



NATIVITY*of***MARY**
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

Ministry & Volunteer Opportunities

Worship & Liturgy

Sacramental Preparation

Communications

Faith Formation

Pastoral Care

Social Justice

Parish Life

Nativity School

Leadership

*May the flame of the Spirit fill our hearts and
lead us to serve in our parish ministries!*

Dear Parishioner,

Each of us is gifted by God with unique talents, skills, abilities, interests and life experiences. Volunteering these gifts in our parish ministries helps us carry out and live our mission of *loving, learning, growing and serving, together in Christ.*

The following pages describe the wide variety of ministries offered by Nativity of Mary Catholic Church & School to our parishioners and the larger community. We invite you to consider where God might be calling you to be of service.

Steps in choosing a ministry:

1. Find a quiet place and time.
2. Pray to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance in discerning your call to ministry.
3. Reflect on your gifts (talents, skills, abilities and life experiences).
4. Review the ministries in this booklet (Where is God calling you to serve? What catches your attention? How would you like to grow? What would you like to learn? How might your gifts be used in one or more of these ministries?).
5. If you would like further information about any of the ministries in this booklet, please contact the Parish Office at (952)881-8671.
6. Please use sign-up form included with this booklet.

Thank you for taking the time to reflect and pray about how God is calling you to serve. May the Holy Spirit bless and guide you. We welcome your participation!

Many of you are already involved in our parish ministries. We thank you for your involvement and support you as you continue in ministry and in your discernment of how God is now calling you to use your gifts.

*****All volunteers working with minors and vulnerable adults must complete a VIRTUS training session, pass a criminal background check, yearly review and sign a code of conduct. This applies to all ministries within the Catholic Church.**

Worship & Liturgy Ministries

Parish Choir - Sing every week on a rotating Mass schedule with weekly rehearsal.

Resurrection Choir - Sing for funerals and other special liturgies with rehearsal once per month.

Children's Choir - Adult volunteers, for grades 1-5. Sing monthly, weekly rehearsals.

Cantor - To lead the assembly in sung prayer of the liturgy.

Instrumentalists - Those who play a musical instrument are invited to share their talents with the community.

Handbell Choir - Anyone 9th grade or older with musical experience. Ring monthly - weekly rehearsal.

Lectors - Proclaim the Scripture, enabling people to hear the word of God and keep it. Read petitions and announcements. Confirmed youth 16 years and older may participate.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Assist at weekend and special liturgies by serving as a Minister of Communion. Confirmed youth 16 years and older may participate.

Altar Server - Youth in grades 4 and up assist the presider at weekend and special liturgies on a rotating basis.

Ushers - Greet, host and provide service to all attending Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - (Adults) Use readings & supplementary materials to help children understand Sunday's Scriptures. 10:30 AM Sunday Mass; rotating schedule, one Sunday/month.

Sunday Hospitality - Create an atmosphere of hospitality and serve refreshments following parish liturgies & events.

Liturgy Committee - Promotes growth in faith through worship. Help parishioners exercise liturgical ministries, implement pastoral liturgical practices and plan liturgical celebrations of the community.

Environment Committee - Enhance the Church and Gathering Space by arranging plants, flowers, banners, etc.

Adoration - Have you experienced Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the peace & grace that can be given in 1 hour of prayer before Him? 8:30 AM-12 PM, Friday mornings in the Chapel.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation / First Eucharist Catechists - Teach second grade students the meaning of Reconciliation and Holy Communion and assist in their preparation and first reception of those Sacraments. Curriculum, lesson plans and materials are provided by the

Director of Childhood Faith Formation. Wednesday evenings, September through May, two other retreat nights, and the weekend Mass celebrations.

Confirmation Adult Leaders - Assist at Confirmation preparation nights, retreats, and other formation events, lead small groups of teens in discussion. Wednesday evenings, some weekends, September - May.

Confirmation Teen Leaders - Help lead events for middle school RE students, assist in childhood Faith Formation events, lead talks, games and other activities. Wednesday evenings and some weekends, September - May.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - A process for adults who want to become Catholic, serve as a *Sponsor* or *RCIA Team Member*.

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children) - A process for children (ages 8-17) who want to become Catholic; Volunteers can serve as a *Sponsor* or *RCIC Team Member*.

Pre-Marriage Ministry, Mentoring Couples - Work with engaged couples. Involves meeting with couples helping them to prepare for the vocation of marriage. Training provided.



Communications

Bulletins & Mailings - Help fold, stuff envelopes or inserts for weekly bulletins or mass mailings, label and sort mailings. Friday mornings or as needed.

Welcome Desk Receptionists - Answer phones, assist with clerical tasks & greet visitors. Half days, mornings/afternoons.

Faith Formation Ministries

Continuing Adult Faith Formation Leader - Facilitate a group of parishioners through a structured faith education program. Materials, mentoring and organizational assistance provided.

Faith Formation Catechists and Substitute Catechists - Plan lessons based on textbook and Scriptural materials. Work with any grade, K – 8th, Wednesday evenings Sept. – April. Training provided.

Faith Formation Classroom Helper - Assist classroom teachers in primary grades or large classes. Wednesday evenings, Sept. – April.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer - Week-long summer program for children requires volunteers (adults & teens) to lead activities, supervise children (PreK – 5), acquire materials, decorate, set up/tear down, etc.

Vocations Committee - Promote vocation awareness to serve Christ's purpose in our daily lives. Encourage the discernment of priestly and religious vocations. Sponsor a morning of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during *Vocation Awareness Week* in January. Participates in Archdiocesan *Called by Name* process.

