

Liturgical Ministries

Liturgical Ministers are needed for all of our Sunday and Holy Day Masses and are open to both youth and adults who are in good standing with the Catholic Church. Our hope is that you will prayerfully consider becoming a part of one of these ministries.

Altar Server: The ministry of Altar Server is open to anyone ages 10 and over. This is a perfect ministry for a parent and child, brothers and/or sisters, or a couple. The primary role of the altar server is to assist the priest in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. Two Servers minimum needed for each ordinary Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Group of parishioners* who assist the priests in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Some ministers visit parishioners who are home bound, in hospitals, or nursing homes. Those who serve in this ministry consider it a great honor to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to members of our parish. We encourage you to inquire about this very special ministry. (*approval from the Bishop)

Ministry of Care: Taking Eucharist to the sick (Homebound & Nursing Home).

Minister of Hospitality: Ministers of Hospitality serve to greet and welcome people as they enter the church for Masses. They distribute Mass aids and other items at the doors, assist parishioners in finding seats in the church and stand ready to offer direction and assistance to visitors and others who need help. This is a great ministry for people who want to get to know their fellow parishioners. They also distribute the offertory baskets, put away the collection and straighten the pews after Mass. Ministers are needed for each weekend Mass. Open to 9th grade and over.

Lector: The Lector Ministry is the lay ministry of the Word. Those serving in this ministry have the privilege and high honor to welcome those who have come to worship together at Mass, proclaim to them the inspired Word of God in the first and second readings, and read to them the Prayers of the Faithful. Lectors are given both spirituality and procedural training on an annual basis and receive a lectionary containing all of the readings during the liturgical year prior to serving. Lectors are scheduled to proclaim at the Mass times they most often attend and receive notice far enough in advance to appropriately prepare the assigned reading or request a substitute in the event of a scheduling conflict. Two Lectors are required at each Mass.

Sound Board: Sound Board Ministers provide a vital part of the liturgy, enabling the faithful to hear the priests, lectors, musicians, and others who participate during the mass. They also distribute hearing devices to those who want to use them during the liturgy. Each volunteer is scheduled on a rotating basis. Training is provided. One minister is needed for each weekend Mass, funerals, and weddings. **We really need more volunteers.** If uncomfortable in a group learning environment, one on one instruction is available.

Camera: Operate the camera system for live stream masses.

Sacristan: The sacristan committee works to see that all altar linens are laundered properly, ironed, and in good repair. The committee also replenishes candles and assures the inventories are kept up to date. Committee members assist on a rotating basis throughout the year.

Music Ministry: It is the purpose of St. Francis of Assisi’s Music Ministry to support the prayer of all who have gathered together in the assembly. We seek to enrich all who seek to worship here through music. Music opportunities include: Cantor/Musical Instrument, Handbell Choir (Jr. High and up) as well as Adult, Youth, and Children Choirs.

Children’s Ministry

Teach children through both facts and experiences to help them to follow Jesus. The existence of a children’s ministry helps to validate the importance of children within the church. As a result, children feel welcomed and loved in our parish community.

Children’s Religious Education Catechist (Teacher): (PreK-6th Grade) Catechists and assistants are needed on Sundays 9:00-10:15 am. Materials, resources, and training are provided.

Nursery: Nursery is provided during 10:30 Mass for babies 2 months - 2 years old. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to baby-sit and are scheduled on a rotating basis. All parents who use this service are expected to be placed on the baby-sitting schedule.

Children’s Church Leaders: Liturgy of the Word - Offered for children 3 years old through Kindergarten during Sunday 10:30 Mass. Adult leaders are needed to rotate weekends.

Children’s Special Events: Adult and Teen volunteers are needed to help host and assist for children’s events such as Vacation Bible School, Advent Fair, and other seasonal events.

Youth Ministry

You do not have to be an expert in Theology and have all the “right” answers. We simply need adults who are willing to share their Catholic faith, as well as build relationships with our youth and encourage them as they grow in their faith. / Edge 7th - 8th grade Lifeteen 9th - 12th grade..

7th—12th Grade Catechists/CORE Team: Teach and assist on Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m.. Materials, resources, and training are provided.

7th—12th Grade Youth Activities: Parents and adult volunteers are needed to help chaperone, coach, host, assist, and drive for youth events.

7th—12th Grade Youth Supper Servers: Adults are needed to assist in serving meals on Sunday Nights on a rotating schedule.

Sacrament Preparation

Marriage Preparation: This ministry involves married couples and prenuptial couples. Many **VOLUNTEER MARRIED COUPLES** are needed for this special ministry. Training and materials provided.

