

## A Note from Fr. Gerry

When I was assigned as pastor of St. Paul six years ago, I was pretty sure this would be my last significant move as a pastor. Accordingly, I felt that the Lord was providing me, and St. Paul, a real opportunity for growth and development. I believed that the Lord was inviting us to a deeper experience of worship and a greater sense of being His community. I am confident that the Lord has provided us ample opportunities, and has guided our spiritual development over these past six years. Now, we continue moving beyond that basic perspective of seeing my Faith as something I do (practice) to seeing my Faith as something I am. — I am my Faith. —

Two years ago, we began to ask you to make your Faith engaging! We invited all parish members to move from a mode of maintaining a comfortable, familiar, obligatory, and personal faith — to a communal faith of energy, relationship, and a sense of mission in our Church. We painted our hope on the back wall of the church — moving from “Maintenance...to...Mission”! Your good work gained momentum and your response has certainly been noticeable. We invited more people to move out of the pew and become engaged in serving their brothers and sisters around the table of the Lord. We need to continue to expand this work.

If you have a special gift in reading/proclaiming, we would like you to use that gift in the service of the Lector & Community Leader Ministry by being a proclaimer of God’s Word in our assembly. It is obvious some have done very well in that Ministry by preparing appropriately during the week through reading and studying the Word. If you have the gift of singing, why not share your gift in the Music Ministry of our Church? If you have the gift of hospitality or greeting others warmly, why not share that gift with the whole community by serving in the Ministry of Greeters?

For too long we have settled for the “same ole, same ole” by not effectively recruiting new members for a variety of Ministries. Our Eucharistic Celebrations had become a repetitive scenario of the same handful of people moving from this role to that one, and we became stagnant by not recruiting new blood — new people. We have a thriving membership filled with capable, faithful followers. I am certain that we could easily fill the Ministry schedule each weekend with new faces, new voices, new spirit, new life, new thoughts, new ideas, new people!

Will you join us, PLEASE?

As we continue our journey from Maintenance to Mission, I ask you to pray about what ministry the Lord may be leading you to, and to respond generously to Him!

Thank you! — Fr. Gerry

# List of Ministry Opportunities

## Divided according to our 4 Pillars of Faith

### MINISTRY

#### ~ Liturgy “Around the Table” (Choose only one)

- ◆ Altar Server
- ◆ Children’s Liturgy
- ◆ Community Leader
- ◆ Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharistic
- ◆ Lector
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Usher

#### ~ Liturgy “Beyond the Table” (Choose one or more)

- ◆ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- ◆ Altar Angel
- ◆ Art & Environment
- ◆ Greeter
- ◆ Lazarus
- ◆ Nursery
- ◆ Religious Education
- ◆ Visitation to the Homebound

### DISCIPLESHIP

- ~ Catholic Charities
- ~ Christmas Angel Tree
- ~ Early Learning Center
- ~ Easter Baskets
- ~ Emergency Shelter for Children
- ~ Food Pantry
- ~ Habitat for Humanity
- ~ Knights of Columbus
- ~ Matt's House Meal
- ~ Outreach Committee
- ~ St. Dominic Families
- ~ Women's Guild
- ~ Young Adults

### PRAYER

- ~ Armed Forces Support
- ~ ChristLife
- ~ Faith Formation
- ~ Parish Library

### HOSPITALITY

- ~ Annual Drawdown
- ~ Health
- ~ Newcomers
- ~ Senior Adults

*Please prayerfully consider all of the above areas of Ministry. Where might the Lord be leading you to serve as His disciple?*

*The pages that follow this list give a brief description of the nature of each Ministry, any requirements and the expected commitment of service.*

*In order to engage more people in the parish, each person may only serve in one Ministry from the category “Around the Table,” but you may serve in multiple ministries from “Beyond the Table” and under the other three pillars. There is an opportunity for every person to serve our Parish in some way.*

*Some ministries require specific schedules and a regular commitment of service. Others offer a more flexible way to serve.*

*Read the ministry descriptions and prayerfully discern to which ministry the Lord is calling you!*

# **MINISTRY -- LITURGY**



**“Around the Table”**

# LITURGY “Around the Table” — Choose one

## Altar Server (Acolyte)

Assists the priest on the Altar during Weekend Masses, Holy Days, and special celebrations throughout the year.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, one Mass per month for a two-year period. Must have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.*

## Children’s Liturgy

Proclaims the Word of God, or assists the Proclaimer, to children (ages 2-5) during the Liturgy of the Word at 10:30 am Sunday Mass throughout the year. Proclaimer receives the Liturgy workbook at Mass one week prior to serving.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, one Mass per month for a two-year period, excluding days with extraordinary attendance i.e. Easter Sunday. Must complete the Diocesan Protection of Children Training.*

