

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers

The altar servers offer a very important ministry to our parish by assisting the priest during the celebration of liturgies, weddings, and funeral masses. All young men and women sixth grade through high school are invited to serve in this ministry. Our goal is to encourage the children to take an active part in creating and participating in Children's Liturgy. Hopefully, that desire to participate will continue as they grow.

Chairperson, Michael Courtien

Altar Society

The Altar Society is comprised of parishioners who ensure that there is a constant supply of clean altar linens, large altar cloths, and albs in our church. Each week of the year, two members are assigned the task of mending, washing, and ironing the daily altar linens and albs. In addition, some members perform general cleaning throughout the church and confessionals.

Coordinator, Karen Thorburn

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers

The ministry of Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister is to help with the distribution of Holy Communion, especially the Precious Blood, at Mass and to bring Holy Communion to homebound parishioners after the 9:30 A.M. Mass on Sundays. Each minister usually receives an assignment every other Sunday. All those wishing to be an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister is required to attend a Diocesan Training Session and then be commissioned by the Pastor.

Coordinator, Patricia Gallagher

Lectors

The lectors perform the Scripture readings at all Masses. Since they truly believe in God's presence in the Word, the lectors deem it valuable to spend time and effort to more fully appreciate and understand the text, and thereby more fully proclaim the Scripture. The priceless gift of God - speech - is something which all of our lectors treasure. There is no greater reason to work to improve it than the proclamation of His Word.

Coordinator, Mary Lyons

Ministers of Welcome

The Ministers of Welcome seek to make the members of the congregation feel welcome in our church at the Masses on Sundays, holy days, and special services. Their duties include greeting the people at the doors before and after the mass; distributing the bulletin and other publications when available; taking the collection; organizing the Offertory procession; and providing assistance as needed to members of the congregation, such as helping people to and from their seats. All men, women and teenagers of the parish are encouraged to participate.

Music Ministry

The Good Shepherd Music Ministry is comprised of three groups.

The **Chancel Choir** provides music for the Sunday liturgy, Advent and Lenten services, Christmas concerts, Midnight Mass, Holy Week and Easter Vigil, and other special occasions. The choir is open to all adults who wish to share their time and vocal talents in praising God through song. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the Church.

The **Children's Choir** is comprised of boys and girls in Grades 3 - 8 in Good Shepherd and public schools. They participate in all childrens liturgies, First Communion and Confirmation Masses, and special Christmas and Easter services. Rehearsals are on Monday afternoons at 3:30pm in the school auditorium.

The **Good Shepherd Cantor** is an ongoing program which trains members of the adult choir to lead the congregation in song and psalm, to teach the congregation new material, and to animate and encourage the congregation to take an active role in all aspects of the liturgy.

Please send questions and comments to musicministry@goodshepherdrcc.org.

Director, Michael Fontana

Organizations

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in the school basement, and has been in existence for over 30 years. The members come together to praise and worship the Lord and to have fellowship with one another. The members gather together as a community to praise God through prayer, song, scripture reading and silent reflection. A time is also set aside for intercession for the needs of family, friends and parish. What distinguishes a prayer meeting as Charismatic is that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are operating within the group. We pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be released in our lives. All are welcome especially those seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Served by:

Barbara Guarrasi ~ 718-645-0149

Angela Clancy ~ 718-336-1026

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club was founded in 1970 to promote friendship and to provide social, educational, recreational, religious, and community service for its members. Membership is open to all members of Good Shepherd Parish who are at least 55 years of age, and has recently been extended to some members of neighboring parishes. General membership meetings are held in the school auditorium one Sunday per month (“Sunday Social”) from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The members also meet most Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for social activities. There are currently over 150 members, who pay a nominal amount in annual dues. Officers serve on a volunteer basis. There are seven standing committees (Travel, Good & Welfare, Entertainment, Host & Refreshments, Hospitality and Welcoming, Arts & Crafts, and Advisory). Anyone aged 55 or older (non-denominational) is encouraged to join.

President, Mike Steckler

Good Shepherd's Men Fellowship Ministry

The Good Shepherd Men's Fellowship Ministry's overall goal is to renew and sustain the faith of men, and their families, within Good Shepherd Parish by means of community and faith based activities which enrich our Catholic faith and commitment to our church, its leaders and our fellow parishioners.

We meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the church rectory for about two hours to pray, socialize; discuss our faith and the issues that we are grappling with in our lives. Meetings, while centered on Catholic faith, provide activities of interest to the members both during the meetings and outside activities as well.

Members strive to reinforce Christian values in their home, reach out to share those values with others in the group, and support other men who are struggling to do the same.

Anthony Sotomayor, Director

Deacon Chris Wagner, Moderator