

# The Parish Needs You!

Jesus Christ calls us to live our Catholic faith in service to his church and to one another. Jesus teaches us repeatedly to feed the hungry; clothe the naked; comfort the distressed; heal the sick; and help the oppressed. You might say “This is too much for me to do?” or “How can I do these things?” All journeys start with a single step.

We have needs right here at St. Joseph Parish, each and every time we gather. Mass doesn't just happen. It takes effort and people shape the celebration of our Masses which we have come to expect and love. It takes more than 30 people to perform the various ministries for one daily Mass, more than 60 for a weekend Mass. You have the opportunity to participate in the celebration, to take that step towards service that Jesus calls us to.

Ministry sign up takes place during the weekends of Oct. 7-8, 14-15, & 21-22. We need ministers of Communion, readers, servers, hospitality ministers, church cleaners, choir members, and gift card sellers. Parishioners can also sign up for Meal of Hope and the Decorating Committee.

New Ministry schedules begin the first Sunday of Advent and continue for the entire liturgical year, through the Feast of Christ the King. Training is provided. Following is a brief description of the ministries.

- Ministers of Communion assist the provider in the distribution of the Body & Blood of our Lord to the rest of the congregation during weekend liturgies and Holy Days. Ministers also clean and put away the sacred vessels after Mass. Ministers must be a confirmed and active Catholic.
- Reading the Word of God can be performed by any confirmed Catholic. We strive to have two readers per Mass. Readers receive a workbook and the necessary training. Being a reader requires preparation and time spent in prayer and practice prior to the weekend liturgy. Readers often feel the presence of the Lord when they make the Word of God come alive for the parish community.
- Serving at Mass is an important way the youth of our parish can serve the Lord. Each weekend Mass or Holy Day typically has three youth servers to serve/assist the priest. Servers must have made their First Communion. Servers will carry the cross or banners in procession, hold the Sacramentary, set the altar and clear the altar after communion. Serving at Mass allows you to be close to the altar and gain a deeper understanding of the Mass. We are in great need of youth servers at the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass.
- Hospitality ministers include both greeters and ushers. The hospitality ministers create an atmosphere of welcome that invites parish members and guests to feel comfortable within our community, and assist guests before, during, and after Mass. Hospitality ministers interact and connect with all those who walk through our doors.
- Church cleaners clean the church so that everyone celebrating the Mass can do so in a clean and comfortable place. Families, friends, and individuals are needed to clean the church proper for approximately two hours once a month, on Friday or Saturday. Duties include vacuuming, dusting, washing windows, and tidying up the sacristy bathroom. Complete instructions and all supplies will be provided. Walk into church knowing you are responsible for its sparkle and shine.
- Let your creativity show. The decorating committee creates the stunning visual environment for the liturgical seasons. The work is as simple as changing candle lamps and banners to creating the decorations, which may involve cutting, gluing, ironing and some painting. You do not need to be an artist but if any special talents will be put to use. The more people, the more fun we have, and the work gets done faster, leaving the parish community with a prayerful and beautiful environment.

- St. Joe's has three choirs, one for 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, and a funeral choir. They provide beautiful music for our liturgical celebrations. All three choirs are in need of more members to sing or play an instrument.

The 4 p.m. (adult choir) is accompanied by the organ and uses the Collegeville and Gather hymnals to provide more traditional music. The 10:30 a.m. (folk choir) uses the Spirit & Song and Gather hymnals, accompanied by guitar, piano, flute and bongos for a more contemporary sound.

Bring your passion for music and join one of our choirs. The weekend choirs practice regularly, while the funeral choir generally sings traditional well-known music and does not practice. Being part of a choir enhances our liturgical celebrations and allows you to make lifelong friends to sing and laugh together with.

- Gift cards are an important financial support for the parish. Adults are needed to sell gift cards one weekend a month after Mass. Gift cards are available for sale after all weekend Masses.
- On the fourth Monday of each month, St. Joe's offers a hearty meal to those in need. Volunteers set up, prepare and cook the meal, spend time with our guests and clean up after. Organizations, committees, individuals, and families can help meet this need for our parish and our community.

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. — Matthew 25:35*

Jesus is calling you. Please respond by filling one or more of the many ministry needs. You will find that small step easy to take, and so rewarding.