

# **Liturgy and Prayer**

## **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers (4th Grade and up) - Altar Servers must have a deep sense of the spirit of the liturgy and be trained to perform their functions in a correct and orderly manner. Being a server means serving God and His people at Mass. That is what makes serving Mass worth doing, and worth doing well. That is what makes good servers want to do their best. Part of the ministry of servers is to help "set the pace" for all who take part in the Mass. What you do there and how you do it can help other people to understand the Mass better and make their love for God stronger. Altar Servers can be said to be very fortunate that he/she has been chosen by God to give their service during the celebration of the liturgy. The liturgy is a public act of worship that the Church gives to God, so the service of the Altar Server is extremely important. The role of the Altar Server is very important because he/she is one of the closest persons to the altar and to the priest representing Jesus Christ during the celebration of the Holy Mass and the administration of the Sacraments. The service of the Altar Server is very appreciated by the Church. Good Altar Servers give their service with major attention and respect. Altar Servers serve on a rotating schedule. Training is provided. If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please call St. Mary's at 983-3255 or Ed Bauer (St. Louis) at 983-2219.

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

Members of this ministry assist the priest in distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during the celebration of the liturgy. Older youth who have been confirmed and adults who are in good standing with the church can be Eucharistic Ministers. Training will be provided. Members who have received additional training may also bring Holy Communion to the sick and/or homebound. Eucharistic Ministers serve on a rotating schedule. For more information, please call Allen Zens (St. Mary's) 320-362-0328 or St. Louis (294-5460).

## **Reader**

The Reader proclaims the Word of God through the reading of the Scriptures at Mass. In this ministry we are able to publicly witness our faith, and to come and know the Word of God more deeply. This ministry is open to parishioners who have the gift of a good speaking voice and who read well. Training will be provided. Readers serve on a rotating schedule. For more information please call St. Mary's (983-3255) or St. Louis (294-5460).

## **Gift Bearers**

Members present the wine and hosts to the presiding priest for consecration. The honor of being a gift bearer is a ministerial duty that is a beautiful and significant part of the Mass performed by lay people. Gift Bearers serve on a rotating schedule. If you would like to be gift bearers, please call St. Mary's (983-3255) or St. Louis (294-5460).

## **Usher/Greeter**

A warm smile and a welcoming personality are the key requirements for this ministry. Ushers/Greeters arrive 30 minutes prior to Mass to greet parishioners. They assist in ushering parishioners to seating, take a count of Mass attendees, facilitate the offering, prepare hosts for the gift bearers, and take the collection up to the altar with the gift bearers at the "Preparation of the Gifts." After Mass, they distribute the bulletins and straighten the hymnals and missalettes as well as pick up items left in the pews. Ushers/Greeters serve on a rotating schedule. If you would like to be an usher/greeter, please call St. Mary's (983-3255) or St. Louis (294-5460).

## **Music Ministry**

The music ministry seeks to actively preserve the rich heritage of liturgical music as well as to explore new musical directions that benefit the spirit and dignity of the liturgy.

## **Choir**

We WELCOME new members to our choirs at all our Masses. Practices are scheduled as needed.

## **Musicians**

Those blessed with the gift of being able to play an instrument are WELCOME to share their talents with our parish communities. Parishioners who play guitar, piano, flute, organ, string instruments, etc., please let us know of your musical talent and if you are willing to share your talent during Mass or for a special event. If you would like to share your musical and/or vocal talents, please call St. Mary's (983-3255) or St. Louis (294-5460).

## **Church Environment**

Beauty is an important dimension to the Catholic liturgy and worship. Holy Week, Fall and Christmas require special organizing, planning, arranging and time to be sure our church and altar are decorated to accent the beauty of our church and to enhance worship. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call St. Mary's (983-3255) or St. Louis (294-5460).

## **St. Louis Prayer Chain**

The Power of Prayer...When someone needs help, the St. Louis Prayer Chain is here for them. We all know how powerful prayer can be and many have experienced healing, peace, guidance, and other answers to their needs through this ministry. Please contact Theresa Roehl at 320-294-5527 or Maurine Herbst at 320-982-1157 with your prayer needs.