## Community Leader

Opens the Mass welcoming everyone to the Liturgy, introducing the theme for the Eucharistic Celebration, leading the Prayers of the Faithful and introducing the songs throughout the Weekend Masses, and special celebrations throughout the year.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, one Mass per month for a two-year period. Must have a joyful disposition and a clear speaking voice.*

## Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist

Assists the priest in the distribution of the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ during Weekend Masses, Holy Days, and special celebrations throughout the year. Also assists in preparing the Altar before Mass, clearing the Altar after Mass, and cleaning the vessels.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, one Mass per month for a two-year period. Must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

## Lector

Proclaims the Word of God in the First or Second Reading of the Mass during Weekend Masses, Holy Days, and special celebrations throughout the year. Receives the Liturgy workbook at Mass one week prior to serving, in order to prepare and study the Word.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, at one Mass per month with a commitment to serve in this ministry for a two-year period. Must have a joyful disposition and a clear speaking voice.*

## Music

Supports the Liturgy in joyful song in the Adult Choir, as Cantor, and in the Youth Band during Weekend Masses, and special celebrations throughout the year. Rehearses weekly according to schedule.

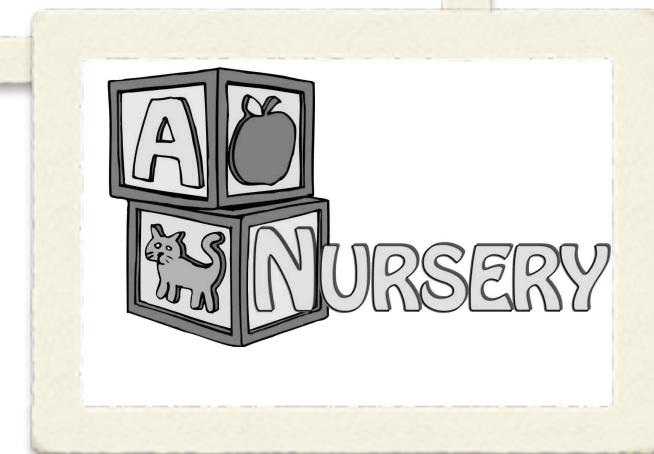
*Commitment — To serve weekly for a two-year period (excluding summer months). Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings and sings during the 10:30 am Sunday Mass, Holy Saturday, and Christmas Midnight Mass. Youth Band rehearses on Sunday evenings and sings during the Wednesday evening Youth Group, and various other celebrations.*

## Usher

Assists people in having a positive, comfortable experience at Weekend Masses, Holy Days, and special celebrations throughout the year. Duties include assisting with seating, Communion lines, offertory collection, bulletin distribution, and helping those with special needs.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, one Mass per month for a two-year period. Must have a friendly disposition and understand emergency procedures.*

# **MINISTRY - LITURGY**



**“BEYOND THE TABLE”**

# LITURGY “Beyond the Table” — Choose one or more!

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Visits with Our Lord in His Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

*Commitment — To attend one set hour per week of Holy Adoration in the Chapel (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 12 noon & Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 pm) or to sub for Holy Hour as needed in the case of regular adorers' absences.*

## Altar Angel

Cleans and cares for the Altar Linens used in Eucharistic Celebrations.

*Commitment — To appropriately clean and iron the Altar Linens (corporals, purificators, towels, cloths, etc.) during the course of the week so they are ready for the weekend celebrations serving one month per year for a two-year period.*

## Art & Environment

Supports the celebration of Mass by decorating the Sanctuary in accordance with the Liturgical Seasons of the Year.

*Commitment — To assist with creative expression, physical set up and take down of banners, accent pieces, etc. in the Sanctuary as needed throughout the year for a two-year period. Available opportunities to maintain the outdoor flower beds.*

## Greeter

Welcomes all who come to worship at St. Paul by joyfully greeting them at the doors and assisting with any special needs as they enter the church for Sunday Masses and special celebrations throughout the year.

*Commitment — To arrive early and be posted at one of the two entrance doors before one Mass per month, on average, for a two-year period. Must have a friendly, outgoing personality.*

## Lazarus

Prepares and serves a light meal for the family and friends of a deceased parishioner following the funeral service.

*Commitment — To cook and serve the requested food item upon the death of a parishioner. Will be contacted by the Ministry Coordinator to determine your availability.*

## Nursery

Provides child care for children (ages 8 weeks through 2 years) during 10:30 am Sunday Mass throughout the year.

*Commitment — To serve, on average, four times per year for a two-year period, excluding days with extraordinary attendance i.e. Easter Sunday. Must complete the Diocesan Protection of Children Training.*

# LITURGY “Beyond the Table” (continued)

## Religious Education

Provides instruction in the Catholic Faith for ages 3 years through adult.

