

Santa Maria del Mar
Catholic Church



Directory of Ministries and Parish Service

www.smdmcc.org

August 2023

Let's All Do Something!

A Letter from Our Pastor



Dear Friends and Family in Faith!

Santa Maria del Mar is a vibrant, welcoming, and loving Christian community. We have all been blessed with many distinct talents and gifts, and it's important for us to ensure that all of us can use them to do something to share God's love with our brothers and sisters for His greater glory.

In the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord tells us, *"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world"*. In the words of Pope Francis, *"Salt makes sense when you use it."* He has also cautioned us against becoming *"museum-piece Christians"* and instructs us to *"go forth, to be followers of Christ who are willing to go outside ourselves and accept responsibility for helping others."*

To those of you who have selflessly committed yourselves to serving our brothers and sisters in many of our ministries, we thank you for your wonderful, continuing loving service and sharing of your time, treasure, and talents. To those who feel that their faith obligations are fulfilled and limited by just attending Sunday Mass, I would like to personally invite you to actively participate.

We have compiled a list of ministries for you and your family to consider becoming involved in or simply to learn more about. We hope it assists you in identifying opportunities to do something, and to use your strengths and interests in a unique and fulfilling way. Equally as important, if you don't see an existing ministry that intrigues you, we ask you to write down your strengths or interests and then contact the Parish Council or us in the office.

Please prayerfully consider using your gifts to allow Christ to work through you in our parish, in our community, and in our world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a hand-drawn oval. The signature reads "Rev. Manny B. Lopez".

Rev. Manny B. Lopez, Pastor

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For more information on any of the ministries or parish services in this directory, send email to the address listed in the directory or call the parish office at 386/439-2971.

Visit the parish website: www.smdmcc.org

Important Notes:

Contact the Parish Council, parishcouncil@smdmcc.org, for any corrections to the information in this directory.

Ministry leaders: Please contact the parish office and the Parish Council to report any changes to ministry mission and/or leadership.

Want to start a new ministry? Contact the Parish Council at the email address above.

Adoration

Spending time in meditation, prayer, and adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is an excellent opportunity to experience grace in our lives. Participants can come daily or at a committed time period each month.

Contact: adorers@smdmcc.org

Altar Linens

Ministry members clean and prepare—with love and respect—the altar linens used in our liturgical services.

Contact: altarlinens@smdmcc.org

Altar Servers

Altar servers help maintain liturgical order by assisting the priest and the assembly during the Mass and at other prayerful events. Proper dress is required, and training sessions are provided on a regular basis. Youth age requirement: 3rd grade/First Communion and older. Adult altar servers are also needed and welcome; call the parish office for information.

Contact: altarservers@smdmcc.org

Baptism Preparation– Parish Service

The parish staff helps prepare parents for the Baptism of their child. Parents wanting their child baptized must attend a training/meeting session and commit to practicing the Catholic faith. The prep class also helps parents understand the responsibilities associated with raising the child in the faith. This includes regular Mass attendance and participation in the sacraments of the Church.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791 or email denise@smdmcc.org

Bereavement Support

Conveys the love of Christ through spiritual and emotional support, in both individual and group settings, to people experiencing grief due to loss, transition, or crisis.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

Blessed Stitches

Ministry members sew and embroider the baby bibs, washcloths, and stoles used in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. These handmade items, produced with care and love, become a special memory of the sacraments that can be passed on to future generations.

Contact: stitches@smdmcc.org

Bread of Life Community Supper

Prepares and serves free hot meals to individuals and families in need of food and/or friendship. Meals are available Monday from 5:00P to 7:00P at the parish hall; dine-in or takeout. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the meals and to clean up afterwards.

Contact: breadoflife@smdmcc.org

Cart Drivers

Cart drivers enhance SMdM's spirit of hospitality by transporting parishioners between the parking lot and the church at Masses and other parish events.

Contact: cartdrivers@smdmcc.org

Catholic Relief Services Parish Chapter

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has established a parish-based program creating a leadership and faith-development experience to increase the capacity of our diocese to respond to Christ's call regarding global solidarity and advocacy for the poorest of the poor. The chapter educates, raises funds (e.g., Rice Bowl project), and advocates for legislation identified by CRS as advantageous to best assist in serving the poor internationally.

Contact: crs_chapter@smdmcc.org

Celebration of Life

Ministry members lovingly set up, serve, and clean up at funeral receptions.

Contact: col@smdmcc.org

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a contemplative practice that is both a relationship with God and a discipline to deepen that relationship. It is a silent prayer based on the wisdom saying of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret." While the prayer itself is quite simple, its effects can be quite profound. The group meets on Tuesday mornings at 10 am at various members homes to share 20 minutes of Centering Prayer, a time of Sacred Sharing, and a time of enrichment via video, audio, or article.

Contact: centering@smdmcc.org

Christian Unity

This evangelization ministry works in the spirit of Vatican II to promote unity among the Christian religious denominations in Flagler County.

Contact: unity@smdmcc.org

Contemplative Prayer

In contemplative prayer we use the practice of centering prayer, a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which is both a relationship with God and a discipline to deepen that relationship. We devote 20 minutes to silent prayer and do a book study each Sunday in the Learning Center after the 11 am Mass.

