

## **AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, WE COME TOGETHER TO SHARE OUR GIFTS**

The Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) tells us that the People of God all have a common calling and mission. As Baptized persons, we live as priest, prophet, and king. We are called to share the gifts we have received from the Spirit in order to help build God's kingdom in the Church and in the world. All of us are called to give witness to the power of God by the way we live at home, at work, within the community, and in society as a whole.

The following pages are meant to give a brief overview of most of the ministries going on in the Parish. Please take time to read about the ministries, discuss them with the family, pray about them, and be open to the Spirit's calling. On the weekend of October 3/4, **Our Call to Ministry** sign-up sheets will be handed out during Mass. This will be your opportunity to indicate the area(s) of ministry that you would like to commit to this coming year. The Call to Ministry form is also a way for us to update our parish records so we ask that everyone at least fill out the first page. Thank you for your cooperation and for your commitment to helping us grow as the Body of Christ.

## **LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION (EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS)**

#### Why Eucharistic Ministry?

The ordinary minister of the Eucharist is the priest who presides at the celebration. When there is a large community, extraordinary ministers of Communion may assist in the distribution of Communion at Mass and take the Eucharist to the sick or dying (canon 230.3).

#### The Blessings of Being a Eucharistic Minister

It is a privilege to be called to serve as a Eucharistic Minister. We humbly assist in the celebration of the Eucharist to nourish the bodies and spirits of the people of God. As Ministers of the Eucharist, our lives are both being and giving the Body of Christ. Our reverence and care for the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist is empty unless it carries over into our reverence and care for all God's people. It is therefore important that Eucharistic ministers participate fully, consciously, and actively in the Mass in order that they may embody the transformative, healing, and nurturing presence of God to all we serve.

#### Our Commitment

Ministers are scheduled approximately every month, but may also fill in when there is a need. Schedules are prepared twice a year and distributed well in advance. The next schedule will begin with the first Sunday of Advent (the beginning of the liturgical year). Eucharistic ministers are required to find a replacement if they cannot make their assigned date.

#### Support

Workshops are offered in the fall and are mandatory. As well, pertinent information will be included on the schedules from time to time.

### **PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD (LECTORS/READERS)**

#### Why Proclaimers?

Proclaimers have the task of making God present to the community in the Liturgy of the Word. A prayerful and powerful proclamation can move the entire community.

### The Blessings of Being a Proclaimer

Our knowledge, faith, and commitment determine our effectiveness as proclaimers of the Word. We must possess a love for the Word of God, for we proclaim God's living Word, not just words on a page. Proclaimers need to be committed to preparing and properly delivering the Word of God.

### Our Commitment

Schedules are prepared twice a year and distributed well in advance. The next schedule will begin the first Sunday of Advent (the start of the liturgical year). Usually, you will be on each schedule at least twice. Each minister is responsible to proclaim when scheduled and to find a replacement if they are unable to proclaim. Proclaimers need to spend time during the week preparing for his/her proclamation through reading and prayer.

### Support

Workshops are offered in the fall and are mandatory. As well, pertinent information will be included on the schedules from time to time. *Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers* is an excellent resource and is available for purchase at the beginning of the liturgical year.

## **USHERS**

### Why Ushers?

The ushers' ministry, in a variety of ways, provides for the comfort of all and enables an orderly celebration of our parish liturgies. Ushers need to be individuals who enjoy working with people and who can handle situations that arise in a caring way.

### The Blessings of Being an Usher

Ushers get to know their fellow parishioners. Being a welcoming and caring presence has its own rewards.

### Our Commitment

Volunteers for this ministry can select a Mass time and the time commitment is flexible. Ushers, working under the leadership of the head usher, assist with seating, select a family to bring up the gifts, hand out bulletins to people as they leave after Mass, and are always ready to deal with unexpected situations which may arise. Some ushers assist with the collection. Ushers are required to be in the church and ready to serve at least 20 minutes prior to the celebration with the exception of head ushers who must be present one hour prior to the start of the liturgy.

