

# ST. PAUL MINISTRIES

**HOSPITALITY**



**PRAYER**



**DISCIPLESHIP**



**MINISTRY**



*Maintenance...to...Mission*

**Children's Liturgy**

## MINISTRY COMMITMENT

Thank you for accepting the invitation from your Church family to become a Minister "Around the Table." Serving in this special way has a profound impact on the way our St. Paul Mission Statement, "To Live As The Body Of Christ," comes to life.

The purpose of the Eucharistic Liturgy, as well as all Sacraments, is to make us holy, to build up the Body of Christ and to worship God. The Liturgy "nourishes, strengthens and expresses faith." (CCC 1123)

By saying, "Yes" to this calling, I agree to the following:

- ✓ I commit to serve in this one Liturgical Ministry for a two-year period.
- ✓ I understand the importance of my ministry in the overall mission of our Parish "To Live As The Body Of Christ."
- ✓ I will approach the Celebration of the Eucharist with a spirit of the Joy of Christ.
- ✓ I will prepare myself during the week being reflective of the upcoming Readings so that I will be prepared spiritually, physically and emotionally.
- ✓ I will arrive on time and dress appropriately when I am scheduled to serve.
- ✓ I will find a replacement in the event I cannot serve at my scheduled time.
- ✓ When I am not scheduled to serve, I will be a better participant in the pew by being attentive, listening, and responding enthusiastically.

By signing below, I agree to all of the above statements:

Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Mass preference: 10:30 only

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PURPOSE

This Ministry Manual is being provided to all Ministers "Around the Table" to create a better understanding and zeal for authentic worship at St. Paul Parish. This information is not only instruction of *how* to carry out the ministry, but to better understand *why* we worship the way we do.

**We want to rejuvenate the deep, spiritual meaning of being a participant in Mass. As St. Augustine said, "Behold what you are. Become who you receive." Every time we celebrate the Sacred Banquet together, we are fulfilling Jesus' command to "Do this in memory of Me." We believe that the Risen Christ is truly present in the Liturgy in the Presider; in the Holy Eucharist as His real presence of Body and Blood; in the Word proclaimed from the Sacred Scriptures; and in the Community gathered in His Name.**

**We want to rediscover the importance of celebrating with joy, reverence, and essence of the Paschal Mystery.** From the time of the apostles, Christians have continually come together to celebrate, to listen to Scripture, and to offer Thanksgiving. The Liturgy is a communal encounter of Christ that brings us all together as a St. Paul Family.

***Our main goal is to foster full, active and conscious participation in the Liturgical Celebration in order to encounter the Living God in the Word and Eucharist, then return to the world fulfilling our baptismal call to discipleship. As trained, prayerful Liturgical Ministers, we will help plant that which God will grow.***

We do not need to reinvent anything. We do not need to decide what Liturgy will be. The Church has already planned the Liturgy. It is not a show or performance that people come to observe. The Liturgy is a Sacred Celebration of the Paschal Mystery through which the Mystery of Christ among us comes alive in all the people present.

Therefore, we want to make our preparation and attainment of the experience of Liturgy at St. Paul a priority, not a last-minute execution of duties and tasks. CCC 1070 states, "...every Liturgical Celebration is an action of Christ the priest and of this Body which is the Church, is a sacred action surpassing all others."

***We want to recognize every person who joins our Celebration as equal, necessary members of the Body of Christ. We want each and every person to be received with Joy. We, as Ministers, will serve them with Joy. We want to always be aware that Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, is indeed presiding at each Mass, proclaiming His Word, sharing His Body and Blood, and sitting next to us extending His Hand in the sign of peace.***

First, we ask you to personally pray regularly for the success, grace and insight to move in the Divine Flow of meeting Christ in a real, personal way as a Minister of our Parish. **Prayer will always be the heart of Ministry. Prayer serves to continually renew and strengthen us to serve our brothers and sisters.**

An awareness of the sacredness of your Ministry will naturally follow. We are privileged to have been called and invited to serve in this special way.

***The great result will be a continual renewal of our love for the Eucharist and the Sacraments, and a fruitful weekly experience of Liturgy.***

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

This Ministry provides a child's version of Liturgy of the Word, a prayerful service for children ages 2-5, that takes place during 10:30 Mass, at the same time the Community is celebrating the Liturgy of the Word. This allows the children to have the Sacred Word of God presented to them in a way they can more easily understand and in a way they can participate. It is not classroom instruction or catechesis based on the Word.

