



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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March 20, 2019

Dear Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,

With this letter you'll find a **ministry schedule** for now through the end of June. **Holy Week** is on the horizon. I've done my best to talk with people and find places for as many of you as possible among the Holy Week ministries, but there are a few spots where we still need volunteers. Please call me if you're able to serve at the liturgy on those dates!

You will notice that the **5:00 Mass** is not listed past Palm Sunday. Due to the difficulty of getting a third priest to help on Saturdays, Fr. Ron made the difficult decision to drop one of the three Saturday Masses in our parishes, and the Mass at St. Mary's was the least well attended. Changing the Mass times in a parish is always painful. (Some of you remember the fuss when the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Sunday Masses were combined to be at 9:30 am.) For those of you who've served in liturgical ministries on Saturdays, we welcome you to participate on Sunday mornings for the 9:30 Mass! This is your parish, so I hope you make the effort to adjust your routine and make room for Mass with our parish community on Sunday mornings.

You should already have an up-to-date phone list of ministers for contacting substitutes.

Our web site transition/update is complete! If you can't find your copy of the schedule, you can find it easily on the parish web site, www.stmarygr.org. It's logically found by starting with the main menu, following **Calendar/Events > Liturgical Ministry Schedules**. The direct link is www.stmarygr.org/Ministry-Schedule. Of course, if you have any difficulty finding or viewing that schedule, let me know!

I have **email addresses** for just over half of our Lector and Special Ministers of the Eucharist, but I suspect that more of you use email. Please share or update your email address with me if you have one! (If you don't receive this schedule from me by email, that means I don't have your email address.)

I'll be drafting **the next schedule** in the beginning of June for July through October. When you see the notice in the schedule, don't forget to tell me about any dates for which you will be unavailable during that time!

SPECIAL NOTES FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

- **TRAINING UPDATE: Sunday, March 31, after the 9:30 Mass.** Plan to spend some time getting an update to what's expected of us at Mass. There are some changes of timing and place, so don't miss it! This is as close to a mandatory gathering as we can make it. **Beginning on Palm Sunday, April 7,** we'll begin to follow these changes to when we move and where we stand. These affect us before and after Communion. Why? The bishop told the priests he sees little consistency from parish to parish, so he is asking parishes to meet some specific expectations. We do many things well, but we'll need to adjust a bit in some areas. We've already made the change at the Mass in Spanish and it works smoothly... just differently.

- **Thank you** to all who have been so good about going to the sacristy after Mass to cleanse the vessels and put everything away. And yes, put everything away, and leave nothing out on the tables or countertops.
- **When cleaning up**, remember that there is no need to put the **corporal** (the cloth folded 3x3 that the priest places on the altar) into the soiled linens drawer after every Mass. Unless the priest spilled something on it, it can be used for all of the Masses on a weekend. Put the corporal with the chalice in the vault so it will be ready for the next Mass.
- **When cleaning up**, please be very gentle with the vessels. The finishes on the metal weren't made to withstand heavy-duty washing. In truth, very little water is necessary, and only a touch of soap on the end of your finger. You don't ever need to fill the sink with water, and *don't submerge the priest's chalice*. Those chalices are built to be gently wiped clean, but not inundated with water.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR LECTORS:

- **Where there are options** among the readings, the answer to the question of which readings to prepare is printed on the schedule. Look for the ► mark. This happens a few times during Holy week.

Thank you for your dedication. You serve as a role model for the community.

Peace,

Larry Barton | Liturgy and Music Ministries | music@stmarygr.org