### Support

Workshops must be attended in the fall, and head ushers offer guidance at all masses.

## **GREETERS**

### Why Hospitality/Greeters?

The ministry of hospitality has its origins in the ancient biblical ethic of ‘welcoming the stranger’. Greeters act as a host in the person of Christ, inviting the people of God to share in the Eucharist or other liturgy. Newcomers, visitors, and parishioners are welcomed and made to feel at home.

### The Blessings of Being a Hospitality Minister

Ministers of Hospitality are persons of faith who see Jesus present and alive in the gathering community. Greeters are not afraid to step forward, shake hands, and welcome all with a ‘Good afternoon’ or ‘Good Morning’. The attitude of hospitality exudes from the minister and creates a welcoming presence of joy and gratitude that rubs off on all who enter into the celebration.

### Our Commitment

Greeters can select a Mass time and the time commitment is flexible. Ministers of Hospitality need to be committed to serve when scheduled and need to be present and ready to serve at least 20 minutes prior to the celebration. More people are needed for this essential ministry.

### Support

Workshops are offered in the fall.

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

### Why altar servers?

Altar servers originated in the 9<sup>th</sup> century as young boys took on the role of ordained acolytes. Today, altar servers, both boys and girls, assist the priest in a number of ways including holding the sacramentary for the priest, bringing the sacred vessels to the altar at the presentation of the gifts, and presenting the wine and water to the presider. Altar servers must be at least eight years of age and have celebrated first Communion.

### The Blessings of Being an Altar Server

We are called to be mature, reverent, joyful, and committed. An understanding and awareness of the Mass is essential.

### Our Commitment

We can select a Mass time and the time commitment is flexible. Scheduling is done with the whole family in mind. This ministry is not focussed on the servers but rather on celebrating the Mass in a humble and reverent manner.

### Support

Workshops are offered and training is provided. Other pertinent information will be placed on the schedules.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Why Children's Liturgy of the Word?**

Children's Liturgy of the Word is exactly what the name implies: the Liturgy of the Word (the part of the Mass following the introductory rites) adapted to children. It is not catechism class or Sunday school and, while some crafts or colouring pictures may be used to help the children understand the Scripture, it is not primarily a time for crafts.

In Mark 10:13-16, Jesus tells his disciples to let the little children come to him. By sharing the Word of God with children ages 3-6, they gain an understanding of God's Word for their own faith journey. Hopefully this sharing generates discussion at home with the whole family.

### **The Blessings of Being Involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Those involved in Children's Liturgy enjoy working with children, enjoy working in a group, and have a desire to pass on Christ's teachings to the children. There is a willingness to learn more about our faith and a desire to deepen our faith together.

### **Our Commitment**

There is a choice to serve at 5 pm, 9 am or 11 am Mass. We must be prepared, inspired, and committed to serve when scheduled. Young people of senior high school age and up are welcome to help.

### **Support**

A resource book is available, and the parish team is here to answer questions and offer assistance. Training can be provided.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

### **Why Music Ministry?**

St. Augustine wrote that one who sings prays twice. Music is one of the single most important elements of the liturgy. The Music minister is not a performer, but a servant, encouraging and leading the people of God in song.

### **The Blessings of Being a Music Minister**

Music Ministers must have a love of music and the ability to minister music to others. Regular commitment of time, working as part of a group, encouraging the assembly to participate, learning, and having fun are all important components of the Music Ministry.

### **Our Commitment**

Music Ministers are committed to play and sing when scheduled, approximately once every two to four weeks. The schedule for summer enables more time off, since each group may opt to serve an entire weekend, allowing everyone to have a break. Everyone is invited to participate in a group effort for Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Pilgrimage celebrations. Music selections for Sundays are chosen by the music ministers in their groups with the assistance of *Today's Liturgy*, published by OCP, the Sunday missal, and peer support.

