



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Contact Us

Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor

Cell 406.946.2195 or Rectory 406.654.1446

Deacon Tom DePuydt

deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org or 406.674.7060

Administrative Assistant (Macie Hould) office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 2pm at RE Center

Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

Confession – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

Adoration – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm

Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Homily by Fr. Felix:

All Souls' Day (C): Wisdom 3:1–9; Romans 6:3–9; John 6:37–40.

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Today, we commemorate the faithful departed, who have died and are still on their way to the fullness of light and peace. We pray for all the faithful departed, our parents, grandparents, friends, and all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Our readings today help us look upon death not with despair, but with hope that comes from faith in Jesus Christ who conquered death and opened for us the way to eternal life.

In today's first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, we hear the most consoling lines in all of Scripture: "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them." At first glance, death seems like a defeat. We grieve because someone we love is gone, and it feels as though darkness has had the last word. But Wisdom teaches us to look deeper, to see things as God sees them. What appears as destruction is, in truth, a passage. What seems like loss is, in God's sight, a purification and a new birth. This line is the key to understanding Christian mourning. We do grieve, yes, but our grief is suffused with hope. Death does not erase love. It cannot erase grace. It cannot erase the divine bond that unites us to Christ. Our beloved dead are in God's hands, the safest place.

Saint Paul, in the second reading, takes us even deeper into this mystery. He reminds us that in Baptism, we were already united with Christ's death so that we might also share in His resurrection. Every time we look at the font, we see a symbol not only of cleansing but of dying and rising. The Christian life is a continual movement from death to life, dying to sin, dying to self, and rising to newness of life in Christ.

That's why we can look upon the graves of our loved ones with faith. Their bodies may rest in the earth, but they rest in hope, the same hope sealed in their baptism. In Christ, death has lost its dominion. What remains is only the waiting, the patient unfolding of resurrected life.

And so, in the Gospel, Jesus gives us the final word: "This is the will of my Father, that I should not lose anything of what He gave me, but that I should raise it up on the last day." That is the heart of this day. God does not lose what He loves. Every soul entrusted to Him remains in His care. No one is forgotten. No one is lost in the abyss. In the Eucharist we celebrate today, we touch that same mystery. The altar becomes the meeting place between heaven and earth, between the Church on earth and the souls who are being purified for glory. Here, in this sacred meal, the living and the dead are united in Christ's love.

When we pray for the dead, we accompany them with love. Our prayers are acts of faith in God's mercy, trusting that His love can reach where ours cannot. Purgatory, then, is not punishment but the final embrace of mercy, the soul being prepared to see God face to face.

So today, let us commend all souls to the mercy of God. Let us pray that they and we may one day be gathered in that great communion of saints, where every tear will be wiped away, every wound healed, and every love fulfilled in the radiant presence of God. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Malta will not have a Saturday Mass next week, November 8th. Dodson will move their Sunday Mass to Saturday evening on November 8th at 4pm. This will accommodate our Parish Potluck, immediately following Mass on Sunday, November 9th in Malta @ St. Mary's. This will be in conjunction with Fr. Ponessa's 50th Golden Jubilee and Ministry Fair – please make plans to join us.

General Fall Church Cleaning will be on Saturday, November 15th beginning at 9AM – there will be task lists divided by PCCW bands, but all parish members are invited to join in. If you are unable to join the group cleaning on the 15th, please complete a task as an individual or family and cross it off the list. Thank you in advance for your dedication to our parish facilities and keeping them clean and maintained.

All Saints Day reminds us that we are all called to be saints—and to leave a legacy of faith for those who follow. One meaningful way to do that is through a gift to the Church that continues to bear fruit long after we're gone. A contribution to an endowment at the **Catholic Foundation of Eastern Montana** can provide lasting support for Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries for generations to come.

To learn more or make a gift, visit www.catholicfoundationmt.org or call (406) 315-1765.



****If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, etc.) in our parish, Please contact Father Felix so he may grant his permission.**



Father Joseph Ponessa
**50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Come celebrate Fr. Ponessa's Golden Jubilee in the Priesthood.

NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2025

Saturday 4:00 pm Sacred Heart/Dodson (NO Malta Mass on Saturday),
Sunday 8:30am St. Francis/Saco and 10:30am St. Mary's/Malta

Potluck Meal and Ministry Fair immediately following Sunday Mass at St. Mary's/Malta in the church basement. All invited and encouraged to join in the fellowship and celebration

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.

Please pray for –Debbie and Joe Nicholson, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, Skyla Sisco, for the family of Norma Wyse, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Lorena James, Adalyn McCollom, Ramona Kienenberger, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, John Shevlin, Kristi Shettel Peterson, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of – Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

Mass Intentions - to schedule an intention,
please fill out an envelope in the back of the church.
Each intention is \$10.

Saturday 11.1.25	For all the faithful departed - All Saints' Day
Sunday 11.2.25 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco 12:30 Dodson	For all the faithful departed (Malta, Saco, & Dodson) - All Souls Day
Monday 11.3.25	For all widows and singles r/b Lana Fortin
Tuesday 11.4.25	Repose of Richard Cummings and family r/b Cummings
Wednesday 11.5.25	For Roman Morris and Family r/b Corky & Bonnie LaBrie
Thursday 11.6.25	For Charlie Kirk and family r/b Cummings
Friday 11.7.25	For my friends r/b Lana Fortin
Saturday 11.8.25	Repose of Derrick Davis r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 11.9.25	For the faithful of our Parish

Readings for the week of November 2, 2025

Sunday: Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11
or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/Lk
14:12-14

Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Lk
14:15-24

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/Lk
14:25-33

Thursday: Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14/Lk
15:1-10

Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk
16:1-8

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5,
10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-
9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

Deacon Tom will lead an OCIA class

(Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church
or know of someone interested in the faith, please
have them contact Deacon Tom at 406.674.7060.
Please note - because of the distance and travel
time, many of the classes will be held over Zoom.

Finance Council members include:

Deb Sjostrom 406-654-1451, sjostrom@itstriangle.com.

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com

Mike Ereaux 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C),
7mfe7195@itstriangle.com

Scott King 406-654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Shyla Sunford 406-399-1484, shylasunford@gmail.com

(Saco)

Bonnie Lankford 406-390-2276, Bonnie4339@hotmail.com
(Dodson)

*Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested
in serving please contact a member of the finance council.*

Parish Council members include:

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com

Shawn Bleth— 654-7303, shawn.bleth@gmail.com

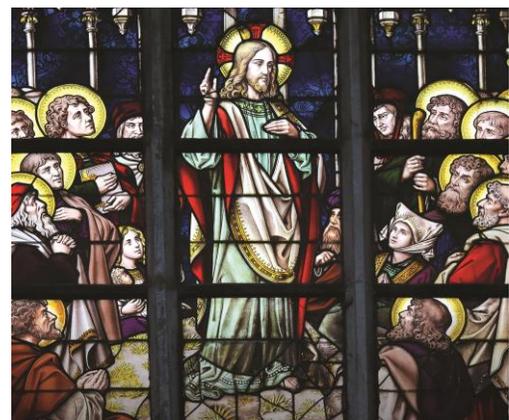
Nancy Ereaux—658-2613

Jeff Van Heel—406-266-1133

Joy DePuydt—674-5560, joyful@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459,

leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)



THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love. (Wis 3:9)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)
OR
Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you
are with me.

Second Reading:

But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

Gospel:

"For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day." (Jn 6:40)

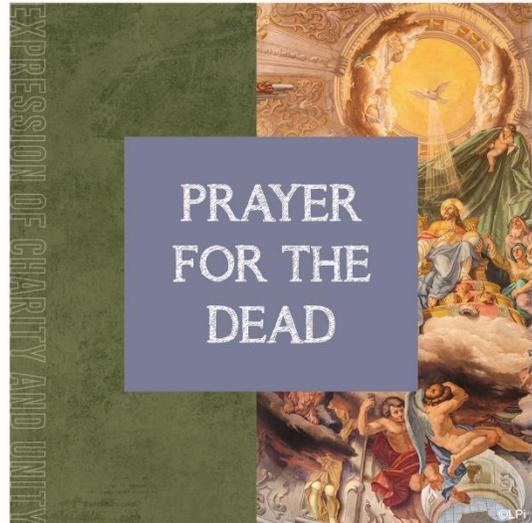
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

To live with Christ, we must die with him.
But what does this mean? What does this
look like in the ordinary life of a Christian?
We must ask God for the wisdom to see
our own crosses, so that we may carry
them into the newness of life.