Contact: contemplative@smdmcc.org

Cursillos in Christianity

Cursillos in Christianity is a Movement within the Church offering an encounter with self, Christ, and others through "short courses." The retreat phase is held on three weekend days in which attendees listen to talks given by priests and laity, share Eucharist, and pray together. The "fourth day" is the "after" phase of the Cursillo in which the community spirit is continued through reunion. The Cursillo Movement aims to affect a spiritual revitalization of the person, and in turn, the world.

Contact: cursillo@smdmcc.org

Environmental Committee

This group educates and inspires parishioners to adopt a lifestyle of deeper reverence and respect for God's creation, and also encourages the community to address environmental problems.

Contact: environment@smdmcc.org

Eucharist to the Sick and Homebound

This ministry provides these special ministers with an opportunity to bring God's love and compassion through the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend regular church services.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

These commissioned ministers assist the priest with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful. They must be fully initiated Catholics (i.e., received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), and be at least 16 years of age. They should regularly attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Training sessions required.

Contact: ems_lectors@smdmcc.org

Finance Council

The Finance Council assists the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish in accord with canon law. Members are appointed by the pastor and have terms and duties as described in diocesan policy.

Gift Shop – Parish Service

The parish Gift Shop is a source for many religious items for parishioners and visitors. Volunteers assist in sales, customer service, and to help maintain the shop.

Contact: giftshop@smdmcc.org

Gospel Reflection

The Gospel reflection group meets weekly to prayerfully ponder the upcoming Sunday gospel using the traditional monastic practice of reading, meditation, and prayer. The practice is intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word with the 'ears of the heart' utilizing the tenants of Read, Reflect, Respond, and Rest.

Contact: gospelreflection@smdmcc.org

Greeters

Greeters create a hospitable environment by cheerfully welcoming parishioners and visitors as they enter the church for Mass. This is a great ministry for individuals or families.

Contact: greeters@smdmcc.org

Hospital Visits

Eucharistic ministers from our parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church bring Communion, prayer, and comfort to Catholic patients at local hospitals. This ministry is part of the overall pastoral care program at the hospital, under the direction of the hospital chaplain. Members of this ministry must be commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, have pastor endorsement, and receive approval and training from the hospital chaplain and staff.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

Hospitality

Provide assistance in staging approved parish events that require food/refreshments. The committee works with the parish group leader or individuals utilizing the Parish Hall in regards to setup (food, beverage, decorations) and clean up. The Hospitality Ministry vision is to encourage camaraderie within the parish community.

Contact: hospitality@smdmcc.org

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on

family, youth, and church, council, and community activities. Council members are 1st to 3rd Degree Knights; assembly is only 4th Degree Knights. For more information, visit the websites below.

Local council: <https://council10514.org>

Assembly: <https://assembly2810.org>

Lectors

Lectors proclaim Sacred Scripture at Masses and other liturgical services. They prepare in advance using the "Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers" and other resources. They should be persons who have gifts and skills in public speaking, have a love and reverence for the Sacred Scriptures, and engage in some form of regular study of them. Training sessions required.

Contact: ems_lectors@smdmcc.org

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary gives glory to God through the sanctification of its members by devotion to the Blessed Mother. This is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Church, and their aim is to meet the needs of the parish community through prayer, visits, and works of mercy.

Contact: legionofmary@smdmcc.org

Library – Parish Service

The self-service parish library, located alongside the chapel, provides books and educational materials to help deepen and grow our Christian faith. Selections are organized so as to encourage use and to enrich lives through spirituality, prayer, and education. Volunteers help maintain the library's collection.

Contact: library@smdmcc.org

Life Teen

Welcome to Life Teen at Santa Maria del Mar Catholic Church! Life Teen is a safe place for teens to grow in faith and friendship all while having lots of food and fun. We also learn about service by actively participating in projects in Flagler County and on mission trips. Life Teen strives to empower our parish teens and their friends to grow closer to Christ and His church by creating a community where teens can share, have fun, and be authentic. Many of our events include the family, so that can be a great time to introduce your teens to our program.

Contact: lifeteen@smdmcc.org or kim@smdmcc.org

Marriage Preparation – Parish Service

Congratulations on your engagement! The parish staff will help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony and your married life thereafter.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

Music (Adult and Youth Choirs)

The Music Ministry supports the celebration of our liturgies by providing music and song that complements the Word of God, inspires the Spirit, and unites our Catholic faith community. Unlike performance musicians, the members of the ministry sing out of sheer love, in praise of God, assisting parishioners in the efforts to pray. Various groups include the Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Life Teen Choir, and cantors.

Contact: music@smdmcc.org or kim@smdmcc.org

Neo-Catechumenate

A small church community that roots itself in three foundational principles: (1) Weekly immersion into the word of God; (2) Weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist in a small group setting; (3) Monthly communal gatherings (called a Convivence) that includes shared prayer, a meal, and heartfelt faith sharing.

