the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith. Convey the truth of Christ and His Church, with loving witness. Catechist formation and training is provided, along with excellent and easy-to-use classroom curriculum. K-5 classes meet most Sundays between September and April. 6-8 classes meet two Sunday evenings per month, between September and April.

Catechist Aid / Substitute

If not ready to commit to a particular grade level, aids and substitutes are so helpful in assisting the catechists, and becoming familiar with the process.

Religious Ed - Volunteer Assistant

Assistance in being present during class times, and in special projects.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We are exploring resuming the Children's Liturgy of the Word. On select Sundays at the 9am Mass, children in K through 5 would process to a nearby classroom for the Liturgy of the Word, geared to their level of understanding. They return to their families and the congregation after the intercessions. We will need adult coordinators, youth lectors, and song leaders.

Religious Education – Youth Group

Our youth group is open to teens, grades 9 through 12. We include a variety of social, spiritual and catechetical activities. Adults with a rapport with young people are welcome to be team members, and witnesses to the Catholic faith.

Contact: Ann Pergosky

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND ONGOING ADULT FORMATION

Formation in the faith does not end with Confirmation! We must continue to learn and grow in our Catholic faith, so as to more effectively share it with others.

Evangelization Committee

As Catholic Christians, we have been given the fullness of truth and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are the beneficiaries of the generosity of past generations who have shared the gift of faith. This new committee will consider and implement ways to share our precious faith.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Outreach to Lapsed Parishioners

When there are members of the flock who have wandered, the parish family suffers. We want to reach out to welcome them back. This new committee will consider and implement ways to invite them home!

Contact: Fr. John Maria

New Family Peer Companion

In modern Catholic parishes, it can be easy for some members to “slip through the cracks.” In some cases, Fr. John would like to have a pool of trusted parishioners who are available to befriend new members, helping them to get settled and grow in the faith.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Faith Sharing - Small Group Coordinator

Our parish is blessed with the availability of small groups who are committed to going deeper in their Catholic faith, along with friends on the journey. These groups regularly study Catholic teaching from FORMED.org and other trusted sources, with the goal of being stronger witnesses to Christ. We will soon need help in coordinating these groups.

Contact: Dottie Boyle and Fr. John Maria

Mary's Café – Setup & Hospitality Team

At Mary's Café, Fr. John speaks on some aspect of our faith, with time for questions and answers. This is a great opportunity each month to grow in the faith in an informal way, with groups of parishioners in fellowship. We will need assistance in setup and hospitality.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Prayer Team

As Christians, we are called to pray for one another. Might you be willing to commit to praying 10 minutes per day for the renewal and zeal of the parish for Jesus? Might you be willing to take part in the Prayer Chain, praying for particular requests?

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Scripture Study

The Word of God is living and active! Sacred Scripture is foundational to our Catholic faith, and is already an important part of our other adult formation groups. For those with a particular desire for a regular Bible Study, we want to provide a way.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

RCIA Sponsor/Team Member

For adults interested in becoming Catholics, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is offered on a regular basis each year. We take each learner step by step through the essential teachings of the Church in an informal atmosphere that is open to questions and reflection. Team members are welcome to assist and befriend our new sisters and brothers in Christ, and where needed, may serve as sponsor.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Parish Facilities Assistance

We are blessed to have a beautiful campus with many resources for parish life. As with any family home, things malfunction and projects arise that require time, attention and expertise. Fr John is looking for parishioners who may be called upon to help get these accomplished. Particular roles are described below.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Property Management Assistant

A volunteer willing to give several hours per week to address issues that arise and help coordinate repair and resolution.

Facilities Committee (Projects)

As priorities are identified and accumulated, a team of parishioners with expertise in particular areas such as plumbing, electric, lawn or general contracting will help get things done right.

Project Work & Completion

For those with particular expertise unable to serve on a committee, but willing to take on particular tasks as they arise, we need a few capable people that can step in for small tasks.

Open/Close for Occasional Events

There are occasional events that require opening and closing of the church, when staff is not available. Trusted parishioners with time and availability would be a great help in these times.

St. Michael's Ministry

This ministry was developed to anticipate security and safety needs for our parish campus. We need parishioners with expertise to contribute to this important work.

Contact: Linda Sanchez

Parish Fellowship and Outreach

Ladies Auxiliary

The Auxiliary promotes Christian fellowship and spiritual development for women of the parish at monthly meetings and activities, such as the Holiday Bazaar and Women's Retreat. The Auxiliary also provides various services to the parish and people in need. All women 18 years and older are encouraged to join.