Observances for the week of November 2, 2025

- Sunday:** The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day);
Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Monday:** St. Martin de Porres, Religious
- Tuesday:** St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop; Election Day
- Next Sunday:** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



Devotions, *Explained!*

God is not subject to the constrictions of time as we understand them. Our prayers for the dead are, like our prayers for the living, an expression of charity and the unity which exists between all members of the Body of Christ.

Prayer during Loss

O God,
In the midst of my grief, be with me.
Cover this season with Your
comfort and consolation,
help me to know Your presence
and Your grace.
Bring comfort to my affliction,
and hope to my heart.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of November 2, 2025

Sunday:

Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

Monday:

Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/
Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday:

Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/
Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday:

Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/
Lk 14:25-33

Thursday:

Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14/
Lk 15:1-10

Friday:

Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Lk 16:1-8

Saturday:

Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5,
10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Next Sunday:

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I lost my wallet this year. It was such an annoyance to replace everything in it. A friend, moved by sympathy, gave me a beautiful new one. One month later I lost that one, too, with all my newly replaced cards. No matter what I did, I couldn't find what I had lost. I resigned myself to never seeing either of my wallets again.

Fortunately, the Lord Jesus is not like me in this regard. In today's Gospel (John 6:37-40), he says, **"This is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me."** Jesus, unlike me, is ever vigilant with what the Father has given him. He searches for every lost soul — as the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to pursue the one lost sheep, or the woman rejoices upon recovering a lost coin — and even descends to the depths of loss on the cross and into the realm of the dead to recover that which seems forever lost.

On All Souls' Day, as we remember our faithful departed, these words kindle a hope beyond hope in our hearts. Even the dead are not lost to Jesus, though they may seem so to us. Nothing entrusted to him by the Father is ever truly lost. So, we may hope that every soul, no matter how wandering or forgotten in life, is secure in his loving care and destined to be raised on the last day. Of what the Father gives him, he loses nothing.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: I imagine the hand of God writing me into existence — *she lived, she died* — using for ink the very dirt that fills my grave. The dust from which I was created.

The Semicolon

My grave is in the corner of a cemetery in rural southeastern Wisconsin. For at least a mile in every direction, all you can see is farmland — cows, barns and quiet country roads. It's beautiful, serene. I imagine the hand of God writing me into existence — *she lived, she died* — using for ink the very dirt that fills this grave. The dust from which I was created.

Surrounding my grave are the burial plots of other family members — Rachel, Georgiana, Julian, Josephine. I visit the cemetery to pray for them, knowing they are there, but also not there. And when I visit their graves, I stand on my own. I look out at the tree-lined horizon and the farmland. I think of how, in a thousand years, none of this will be here. But I will be here, God's hand paused against the page, preparing to write the rest of the story not in dirt but in his own blood. For Christ does not lose anything of what the Father has given him.

Not a soul. Not a bone. Not a lock of hair.

She lived, she died; she lived again. No longer is there a period after the words *she died* but instead a semicolon. And the semicolon is the grave, that mystical place where the Blood mixes with the dust of the earth, where life meets death, and then meets life again. And the story continues.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What do Catholics believe about the resurrection of the dead?

Answer:

Every Sunday, we proclaim in the Creed that we believe “in the resurrection of the body.” Does that mean Christ's resurrection or our own? Both! Jesus' resurrection is part of the work of salvation, but it's also a sign of what's to come. While death separates our bodies and our souls, this was not the intention of God when He first created us. It's an effect of original sin. At the end of time, our bodies and our souls will be reunited.