Contact: neocat@smdmcc.org

Nursing Home Visits

Visitations are made to the local nursing homes to bring Holy Communion and fellowship.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

Office Helpers – Parish Service

Volunteers assist the parish office staff with projects as needed. Volunteers bring a cheerful spirit of cooperation and flexibility in offering their time and talent. Hours vary depending on project needs.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

Parish Council

The Parish Council supports the Pastor in cultivating the pastoral vitality of the parish. Council members also serve as a liaison for parishioner input on parish life. Meets monthly. Membership is governed by bylaws. Prospective new members self-nominate when vacancies are announced in the bulletin.

Contact: parishcouncil@smdmcc.org

Pastoral Initiative

Couples who have any of the following impediments—prior divorce(s); needing annulment; widow/widower; civil marriages; living together; missing sacraments such as Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation; Catholic/non-Catholic couple—in preparing for their Marriage sacrament are encouraged to schedule a meeting.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791

R.C.I.A. – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

RCIA is a process of formation, prayer, and faith sharing in a group that leads a participant into full communion with the Catholic Church. Instructors walk with RCIA candidates on their journey of faith. Acting as a liaison with the parish, they help candidates as they integrate their lives into the social and ministerial life of the faith community.

Contact: rcia@smdmcc.org

Red Bird

Red Bird is a national Catholic ministry, approved by our diocese, that serves and supports couples and individuals through the loss of a child from pregnancy through adulthood. Red Bird Ministry's mission and vision is to help support families in trauma through hosting a grief workshop/retreat, a ten week in-person support group, an online community, and inspiring resources to help guide families through the grieving process.

Contact: redbird@smdmcc.org

Respect Life

Empowered by the Holy Spirit and by guidance from our Blessed Mother, the Santa Maria del Mar Respect Life ministry works to promote the culture of life from conception to natural death through prayer, education, awareness and proactive support of all life issues within our families, our parish, and our community.

Contact: respectlife@smdmcc.org

Secular Franciscans

The Secular Franciscan Order is the third branch of the Franciscan Family formed by Catholic men and women who seek to observe the Gospel of Jesus by following the example of Francis of Assisi. The Order is open to any Catholic not bound by religious vows to another religious order and is made up of both the laity (male and female non-clergy) and secular clergy (deacons, priests, bishops, and even popes).

Contact: franciscans@smdmcc.org

Social Justice

The Social Justice Ministry works to encourage and empower our faith community to live the Gospel message. Based on the rich body of Catholic social teaching, we support human life and dignity, defend the poor, and work for justice and peace through prayer, formation, and action.

Contact: socialjustice@smdmcc.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – SMdM Chapter

Members evaluate needs and provide compassion and support to individuals in need, regardless of race, origin, religion, or gender. SVdP works in a spirit of humility and

goodwill, and invites others to actively participate in assisting underprivileged populations in the struggle against poverty. Volunteers are also needed to work in the Society's Flagler Beach thrift store.

Contact: svdpsmdm@cfl.rr.com

Spiritual Directors – Parish Service

Spiritual directors are specially trained individuals dedicated to guiding people in the spiritual journey, and helping them explore matters of the soul, faith, and God. Spiritual direction is a practice found in many faith traditions. For anyone actively seeking and traveling the spiritual journey, there are many benefits to meeting with a spiritual director.

Contact: spiritualdirectors@smdmcc.org

Spiritual University

Welcome to Santa Maria del Mar Spiritual University! Our purpose and mission are to create opportunities for the Holy Spirit to help us grow together in our understanding of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We use approved interactive programs developed by Catholic priests, theologians, scholars and organizations. Please ask God if He is calling you to join us.

Contact: spiritualu@smdmcc.org

Teams of Our Lady

Teams of Our Lady is a movement of Christian Marriage Spirituality, which brings together couples united by the Sacrament of Matrimony, and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament. It offers married couples a pathway toward love, happiness, and holiness. This movement's aim is to help couples live fully their sacrament of marriage. "Teams of Our Lady have as their essential aim, to help couples strive after holiness—no more, no less." (Fr. Henri Caffarel, founder of the Teams of Our Lady).

Contact: teams@smdmcc.org

Ushers

Ushers are one of the first-line ministers of hospitality for the parish. They welcome parishioners and visitors, assist Mass attendees, and ensure good order during our Masses. They are a friendly source of parish information.

Contact: ushers@smdmcc.org

Women's Guild

Members come together to grow spiritually, build friendships, and support the parish community in prayer and projects. Women of any age are welcome to join.

Contact: womensguild@smdmcc.org

Young Families Ministry

The Young Families Ministry aims to promote fellowship, faith sharing, and growth in a dynamic Catholic family culture among young married couples and those with young children. We gather for food and fun, discussions around how to integrate faith into our everyday lives, and to offer support for a challenging yet beautiful season of life.

Contact: yfm@smdmcc.org

Youth Ministry (see Life Teen)

Youth Faith Formation

To share the love of Jesus Christ with the children of the parish (pre-K through 8th grade) and to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation using approved curriculum of the Diocese.

Contact: Call parish office, 386/439-2791 or email denise@smdmcc.org