### ***History***

In some parishes, a separate Mass was traditionally held for children on Sunday. Children attended Mass that was connected with their catechesis while their parents attended Mass at a different time and/or location. In the early twentieth century a Liturgy of the Word for children began taking shape. The first Lectionary for Masses with Children was developed in 1992.

### ***Why***

Children's Liturgy is a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word in a focused, age-appropriate manner and environment. Thus, the children will be more active listeners and responders to God's Word. This opens these young people to hear and respond to God's Word, and to experience the Grace of being better able to participate in the celebration of the Mass. They will grow in their relationship with God and be better able to apply His Word in their young lives. It also helps prepare the children for participating in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Religious Ed program, beginning at age 3.

### ***How***

Since this Ministry involves young children, you will need to be prepared, patient and attentive to them. Read through the Readings over the course of the week several times, pray about it, and ask the Lord to reveal His Word to you so that He may use you to reach the children. You will take home a copy of the Children's Liturgy Workbook the Sunday before you are scheduled. Study the suggestions in the Workbook which gives you what you need to prepare. Return the Workbook to the Sacristy before Mass on your day to Proclaim so that next week's Proclaimer can receive it.

It is important to follow the words used in the main assembly, because this will teach the children to participate fully in the Mass as they grow older. One adult, the Proclaimer, will lead the Children's Liturgy with the Readings, Psalm and the Gospel. Two assistants (teens & adults) will help the children remain focused and reverent.

### **Before Mass (Proclaimers and Assistants)**

1. Dress appropriately since you are serving at the Table of the Lord. Please do not wear blue jeans, shorts, or casual footwear. Please remember even though you are not in the main assembly, you are still serving around the table of the Lord.
2. Dispose of any gum or candy.

3. Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass time. Place a check next to your name on the schedule so the Sacristan knows you have arrived. If you are the Proclaimer, leave the workbook in the Sacristy so Father has it at the end of mass to give to next week's Proclaimer. Get the **red Children's Liturgy binder\*** from the Sacristy and take it with you to Mass. (**\*the red binder that looks like the red book of the Gospels**)
4. Take a moment to quietly pray to be the welcoming presence of Christ.

### During Mass

1. When the congregation is seated after the praying of the Collect, Father will invite the children to gather before him. The three scheduled Ministers will approach with the children. The Proclaimer will carry the Children's Liturgy binder. Father will offer a prayer and words of dismissal. Before turning away from the altar, all the adults will say to the children, "**Bow to the altar.**" **All will bow, fold their hands into "prayer hands" and then turn to process out of the church.**
2. The Proclaimer will lead the children in a procession down the center aisle to the space designated for Children's Liturgy, holding up the Children's Liturgy binder. The Assistants will follow behind the children helping them stay in line.
3. All Children's Liturgy Ministers should maintain "prayer hands" when processing out and quietly encourage children to do the same. Proceed to the Atrium in the Family Life Center.
4. Make this a prayerful, reverent experience so the children will understand that God is speaking through His Word that is being read. This is a structured celebration mimicking and happening simultaneously with the Community Liturgy of the Word.

**Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd-** important information to understand the atmosphere of the Atrium.

- The catechist embraces Maria Montessori's vision of the human being and thus the attitude of the adult regarding the child; and prepares an environment called the atrium, which aids the development of the religious life.
- In harmony with the universal church, the life in the atrium follows the liturgical year.
- The atrium is a place of prayer, in which children and adults join together for meditation, contemplation, and prayer. All shoes must be removed before entering.
- The children and adults should enter the space quietly and reverently as they are preparing to enter a sacred space.
- The atrium is a place in which the only Teacher is Christ; both children and adults place themselves in a listening stance before his Word and seek to penetrate the mystery of the liturgical celebration.

**Assistants:**

- The main job of the Assistants is to help maintain a prayerful atmosphere by setting a good example with prayerful hands and attentiveness to the Proclaimer, and by gently and quietly helping the children remain attentive and sitting/standing as appropriate.