Contact: Roberta Parambo

Men of St. Mary's

The Men of St. Mary's do many parish projects and also help fellow parishioners in need. They help sponsor the Summer Parish Social; organize and support the Soup Kitchen project and donate to charitable organizations. Four hoagie sales per year fund these efforts. Monthly meetings are held during coffee and donuts, 10:30a, 2nd Sunday of each month.

Contact: Tom Cengeri

Pro-Life Committee

As Catholics, we must provide a consistent witness to the sanctity and dignity of each human life, from conception to natural death. This committee works to encourage and educate parish on pro-life projects, including coordination with local crisis pregnancy centers to support their direct assistance to mothers and families in need.

Contact: John Tucker

Breakfast Prep Team

Help is needed to cook, wash dishes, wait on tables, set up and clean up. Breakfast is served 9-11:15am the 6 Sundays of the year in fall and winter. (Periodic: Oct-April)

Contact: Ralph Touch

Coffee & Donuts Team

Set-up, serve coffee and donuts and cleanup. Coffee and donuts are provided weekly, after the 9am Mass, but not on major feasts or when breakfast is served.

Contact: Carm Sosik

Easter Egg Hunt

Our yearly event is a big hit for families with children of all ages. Help is needed to collect and purchase materials in advance. On Holy Saturday, help is needed to set up hunt by age levels and distribute awards.

Contact: Sue Zawaly

Fish Dinner Team

Helpers are needed to cook, wait on diners, bus tables and help cashier on the day of dinners. Helpers may also come together to cook during the days before the dinners. Fish dinners are served on one Friday in Lent.

Contact: Ralph Touch

Spaghetti Dinner (Annual)

Held in January or February in coordination with religious ed, the spaghetti dinner proceeds support the Heifer Project. Help needed to prepare, serve, clean up.

Contact: Ann Pergosky / Ralph Touch

Hoagie Sales & Prep

Help the Men of St. Mary's sell and prepare hoagies. Profit supports various activities, projects and charities. Hoagie sales occur about 4 times yearly.

Contact: Fred Alkons

Holiday Bazaar

Help the Ladies Auxiliary organize, set-up and take down tables, decorations, etc.; bake and sell cookies and other baked goods; organize and work in the White Elephant and Used Book rooms; prepare and serve food; and sell raffle tickets. It is held on the first Saturday in November.

Contact: Annie Fullington / Deb Williams

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This is a work of service, charity and prayer as we make the prayer shawl and pray for the person who will use it.

Contact: Linda Sanchez

Soup Kitchen: Prep & Serving Teams

Provide food and loving witness to our brothers and sisters in need at Kennedy House Soup Kitchen in Reading. Two weekends each year, we prepare and provide a weekend meal for 200-400 persons. Tasks involve: gathering food in advance; coordinating kitchen help; preparing the meal on Thursday or Friday in our parish kitchen. heat and serve at the Kennedy House on Saturday and Sunday, 9am-2pm.

Contact: Tom Fullington

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Help evaluate requests for assistance from those in need in a spirit of Christian charity, and provide assistance and referrals to additional means of support.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Welcome Ministry

Provide hospitality to the parish's newest families. Two members meet with newly registered parishioners in order to get to know them, their needs & interests and share what the parish has to offer. Team members may be asked to serve only 2-3 times each year.

Contact: Kathy Rauenzahn

Rectory Project Assistance

Parish Directory

The parish directory is produced every few years and is a great benefit for getting to know and appreciate our parish family.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Bulk Mail Assistant

Occasional help is needed to fill, seal and label envelopes for mailings to parish members. Help may be rendered in the parish office or done at home as appropriate. Assistance is needed once/several times a year, as available.

Contact: Anne Sitarik

Rectory Volunteer

From time to time, we need assistance with various light tasks in serving the parish. This may involve answering the phone, making calls or any number of tasks.

Contact: Anne Sitarik

Clerical Once and Done Projects

Contact: Anne Sitarik

Parish Support

Volunteer Coordinator

Assist the pastor in coordinating and communicating with the many wonderful volunteers at St. Mary's parish.

Contact: Linda Sanchez

Social Media

Assistance to Fr. John and Ann Pergosky in updating the parish Facebook account with timely information and solid Catholic content to feed the mind and uplift the soul.

Contact: Fr. John Maria

Website Assistance

Assistance to Fr. John and Patty Zawali in updating the parish website with timely information regarding upcoming events.

Contact: Fr. John Maria