Youth Group Leaders/Chaperones - Grades 6-12. Small group assistant / chaperone for service projects and social events

Youth Group Core Team Member - Youth in grades 9 and up serve as peer-to-peer leaders in Youth Group.

Parish Library Committee - Join a team of parishioners and staff to maintain the newly organized library.

Pastoral Care Ministries

Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound - Trained parishioners share the Word of God and the Eucharist with persons who are unable to join the community in Sunday worship because of illness or other impediment.

Eucharistic Ministry to Care Centers - Lead or assist at Scripture/Communion services. Provide Eucharistic visits to Catholic residents in assigned care centers once a month.

Funeral Lunch Ministry - Coordinate or call for one month. Volunteer to call for

workers or food donations; volunteer to bring food or serve luncheon, set up or clean up.

Hospital Ministry - Compassionate caring people who visit hospitalized parishioners.

Stephen Ministry - Trained lay people provide Christ-like care through one-on-one relationships with parishioners who are hurting or in need of loving support.

Prayer Chain - This is a telephone network of parishioners who pray daily for the needs of others. An assigned Prayer Chain person is responsible to call the volunteers on his/her list with the prayer requests they've received. Requests for prayers may be made by calling the Parish Office or one of the Prayer Chain callers.

Senior Correspondence - Writing to homebound seniors on a monthly basis.

Angel Tree - (Adults) Assist in implementing "gift giving" through the Angel Tree and the organizations we support at Christmas.

Social Justice

Loaves and Fishes - Help end hunger in Minnesota by providing free meals for those facing hunger. Once a month at Creekside Community Center.

Respect Life Committee - Work to protect and promote human life at

every stage from conception to natural death especially of the most vulnerable in our society.

Social Justice Committee - Raise awareness of Catholic social teaching through justice-oriented action and education.

Parish Life

Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts (Adult Volunteers) - Ministry to youth & families offering opportunities for learning new skills, serving others, developing leadership skills, growing in faith & having fun. Opportunities are available for all ages, including leaders.

Event Set-up/Take-down – Assist our Maintenance Director in setting up and/or taking down for parish events.

Health & Wellness Committee - Committee meets to address the health and wellness needs of the parishioners and identify available resources. Assist with monthly blood pressure screenings after weekend Masses.

Heritage Days Committee – Help plan Nativity's largest event, Bloomington's Heritage Days fall festival. Committee typically meets in spring and summer, with event taking place in the fall.

Knights of Columbus/Marian Council Women's Auxiliary - Maintenance and painting projects on parish campus.



Men's Club - Support the school and parish through improvement projects, fundraising and provide fellowship to school dads and men of the parish.

Money Counters - Teams of 5 to 7, on a rotating basis, count Sunday and Holy Day collections enabling the parish to maintain accurate accounting and confidential contribution records.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Prayer shawls are intended to be a reminder of God's ever present love which is as near to you as your own body is to your spirit. Volunteers knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to our parishioners who are in need of our healing prayers.

VEAP – (Adults) Participate in food and item collections to support the community. Drive and sort donations. Plan community events supporting the local food shelf.

Welcoming Committee - Develop activities and events for newly registered parishioners to help them become acquainted with the parish and other members of the church and school communities.

Women of Nativity - A coalition of parish women supporting one another in faith. Activities include retreats, social events, special interest groups, educational and service opportunities for women.

Nativity of Mary School

Hot Lunch Servers - Help serve lunch from 11:40 AM–1:10 PM. You can pick the day of the week and how often. Most volunteer 1-2 times/ month.

Library - Help children find and check-out books, read to students, and assist with shelving books. Weekday mornings or afternoons, 1-2 times per month.

Playground Aides - Assist playground supervisor & volunteer alongside the middle school safety patrol during recess on days that fit your schedule. 11:30 AM–12:25 PM, 1-2 times/month,

Sell SCRIP after Mass - Assist selling SCRIP gift cards in the Caritas Room after all Masses most weekends.

Scripture Celebration - Teach Salvation History to students by going through the Bible's main narrative books, Genesis to Revelation, in chronological order. Teaching materials are provided. There are 24 1-hour lessons presented 1 day a week with teacher present in room.

“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them...”

-Romans 12:4-6

Leadership Ministries

Finance Council - Advisory council to the Pastor, providing expertise on the overall financial operations of the Parish. Involved with other Parish commissions on financial matters related to ministry programs.

Legacy/Planned Giving Advisory

Committee - Promotes and encourages gifting to Nativity of Mary's Church & School Endowment trust funds. Reviews investments of the trust funds managed by the Catholic Community Foundation. Informs the Parish Pastoral council on endowment performance results and advises on the reinvestment or use of endowment distribution.

Maintenance Committee - Serves as advisory commission to the Parish on topics relating to building maintenance and operations. Identifies building deficiencies, make recommendations on spending funds for maximum impact and develop plans for improvements.

Stewardship Committee - Promotes a culture of Catholic Christian stewardship by providing stewardship education, events and encouraging the use of gifts of time, talent and treasure to enhance the vitality of the Parish and the greater Bloomington community.



For more information on the various volunteer opportunities offered at Nativity, please contact the staff liaison for ministry.

Worship & Liturgy – Director of Music & Liturgy

Sacramental Preparation & Faith Formation Ministries – Faith Formation Team

Communications – Communication & Marketing Specialist

Pastoral Care Ministries – Pastoral Minister

Social Justice, Parish Life, and Leadership Ministries – Parish Nurse or Parish Office

Nativity of Mary School – School Office

Contact information can be found by calling the Parish Office at (952)881-8671 or visiting our website at www.NativityBloomingont.org.



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