Baptism Preparation: What better way to strengthen our faith than through the sacrament of Baptism. Parents who have already had their children baptized are needed in preparing other parents for the Baptism of their children. Instruction is provided. Classes are held every other month and last about 1 hour.

Confirmation Preparation: Confirmed Catholics are needed to help teach and assist with preparing our youth for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We meet 8-10 times a year. Materials and training are provided.

Adult Faith Formation

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Volunteers are needed year round to serve as Team Members and Sponsors or Godparents. Team Members assist with receptions, lead Dismissal Reflection, train sponsors and godparents, photograph RCIA Rites, and help lead and plan sessions. Sponsors and godparents must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist), and actively participating Catholics to serve as companions for RCIA candidates throughout their journey.

Christ Life: A program dedicated to fulfilling the command of Christ to “go therefore and make disciples.” Discovering Christ is a seven week program that begins in September and opens the door for people who are searching for the meaning of their lives to find that meaning through the Good News and personal love of Jesus Christ. Dinner, live music, a relevant teaching, and a small table environment are included (as well as free child care). For more information, go to www.stfrancismadisonchristlife.org.

Coffee and Creed: Sunday mornings 9:00 to 10:15 AM in St. Clare. Study and discuss Scripture, Church History, the Catechism, and how to defend our faith (apologetics) in a challenging culture. The latest programs from Ascension Press, the St. Paul Center for Biblical Studies, the Augustine Institute, and Word on Fire are presented. Come join the group for some fresh java, a pastry treat, and the Word.

M&M Book Study (Mary and Martha): A woman's scripture/ book study group that meets on Wednesday mornings from 9 -11 a.m.

Small Church Community: Explore the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith in a small group setting through Scripture Study, Catholic films and books, the Catechism, papal writings, etc..

That Man is You: That Man Is You: Men’s prayer breakfast meets on Friday mornings from 6:30 a.m.. to 7:30 a.m.. It focuses on the importance of Christian male leadership in the family, church and community.

Faith In Action

These ministries ae open to both youth and adults and focus on building community both within and outside our parish.

Social Concerns

Habitat for Humanity: Skilled and non-skilled workers are needed for the Annual Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build in October.

Christ In Christmas: Show your compassion for those who otherwise cannot afford a traditional Christmas by helping with the giving tree after Mass.

Meal Ministry

Funerals/Agape: Help on a rotating basis with providing a meal for family and friends after a funeral or when in need. Contact will be made when need arises.

Receptions: Volunteers and coordinators are needed to assist with parish special events such as First Communion reception, Confirmation reception, RCIA Reception, and other events as they arise. Tasks include providing refreshments, decorating, set-up/clean-up, serving, and even floral design. If you like to plan parties, this ministry needs you! Commitment for most events is limited to 3 hours or less.

“Take Them A Meal” Ministry: After a birth or hospitalization, time to cook is hard to come by. We want to show our support by delivering a meal to parish families in need. When a need arises you will be notified by email and you can decide whether or not you are able to help at that time. Volunteers don’t have to be chefs to help - restaurant and store-bought meals are welcome!

Parish Activities/Organizations

These groups keep their own rosters/lists of people who participate. Watch the bulletin or call the office for contact information.

Knights of Columbus: Council 9543: An extremely active fraternal service organization which provides members & their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, community, families, & young people.

Ladies Auxiliary: is a service-oriented group of women who are members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. All women of the parish are invited to participate in their projects which benefit the church.

L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Faith Together): Ladies group that offers Social and Spiritual Activities.

Events

Cajun Fest: This is our annual fundraiser which enables us to support the community, not only within our parish but also in the City of Madison, and the Madison County area as a whole. We need help planning, organizing, and manning the booths during Cajun Fest.

Taste of St. Francis: This is an annual event to celebrate our Patron Saint and the many cultures of our parish. Our parishioners share dishes from their home country (or one of their choosing) to provide a “Taste of St. Francis.”

Other

Office Assistance: This is a very special group that assists the office staff with bulk mailing several times a year, making parishioner phone calls, answering phone calls, stuffing bulletins Saturdays before 5:30 p.m. Mass, or assisting various departments such as Religious Education during their busy times.

St. Francis Sowing Circle: "...where there is hatred, let me sow love..." This ministry is looking for gardeners to help design, plant and maintain the planting beds and potted arrangements around the church campus. This flexible ministry allows you to work around your schedule at your own pace.

Ministry Descriptions

By virtue of baptism, each of us is called to minister to the needs of one another. To meet the spiritual needs of our community, and to make our liturgies truly life-giving celebrations requires the gifts of everyone.



St. Francis of Assisi
Madison, MS

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me... Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25: 35-40