

A Handbook of the
Ministries of the Faithful at
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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MISSION STATEMENT

As a diverse and welcoming Catholic community, we are dedicated to continue the mission of Jesus Christ through sincere worship, service and education.

Como una comunidad diversa estamos dedicados a continuar la mission de Jesucristo por medio del sulto sincero, servicio y edcucación.

Lao moat coäng ñoàng Coâng Giaùò ña daïng vao ân cân tieá noun, chúng ta taän taâm daán thaân ñeả tieáp tuïc söù meãnh cuõa Ñöùc Goeâsu Kitoâ qua vieác phöõing töi. Vieác phuïc vui vao vieác giaùò huaán chaân chính.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

ST. MONICA GUILD/ALTAR CARE

What is Altar Care Ministry?

The Altar Care Minister:

- Prepares and maintains an appropriate receptacle for the used linens to be placed after Mass
- Launders, irons and keeps inventory of all the liturgical linens
- Keeps inventory and notifies that parish office to purchase wine, bread, candles, linens and needed liturgical supplies
- Properly maintains and cleans sacristy and sacred vessels

Who can join?

Anyone who has a desire to share his/her time. An hour a week at your convenience is the only requirement.

What are the opportunities?

This is a very special ministry in that it is done “behind the scene” and with reverence. You become aware of God’s presence in a unique way. The blessings are bountiful.

When do we meet?

We meet three times a year to share ideas and discuss ways to better serving our ministry.

ALTAR SERVERS

What is Altar Serving?

Being an altar server means “serving God and His people at Mass”. Altar servers help the priest and fellow worshippers to praise God as well as they can. Altar servers serve God by helping the priest and people carry special objects and by performing special actions at Mass.

Who can join?

Young men and women, ages nine and older, who have celebrated First Communion.

What are the opportunities?

- Growth in service to God and His people
- Participating at the altar at Mass
- Fellowship with the community of altar servers

When do we meet?

- Training is completed in three sessions
- Altar servers are scheduled according to Mass preferences and as needed
- Additional training sessions to learn new ideas and to share how to improve altar serving are also scheduled
- Fun activities, such as picnics and outings are planned during the year

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

What is the Eucharistic Ministry?

The Eucharistic Ministry is a parish community functioning as “official assistants” in the celebration of the Eucharist authorized by Pope Paul VI to complement and extend the ministry due to the declining number of clergy. Eucharistic Ministers or Special Ministers of the Eucharist assist by sharing the Body and Blood of Christ so that fellow worshippers in the assembly, those who are homebound or in medical facilities can benefit from sacramental help and consolation.

Who can join?

Any registered member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who has celebrated all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation) and is free of serious sin.

What are the opportunities?

- To participate in the stewardship of service to God by assisting the clergy in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ
- To share fellowship with other ministry members
- To enrich understanding and appreciation of the role and responsibilities of this ministry

When do we meet?

(Fall and Spring Minister Formation Sessions and the Annual Membership Meeting during early summer.)

LECTOR MINISTRY

What is the Lector Ministry?

Lectoring is an act of proclamation. The lector becomes the instrument that worthily proclaims the Good News of salvation. Through this ministry the lector becomes more familiar with the Bible. Lectors find themselves in love with the Word and in love with the people to whom they speak.

Who can join?

Any parishioner who is fully initiated, i.e., has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and is able to speak clearly and be understood.

What are the opportunities?

Through the lector, God's living Word is proclaimed to His people. Lectors are instruments of God. The work the lectors do requires preparation and training. The personal involvement with the texts and all the other details that make an assembly want to listen to the Word being proclaimed.

When do we meet?

The ministry of lectors is primarily exercised at Sunday Mass.

MUSIC-CHOIR MINISTRY

What is the Music Ministry – Choir?

It makes liturgy meaningful by inviting all to participate through song. The power of music deepens our Catholic faith in a way that brings the Word of God to life.

Who can join?

All are welcome to join. Our music ministry offers a variety of styles that continue to strive in encompassing everyone's needs.

What are the opportunities?

- Sharing our gift of music with all God's people
- Encouraging the congregation to participate through music and song
- Lifting up the spirits of the sick, elderly and the needy
- Fellowship
- Encouraging one another as we carry out our duties in life
- Witnessing God's love in singing His praises

When do we meet?

The parish choir meets once a week in the church or designated home. It also meets to rehearse prior to the Mass, which it usually sings at. Other scheduled rehearsal prior to seasonal events, Christmas and Easter.

USHERS & GREETERS

What is the Usher and Greeter Ministry?

- It is a “ministry of welcome”
- Ushers & greeters are the first persons parishioners and visitors see when they come to our church
- Ushers and greeters have a very special job because their actions influence whether our parish is seen and felt as warm and loving or cold and unfriendly-quite a responsibility!
- Ushers and greeters help newcomers to our parish feel at home and greet “old timers” as the friends they are

Who can join?

Anyone with a friendly smile, knowledge of the parish, and a willingness to help out.

What are the opportunities?

This ministry is the first face of our church that parishioners and visitors will encounter. We must show the spirit of Christ and make all who wish to enter our Church welcomed and give them a sense of belonging to our family.

It is important that as part of the welcoming parish we assist all worshippers to get seated quickly and with attention to any special needs. It is important that this ministry assist in the participation of the laity in the Mass.

This ministry assists in recognizing new or visiting worshippers, arranging the presentation of gifts, collecting the Sunday offering, the distribution of church bulletins, and smoothes the movement of participants in an effective and safe manner.