- ◆ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - CGS (ages 3 years - 6th grade)

*Commitment — To offer a sensorially rich experience of developing the knowledge and love of God, the Liturgy and Catholic Faith principles using the Montessori Method on Sunday mornings (9:15-10:15 am) throughout the school year for a two-year period. Includes Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Must complete Diocesan Protection of Children Training. Opportunities available to assist on a flexible schedule.*

- ◆ Big Deal Youth Group (7th - 12th grade)

*Commitment — To offer a spiritually rich experience of nurturing a deeper knowledge and love of God, the Liturgy and principles of the Catholic Faith on Wednesday evenings (6:00 - 8:30 pm) throughout the school year for a two-year period. Includes Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation. Must complete Diocesan Protection of Children Training to facilitate or assist in a classroom. Available opportunities to assist with weekly meal preparation and various social activities.*

- ◆ Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA

*Commitment — To sponsor and journey with another adult as they discern converting to the Catholic Faith through a weekly experience of instruction, reflection and prayer gaining an appreciation for the love of God, the Liturgy and principles of the Catholic Faith on Tuesday evenings (6:30 - 8:00 pm) September through Easter. Opportunity available to assist with weekly meal preparation.*

- ◆ Sacramental Preparation

*Baptism: Commitment — To facilitate instruction and guided discussion preparing parents for receiving their child into the Church offering four classes per year, on a Sunday afternoon.*

*Marriage: Commitment — To meet with individual couples in preparation of building a life together scheduled as needed.*

## Visitation to the Homebound

Distributes the Body of Christ to our brothers and sisters who cannot attend Mass regularly due to illness, advanced age, etc.

*Commitment — To make personal visits to private homes and assisted living facilities in the area offering prayerful support and Holy Communion on a monthly basis for a two-year period.*

# **DISCIPLESHIP**



# DISCIPLESHIP

## Catholic Charities

Puts Faith in Action as the social outreach arm of the Diocese of Jackson doing social justice work for anyone in need and witnessing to God's Faith and Love. Listing below is a sampling of available opportunities.

- *Participate in a Faith in Action Team for education and empowerment to the underprivileged.*
- *Serve on the Poverty Task Force or on a Parish Disaster Preparedness and Response Team.*
- *Advocate for Mississippi Catholics Against Human Trafficking.*
- *Become a Faith Community Nurse or Lay Health Advocate.*
- *Participate in Global Discipleship activities on behalf of the poor at home and abroad.*
- *Host a workshop to raise awareness about immigration matters.*
- *Assist with the development of a prison re-entry program.*
- *Coordinate or assist with various fundraising efforts for causes such as Adoption & Maternity; Alcohol & Drugs; Children's Mental Health; Domestic Violence; Rape Crisis; Refugees; etc.*

## Christmas Giving Tree

Provides Christmas gifts to needy families in the Parish, in the Scott County area, and in the Rankin County area, especially through the Center for Violence Prevention.

- *Make and display ornaments on trees showing gift requests and needs.*
- *Collect and sort the donated gift items by family.*
- *Deliver donated gifts to designated recipients.*

## Early Learning Center

Offers fun and interactive learning in a day care setting for children (infants through 4 years). Our philosophy is to teach the whole child through guided play and active discovery in a safe and loving Christian environment.

- *Assist with the Annual Golf Tournament and various fundraising efforts.*
- *Read to the children and assist with special projects throughout the year.*
- *Full-time and part-time job opportunities as available.*

## Emergency Shelter for Children

Provides temporary residential care for children and youth (birth through 17 years) who have been abandoned and/or abused.

- *Assist with the Annual Collection of items needed for the care of the children.*

## Food Pantry

Collects nonperishable food and monetary donations for delivery to local food pantries.

- *Donate nonperishable food in family-size packaging, cash, checks and gift cards to the Food Pantry Basket year-round benefitting Stewpot in Jackson and South Rankin Food Resource Center in Richland.*
- *Donate requested food items to the Annual St. Joseph/St. Patrick Altar in March.*

# DISCIPLESHIP (continued)

## Habitat for Humanity

Builds simple, decent, affordable homes for local families in need.

- *Work construction (under professional supervision) on an annual Catholic build weekend, usually held in the Fall.*
- *Prepare and serve meals for volunteers during the build weekend.*

## Knights of Columbus

Unites Catholic men (18 years and up) to serve our Parish and local community through Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Listed below is a sampling of Council 10216 opportunities.