Scientifically, we may have questions about this, since bodies decompose over the course of centuries. Or what about the saints, whose relics are spread around the earth? How the resurrection will happen is a mystery. But we know that our resurrected body will be our body. If we are in heaven, our body will be in a glorified state. Some theologians speculate what this glorification will be like based on Jesus' resurrected body. Will we be able to walk through walls? Will we eat, since Jesus broke bread with his disciples? We don't really know the answers to these questions. We do know, however, that we will be free from the effects of the fall (such as sickness and pain) and physical defects that occurred in life. Christ redeems us as whole persons, body and soul!

“And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.” - Jn 6:39-40

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Our wisdom writer speaks of just souls resting peacefully in God’s loving hands. Can you think of a more peaceful image of death?

Second Reading:

Paul teaches the Romans that with Jesus’ resurrection, “death no longer has any power over him,” or us, as believers. Does this belief help you through times of grieving from the loss of a loved one?

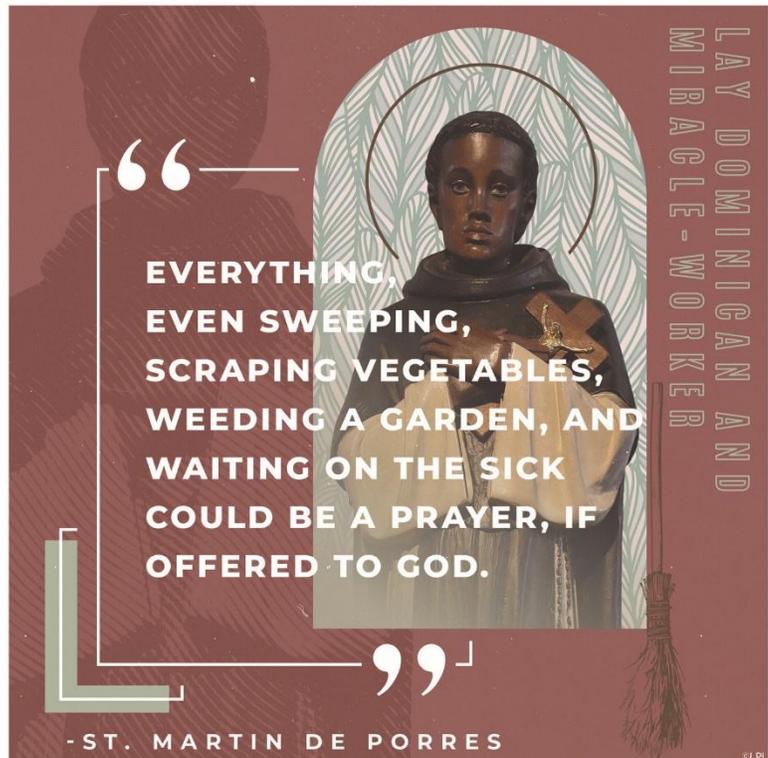
Gospel:

Jesus taught the crowds that anyone who believes in him will have eternal life and be raised from the dead on the last day. How do others know you believe in Jesus?



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Prayer

Thanks for being my friend, Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Remember some people who have died. Say a prayer for them.