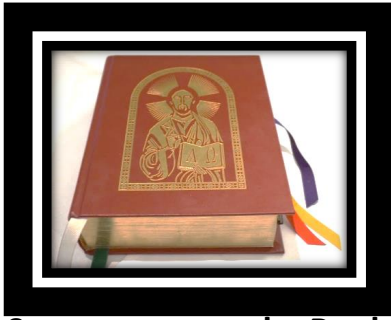
**Assistants and Proclaimers:**

- Help the children prepare themselves to enter the Atrium by helping them remove their shoes and getting them settled to enter the space.
- Have children enter the Atrium and assist them in walking on the taped lines and guide them to the prayer space.
- Instruct the children to quietly take their seats as they are in the presence of God.
- Assistant- set the timer for 15 min. and help the Proclaimer stay on time.

**Proclaimer:**

- Turn on the candle and take your place at the Ambo.
- Lead the children in singing a simple hymn to set the tone. (Jesus Loves Me)
- Look out at the children to let them know you are beginning. Introduce the First Reading by saying, "A Reading from the Book of \_\_\_\_\_."
- Speak slowly and clearly. Make eye contact with the children throughout the Reading. You will know it well enough to confidently do this since you have prepared all week.
- When you reach the end of the Sacred Text, hold up the Book, and say, "The Word of the Lord." Assistants and Proclaimer lead the children in responding, "Thanks be to God."
- The children should remain seated for the Responsorial Psalm. Read the verses and lead the children in reciting the response.
- Read the Second Reading in the same fashion as the First Reading.
- Instruct the children to stand quietly. They should remain standing for the Gospel Reading. Introduce the Gospel by saying, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_." All should lead the children in responding, "Glory to You, O Lord," while signing themselves with a cross on their forehead, lips and heart.
- At the conclusion of the Gospel Reading say, "The Gospel of the Lord." All should lead the children in responding, "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ." Instruct the children to quietly be seated.
- Remain at the Ambo and speak to the children reflecting on and explaining the readings. Guide the children in discovering the meaning of the Sacred Text as written in the work book.
- Next, instruct the children to quietly stand, and lead them in reciting the Profession of Faith using the Nicene Creed, same as the main assembly, and bowing at the appropriate point in the prayer.

- Now, lead the children in some Prayers of the Faithful praying for the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. All will remain standing. End each petition with, "We pray to the Lord," and lead the children in responding, "Lord, hear our prayer." (*The response is different in the workbook, but we want the children to say the same words that we say in Mass.*) This concludes the Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you do have time left, you can ask the children if they have personal prayer requests or summarize the lesson from today. (Please turn the candle off- place it back in the closet, turn off the lights in the room, and close the door. If anything was used from the atrium, make sure it goes back in the correct place)
- Guide the children in walking quietly out of the Atrium, just as they came in. Assist any children with getting their shoes on and reminding them to remain as quiet as possible. Make sure the children walk back to the church in a straight line. For safety reasons, one assistant needs to lead them to the church while the other volunteers walk with the line and behind the children. The children should never be told to go ahead without an adult leading them.
- The children will enter the main assembly after the Prayers of the Faithful are finished in the main assembly. Keep the children lined up to quietly process back to be seated with their families. Tell them to use prayerful hands as they go back to their seats. Be watchful for any having difficulty spotting their parents.
- Return the **red Children's Liturgy binder** to the Sacristy after mass.



**Sacramentary - the Book  
the Priest uses during Mass**



**Cup - holds the  
Blood of Christ**



**Purificators - used to  
wipe the Cup when  
serving the Blood of Christ**



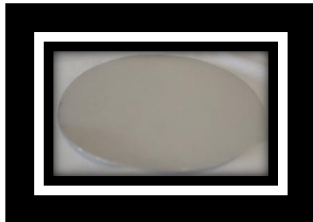
**Chalice with paten and host**



**Wine Decanter**



**Tabernacle and  
Red Sacristy Light**



**Paten - plate for the Host**



**Cruet for water**



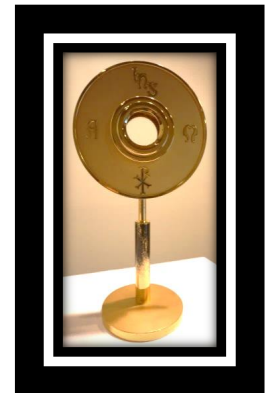
**Large Host - To be placed  
on Father's paten**



**Ciborium - holds the**



**Corporal - Placed on  
the Altar**



**Monstrance - Holds the  
Blessed Sacrament for  
Exposition of the Eucharist**