- *Attend monthly meetings, support Parish events, and volunteer for charitable causes year-round.*
- *Cook and serve meals for numerous Parish events including an Annual Mother's Day Brunch.*
- *Set up and clean up for numerous Parish events including the Annual Pentecost Outdoor Mass & Celebration.*
- *Collect donations for an Annual Tootsie Roll Drive to benefit people with intellectual disabilities.*
- *Assist with enrolling parishioners in an Annual Blood Drive.*
- *Participate in Pro-Life fundraisers to benefit local centers such as Birthright of Jackson.*
- *Assist in the Annual Trunk-or-Treat event held in October.*

## Matt's House Meals

Prepares a monthly meal and donates pantry items for the residents of the local shelter for homeless women and children.

## Outreach Committee

Evaluates the opportunities and scope of our Parish's active engagement in outreach ministries and projects serving the local community. Evaluates the needs and distributes benevolence funds to parishioners and non-parishioners requesting assistance in times of financial crisis. Committee members are appointed by the pastor and serve for a two-year period. Interested parishioners with a social services background are invited to meet with Fr. Gerry about serving in this Ministry.

## St. Dominic Families

Nourishes the families of patients in the St. Dominic Hospital Intensive Care Unit with food and prayer on the 4th Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

- *Prepare and donate lunch items.*
- *Deliver the food items to the hospital and set up tables for serving.*
- *Visit families during this lunch, listening to their stories, and offering prayers for them and their loved ones.*

# DISCIPLESHIP (continued)

## Women's Guild

Unites women of the parish (18 years and up) in spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and community service. Listed below is a sampling of opportunities.

- *Attend monthly meetings, support Parish events, and volunteer for charitable causes year-round.*
- *Supply needed items to the Opportunity Center, a day center for the homeless, the non-profit Magnolia Speech School, and the Rankin County Shelter for Abused Families.*
- *Host an annual pro-life fundraiser and raise awareness for Birthright of Jackson and Right to Life.*
- *Sew dresses for Dress A Girl Around the World.*
- *Support the Early Learning Center projects.*
- *Host and facilitate the Annual Craft Fair, usually held in November.*
- *Host receptions for Parish Sacramental Celebrations and an Annual Father's Day Luncheon.*

## Young Adults

Unites men and women of the parish (21 years and up) in spiritual study, service, prayer and fellowship.

- *Participate in a mutual course of study enriching our Catholic Faith.*
- *Attend meetings and social gatherings such as crawfish boils, bowling, game nights, etc.*
- *Provide mentoring and assistance to the Big Deal Youth Group.*
- *Assist with various Parish activities and events.*

# PRAYER

## Armed Forces Support

Provides moral, spiritual, and practical support to all parishioners and family members serving in the United States Armed Forces, especially those deployed to an area of conflict.

- *Write and mail greeting cards on major holidays and birthdays.*
- *Participate in a monthly Rosary held on the first Saturday in the Chapel.*
- *Prepare and mail care packages to deployed members twice a year.*

## ChristLife

Equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so they might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into His missionary disciples. Sessions of the 3-Part Series: Discovering Christ; Following Christ; Sharing Christ will be held throughout the year.

- *Facilitate a small group.*
- *Prepare and serve meals for the Discovering Christ Series.*

## Faith Formation

Provides opportunities for growth in spirituality and expanding knowledge of the Catholic Faith in an informal setting.

- *Adult Ed Class held during the Children's Religious Ed Classes 9:15-10:15 am Sundays throughout the school year.*
- *Lectio Divina held 7:00 pm Mondays; and 10:00 am Tuesdays*
- *Bible Study / Prayer Groups held 10:00 am Wednesdays; 6:30 pm Thursdays; 10:00 am Fridays*

## Parish Library

Offers shelves of books, audio courses and video courses for temporary loan to enhance personal Faith and spiritual growth.

- *Develop and maintain an inventory and loan system, and monthly upkeep of this space.*

# PRAYER



# HOSPITALITY

## Annual Drawdown

Benefits the parish financially and provides an evening of dining and entertainment for adults.

- *Assist with the planning and execution of this event including sponsorship solicitation, obtaining prizes, decorating, ticket sales, set up, and clean up.*

## Health

Promotes the well-being of the mind, body and spirit through activities, education, resources, support, comfort, and hope.

- *Develop events to provide support for the Parish.*
- *Plan and execute an Annual Health Fair and Cooking Competition.*

## Newcomers

Welcomes all newly registered parishioners with a quarterly Newcomer's Event introducing them to staff members and the various offerings and opportunities of the parish.

## Senior Adults

Offers parishioners (55 years and up) programs to enrich and enhance their lives, and trips to various places of interest.

- *Assist with food preparation, decorating, and serving a Brunch after the monthly Healing Mass held on the First Friday of each month at 10:00 am.*
- *Mentor uprising 11th & 12th graders through the Annual Seniors & Seniors dinner and discussion.*

# HOSPITALITY

Welcome

