

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

With the liturgical reform of Vatican II, four functions associated with the Mass were revised to enable the members of the worshipping community to assume particular duties that enable and encourage the whole assembly of faithful to be more intensely involved in the celebration of Mass. These functions or duties we know today as "ministries." Of particular note is the openness of these ministries to adults and young people, both male and female. Their direct participation in these ministries is a visible sign of how the whole assembly of the faithful involves itself in the Eucharistic celebration.

LECTOR - The one who proclaims the readings from Sacred Scripture during the liturgy, except for the Gospel which is reserved to the deacon or priest in the deacon's absence. Traditionally, the office of lector is a transitional point in preparation for ordination to the office of deacon. Although still an officially "instituted" ministry, the role is now generally open to the laity. Those proclaiming Scripture need to be mindful of telling the story, not reading it; to be sensitive to the nature of the reading; for example, a narrative from Kings or Deuteronomy, an angry outburst from Jeremiah or a poem from Isaiah. Equally important is a keen sense of pacing and phrasing: waiting until the people are settled and ready, then grabbing their attention with the first words and articulating the particular pattern of the text. Finally, there is the "breath-taking" pause before announcing "The Word of the Lord" in such a way as to invite the assembly's response, "Thanks be to God."

ALTAR SERVER – Sometimes referred to as an "acolyte", derived from the Greek word for 'helper', this office of acolyte is a transitional point preparing for ordination as deacon and still remains an officially instituted office of the Church. Nevertheless, many of the "helper" duties of acolyte, previously performed by men and boys, have now been extended to women and girls as well. Some of the acolyte's duties such as cross-bearer, candle-bearer, book-bearer, incense-bearer and table-preparer have traditionally been performed by young boys/men, but now are open to all children and teenagers.

COMMUNION - (Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion). A special term describing persons designated to assist the ordinary ministers of Communion (priest, deacon, or acolyte) in sharing the consecrated bread and wine with the assembly. The term "extraordinary" is used to distinguish them from the ordinary ministers. Like other ministers to the assembly gathered for liturgy, these ministers also must be truly present in demeanor at the time that they are fully sharing Christ with members of the assembly. When they announce, "The body of Christ" or "The blood of Christ", they speak not only of their own faith, but they call forth the faith of the communicant who responds "Amen". These special ministers also go from the gathered assembly to share the communion of Christ with the absent, sick, or homebound.

CHORISTER - Sacred Music is a primary part of the liturgy and the role of each member of the choir is to pray through singing, inviting others to pray, and keeping God at the center of the liturgy. A choir adds beauty and solemnity to the Liturgy and joins the congregation in song. Without having to lead the congregational singing, but instead, singing with the congregation as members of the gathered assembly. With gratefulness for God's gift of a beautiful voice, please humbly share that gift as a special contribution to your community.

HOSPITALITY - (Usher or Greeter). In earlier times, one might have heard this role referred to as 'porter', the one who opened the gate or door to welcome those who sought shelter, food, or other aid. Today, those who fulfill this ministry set the tone for those who enter to worship. Their demeanor or attitude is an important quality for helping people to feel more a part of the worshipping community and to encourage the members to take an active role in celebrating the liturgy. Their encouragement before, during, and after the liturgy is vital to the faithful's deeper experience of the Eucharist. Hospitality is an essential characteristic that should be visible in all our ministers of the liturgy, AND the assembly as well.

ALTAR GUILD - Members of the Altar Guild work mostly "behind the scenes" performing several sacristan duties. There are several teams included in this ministry that include:

1. Altar Linens - laundering of linens used for Mass
2. Art and Environment - watering and caring for the church's plants and flowers and arranging seasonal decorations
3. Candles - Replacing used votive candles and altar candles with new candles

LITURGICAL MINISTRY INTEREST FORM

Name (print)_____

Email (print)/phone:_____

Served before at St. Jane: ___ Yes ___ No

If no,

home address:

Check one or more Ministry of interest:

Altar Guild _____ Communion (EMC) _____ Choir _____

Hospitality (Usher) _____ Altar Server _____ Lector _____

Check one or more Mass Time availabilities:

Weekend: Sat 5pm _____; Sun 8:00am _____; 10am _____; 12pm _____; 5:pm _____

Weekday: 8:30am _____.

Drop off the completed form in the offertory basket, mail it to the Parish Office,
or email it to giuliano.grisi@stjanedechantal.org

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