Our principal hymnal is *Journeysongs*, second edition, published by OCP Publications. We have other resources as well, especially for the psalm settings. Our youth choirs have also put together a booklet of their commonly used songs.

Prayerful and careful rehearsal is necessary while preparing to lead the assembly in song. Our role as song leaders requires confidence and predictability to enable the people's song.

#### Support for Music Ministers

Training: There is at least one major workshop per year to learn about liturgy, 'the work of the people', which we serve. Also, we learn new music and parts of the Mass, as well as meet, encourage, and socialize with each other. Dates for workshops and speakers in the diocese are posted on the organ. If possible, guest speakers are brought to the parish from time to time.

Scheduling and Support: Confirmed schedules are e-mailed to all those who have e-mail, and mailed to all others who don't have e-mail. Scheduling for several months at a time allows the music ministers to plan their music ahead of time and be ready for the liturgies at which they will serve. If a group cannot serve when scheduled, it is responsible for finding a replacement. The Music coordinator can be reached by phone, e-mail, or by calling the parish office. All questions are welcome.

## LITURGICAL ART AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

### Why a Liturgical Art and Environment Ministry?

The Liturgical Environment Ministry creates an aesthetic simplicity and beautifies the worship space inspiring the community into praise and worship. The guiding liturgical principle is to focus our attention on celebrating the Eucharist and everything that leads up to and flows from it.

### The Blessings of a Liturgical Environment Ministry

An understanding of liturgical art and environment and a willingness to be open and flexible to the creative juices is essential. Our ideas, designs, plans, and creativity all flow together as we work on various liturgical celebrations to enhance and inspire a deeper participation in the Liturgy. Creativity and an eye for beauty are essential.

### Our Commitment

As a member of this committee, there are three different areas that are available for your involvement:

- 1) Weekly flower arranging – approximately one hour on a Friday afternoon or evening once a month. Attendance at a workshop on Flower Arranging which will be held on a Saturday in October is mandatory if you wish to serve in this Ministry.
- 2) Decorating for specific liturgical celebrations or seasons (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, ordinary time). **This requires both men and women as well as youth (15+ years of age).** Time commitment will be about 1 – 2 hours at each change of liturgical seasons.
- 3) Splitting palms for Palm Sunday. This entails about a one-hour commitment on the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

### Support

Guidance and support are always available. Supplies are provided. Workshops are available.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

### Why Sacramental Preparation?

As we, or our children, prepare to celebrate the sacramental milestones in our lives, it is important that we have an understanding of the meaning of the sacrament and of the commitment that we are making. This applies whether we are parents preparing our children for sacraments or adults preparing to enter into marriage or to have our children baptized.

The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the primary faith educators of their children. It is they who will help their children grow in faith. In the case of infant baptism, preparation is directed toward the parents. When it comes to sacramental preparation of older children for first Reconciliation, first Communion, and Confirmation, it is the responsibility of the parish, the primary faith community, to see that programs and resources are provided to assist parents in preparing their children. The Catholic school system is also a partner in this endeavour.

### Our Commitment

Baptism Preparation is offered 5 times per year (2 evenings/session) from 7:00-8:15 pm. Depending on the number of people, a person could be involved for two or three sessions a year. For first Reconciliation and first Eucharist there are two meetings per year for each sacrament in addition to the communal celebration of first Reconciliation. Confirmation preparation involves several meetings/retreats throughout the year. Some sacramental preparation meetings include both parents and children, others are for parents only or for children only.

### Support

Resources are available, workshops can be provided, and planning meetings are held as needed for information, feedback, and evaluation.

## **CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which adults as well as children of catechetical age (age 6 and up) become full members of the Catholic Church. It is a process of liturgical, catechetical, spiritual, and social formation, a process which takes place in the faith community and for which the whole community has a responsibility. The RCIA was designed specifically for the initiation of unbaptized persons, yet the rite also supports preparation of baptized uncatechized Catholic adults (those with little or no church background) for Confirmation and Eucharist, as well as preparation of other baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Catholic Church.