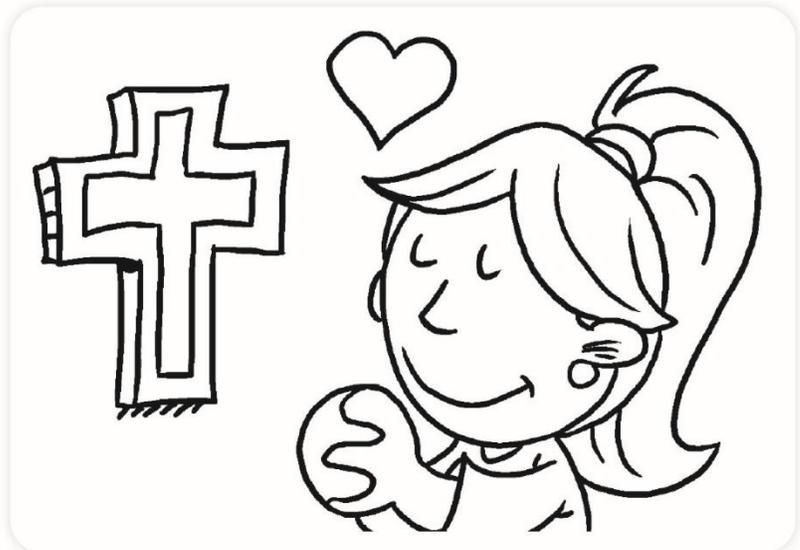
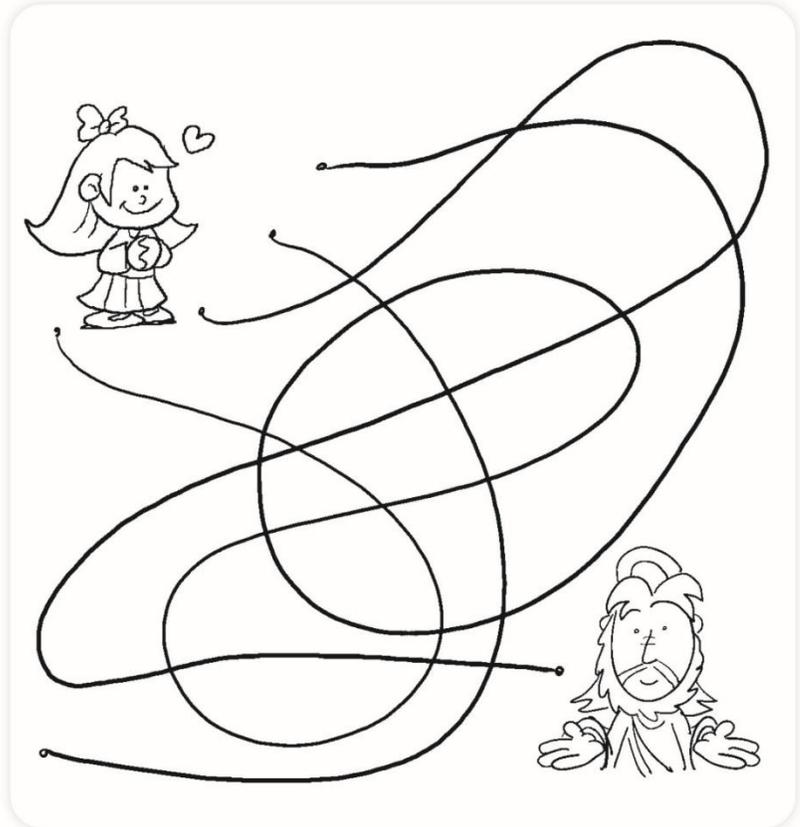
Sharing the Gospel

When you ask Jesus to play with you, he will say, "Which game do you want to play first?" If you ask him to the movies, he will go with you. When extra people show up for his party, he will say, "Come on in, there's always room for one more." If you need to talk with him, he will say, "Sit down right now and tell me all about it." Jesus Christ will never turn you away

Now color the picture!



Help her find her way to Jesus.





Dear Parishioners,

You are warmly invited to attend our first-ever Ministry Fair on **Sunday, November 9th, immediately following Mass in the church basement**. This special event will be held in conjunction with a parish potluck meal and a celebration of Fr. Ponessa's Golden Jubilee—marking 50 years of dedicated priestly service.

The Ministry Fair is an opportunity for you to learn more about the many ministries and services that support our parish community—and to consider how you might share your time and talents in service to others. Each ministry will have its own table, where ministry leaders will be available to explain their roles, answer questions, and help you discover ways to get involved.

Current and potential ministries include:

Hospitality, Music, Lector, Altar Servers (Youth & Adult), Extraordinary Ministers, Education, Knights of Columbus, Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW), Environment (Church Decorating), Sacristans, Repairs & Maintenance, Special Projects, Money Counters, Parish Council, Prayer Requests/Chain, and Finance Council.

We are also exploring new ministries based on parishioner interest, such as Charity & Outreach, Faith Formation, Communication with the Homebound & Sick, other.

Sign-up cards will be available for you to indicate your interest or share new ideas for parish involvement.

I invite you and your family to prayerfully reflect on how the Holy Spirit may be calling you to serve. How can you best share your gifts to strengthen our parish community?

With blessings,

Fr. Felix Nayak
Pastor