### The Blessings of RCIA

It is an awesome task to journey with those seeking Baptism – to share our stories of faith with them, to help them to name the ways that God has been acting in their lives through events, people, and places, and to pray for and support them as their own conversion to a deeper

relationship with God grows. At the same time, we see that our own faith is awakened and deepened as we journey with them.

#### Our Commitment

Basically the most important part of ministering in faith is to have an active faith life, to be willing to share it, and also to have the ability to listen to the faith stories, the questions of newcomers, and to be prepared to gently journey with them, respecting the place they are at in their relationship with God. It also asks us to have an openness to learn and to sometimes be challenged by an adult understanding of our faith.

The adult group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. There are opportunities to be a sponsor, godparent, catechist, minister of hospitality. In order to develop closer connections between the candidates and the community, we are inviting parishioners to volunteer to host a Wednesday night session. The host would be responsible for providing refreshments and is invited and strongly encouraged to stay for the session. Members of the leadership team would facilitate the sessions as usual.

The children's group meets weekly on Sunday mornings. At least one parent is required to attend with his/her child.

#### Support

Training and support are offered on a regular basis. Resources are available.

## **PRAYER LAUDATORS**

#### Why Prayer Laudators?

Prayer Laudators pray for the needs of our parish community. Prayer is very beneficial and essential especially for those who feel isolated from the community, so that they can maintain a connection with the community.

#### The Blessings of Being a Prayer Laudator

Prayer Laudators believe in the power of prayer, pray with an open mind, and are open to the outcome of prayer. The power of prayer is affirmed throughout Scripture. Strength, comfort, and compassion are given and received.

#### Our Commitment

Charity, compassion, and a willingness to be of service are essential. Laudators are contacted once a week with a prayer list. Prayers are for general and specific intentions and confidentiality is respected at all times. There are various ways to pray (rosary, book of prayers, spontaneous prayers from the heart, etc.), and each person is welcome to pray in whatever way is comfortable to them.

#### Support

The group gets together at least once a year with those involved in pastoral care for a retreat and social time to share their experiences and ideas. Resources and workshops can be requested.

## PASTORAL CARE

### Why Pastoral Care?

Pastoral Care connects people who are physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually frail to the parish community.

### The Blessings of Pastoral Care

We are called to be Christ's healing presence, offering comfort, support, prayers, and God's love. Compassion, empathy, and commitment are essential. Being a good listener and being open to others and their stories requires flexibility in time commitments.

### Our Commitment

Volunteers may choose their area of involvement, e.g., taking Communion to those who are homebound, hospital ministry, leading a service at a nursing home, or leading funeral vigils (the prayers on the eve of a funeral). There needs to be a commitment of presence when a person is scheduled. Generally, once a week for 2 – 3 hours is all that is required. Volunteers at the hospital or other care facilities may have additional requirements such as paperwork, a police check, and/or a TB test, depending on the institution.

### Support

Training for Pastoral Care at the Sturgeon Hospital involves 4 evenings twice a year. Resources are available as well as resource people who are willing to share their experiences. People who feel called to this ministry will be mentored with people already involved. A pastoral care training course is also available through the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

## COMMUNITY LIFE ACTION COMMITTEE\*

Our Catholic Christian understanding of Community is based on the Trinity: **“a communion of persons, each unique in talents and personality, existing in a relationship of love with one another”**. As a parish we are called to model a community of love, care, and support through our daily actions.

For a parish to accomplish its goals it is vital that we have teams of volunteers prepared to assist in the preparation and carrying out of the many activities throughout the year. These can include the welcoming of new parishioners to our parish, social activities such as Harvest Dinner, parish picnic, refreshments at liturgical or faith formation activities, just to name a few. **This committee is vital to the success of our many parish activities and it is a great way to meet other parishioners.**

\* The Charity Action Team and the Community Life Committee have merged and to become “Community Life Action Committee”.

#### Support

Orientation and planning meetings are held at various times during the year. Existing volunteers will also mentor and assist new people.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### Why Youth Ministry?

Youth Ministry is the total integration of faith, fellowship and spiritual formation for young people. Youth ministry focuses exclusively on the holistic development of adolescents and young adults within and outside of the nuclear family. The purpose of youth ministry is to introduce to young people the concept of God in relation to the realities encompassing their day-to-day lives with the opportunity of deeper spiritual growth and catechesis. It is essential that the youth minister integrate liturgy alongside action and service alongside scripture.

### The Blessings of Being a Youth Minister

Youth ministers have the ability to share their plethora of gifts with an infinite variety of young people and in an infinite number of ways. Youth Ministry is the opportunity to give as well as to receive much more than the minister could ever expect in return. Youth ministry provides an opportunity for all to understand the importance of mutual ministry and reciprocal values. Youth ministers are constantly challenged to grow in their own faith, values and ability to serve within an ever changing generation of young people.

### Our Commitment

There are many ways to be involved in Youth Ministry. Ministers are needed: to help plan and/or lead retreats, weekly youth groups or family gatherings; to be part of the Social Justice component for the youth (help plan and attend one of the social justice events aimed directly at the youth); to assist with youth facilitated liturgical celebrations (help recruit, assist with the liturgically correct training, and aid in the organizing); and to act as a support team member (donate time treasure and talents on an occasional basis in such areas as driving, cooking, sewing, carpentry - the possibilities are endless).

### Support

All programs in Youth ministry are based around a team approach. It is the Youth Ministry Coordinator's job to ensure that all involved have the proper training and support.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **Why Social Justice?**

Social Justice is directed to the achievement of the common good for the whole of God's Creation. The two feet of social justice are education, so we are made aware of the social issues that surround us within our own community, city, province, country, continent, and world, as well as social action, where we place ourselves at service for others. We live as Jesus lived, reaching out to the marginalized, the less fortunate, the poor, so we see the dignity of every person and treat everyone and everything with reverence and respect.

### **The Blessings of Social Justice**

We come with our hearts on fire wanting to make the world a better place. We are aware of the discrepancies in basic needs, economic situations, and respect and rights. We have an understanding of individual and social justice, and a desire to do something about it.

### **Our Commitment and support**

Acting in solidarity with the Parish Pastoral Council, the social justice committee endeavors to assist in honoring and giving witness to the parish mission of social justice. They actively participate in programs that have a global focus as well as a local focus.

### Global focus:

The social justice committee is guided and empowered by the theme promoted by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. There are two main national programs each year, centering on global and third world issues.

The Fall Action Campaign which has an education and an action component.

The Share Lent Campaign which has an education and a fundraising component.

During the year, Development and Peace also responds to emergency issues and provides support in the form of aid.

### Local focus:

The social justice committee, with the approval of parish council, also engages in social justice projects which have been selected for parish involvement and support. Examples include our refugee project 2006-2007, the Ecuadorian Medical Mission support, 2006-2009 and the Guatemalan mission support, 2007-2009. Promotion and sale of Fair Trade products is ongoing.

## **ST. ALBERT CHRISTIANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The St. Albert Parish, through the Social Justice Committee, is represented on an ecumenical Christian group, St. Albert Christians for Social Justice (SACFSJ), which was formed in September 2007 by seven Christian churches, active in St. Albert. The mission of SACFSJ is: **“ Celebrating Christ through ecumenical ministry for Social Justice in St. Albert and around the world.”**

The issue of Affordable Housing in St. Albert has been the centre of attention for this ecumenical group over the past two years and SACFSJ was very much involved in the recent blitz build of

Habitat for Humanity, which recently saw the completion of a duplex in the North Ridge area of the city. This group also advocates and supports the St. Albert Housing Society in its efforts to provide more affordable housing for our community. The Housing Society is actively seeking grant funding from government sources and if successful will begin an ambitious project that will serve a basic need for those looking for affordable shelter and also for the homeless in St. Albert.

SACFSJ plans to partner with the St. Albert Food Bank this coming year and help facilitate more wrap around services for those who find themselves in need of community help and support that is delivered in the spirit of Christian compassion.

Needless to say, there is no shortage of issues and projects that require involvement and support. SACFSJ has monthly meetings, which are held at the various participating churches. Time and date for the meetings are set at each monthly meeting and there is a rotating chair.

This is a grassroots community organization just getting started and is committed to serving the **basic needs** of our community within an inclusive accepting culture.

If you are interested and wish to get involved please sign up with the Parish Social Justice Committee, indicating your interest. Thank you.

### **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL, ST. ALBERT CONFERENCE**

The Society invites you to join in works of charity. Ours chapter is a joint effort involving the two St. Albert Catholic parishes in St. Albert. We need volunteers who will visit the poor who call on the Society for help and to identify their needs. The Society will provide the training. We need volunteers who will drive the St. Vincent de Paul truck or come along as a swamper to pick-up and deliver furnishing and goods. Maybe you can help with the logistics of the scheduling of pick-ups and deliveries.

Learn more about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and how you can serve the distressed and the marginalized by sharing the great gift of self to others. Our Conference meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7.00 pm at Holy family parish. Drop in and find out what we are all about. The work of the Society is the Gospel message in action. *I was hungry; I was thirsty; I was a stranger; I was naked; I was sick; I was in prison; AND YOU CARED!*

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

Faith development takes place on many levels – intellectual, moral (how we live our lives), affective (our relationship with God), and religious (how we pray). Learning about and growing in our faith is a life long process. While the basics of our faith do not change, our understanding of that faith and how we live out the questions will change as we grow and in response to life situations. Adult faith formation is aimed at helping us to grow and develop in our faith as adults. Ideally, adult faith formation is integrated into every aspect of parish life.

Adult faith formation takes many forms. Some of these might include having speakers on different topics, Bible studies, providing resources for reflection at home, e.g., our Advent and Lenten reflection booklets, short series on different topics, providing information on reliable

websites, movie discussion groups, making use of the electronic media—the list of possibilities is endless. A recent initiative of the Archdiocese is the Nothing More Beautiful five year program of re-evangelization.

As parishioners, we want your input, ideas, and faith questions. As well, we are looking for people who will assist us in planning adult faith formation initiatives for the parish. Time involvement would vary according to your area of interest.

### **GUATEMALA COMMITTEE**

As a Church, we are called to reach out in friendship and service to the world, whether within our own communities or to the larger world community. In January of 2006, our parish responded to a request from the Oblate missionary team in Guatemala to enter into a twinning relationship with them. Our parish pastoral team and council decided to move forward with this request as it was felt that this initiative would benefit both communities in terms of promoting openness to one another's cultures and way of life and sharing our gifts with one another. As time goes on and as we and our Guatemalan friends get to know one another, other opportunities for becoming involved will present themselves.

### **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The role of the parish pastoral council (PPC) is to support the mission statement of the parish through reflection, planning, coordination, animation, and evaluation of parish projects and ministries. It is a ministry of service on behalf of and for the community. While the parish pastoral council does approve budgets and major financial decisions, it differs from the finance committee in that the role of the PPC is mainly pastoral as the name implies.

In our parish, the pastoral council consists of the pastor, pastoral associate(s), and nine elected members. Terms are for three years with one third of the council being replaced each year. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month with the exception of July and December. Elections are usually held in late January/early February with the new council taking office in the month following the election. Prior to the elections, nominations are sought from the parish.

August 14, 2009