

DIRECTORY

Ministries and Parish Organizations

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

FAITH FORMATION

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TEAM: This ministry provides parish welcome and hospitality to families bringing their children to the Sacrament of Baptism. This ministry, comprised of primarily of couples, attends the one-hour pre-baptismal parent meeting on a rotating basis, usually once every other month. As part of the meeting, the host couple gives a short (7 – 10 minute) witness talk about their experience with the sacrament in their own family. This ministry requires a minimal time commitment; approximately two hours per year. It provides a valuable service to families at the very beginning of their faith journey. A pinnacle moment in the religious life of a family, the faith community celebrates with joy when children are initiated through the waters of life.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW): This ministry involves participants to share the Word of God in a comprehensible way with children pre-school through kindergarten. Children are blessed during a monthly Sunday 10AM. Mass and are sent forth with adult leaders to the lower church hall to share the Liturgy of the Word and dwell on the relevance of the Word in their lives. Using approved texts that follow the same readings that adults share on each Sunday, the children listen and respond to the Word of God. They listen to an age-appropriate homily by one of the adult team members. They join the assembly for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

CULTURE OF LIFE COMMITTEE: (Resect Life Team) “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5). This committee works with our pastor and the Pro-Life Apostolate of the Fall River Diocese, to implement parish based respect-life activities. Our ministry is to defend the right to life of every human being from conception to natural death. We welcome new members. “Inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life” (the Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul).

FAITH FORMATION CATECHISTS and AIDS: Levels 1 – 9: Formal religious instruction of children begins with children in Level 1 and continues through the elementary school years. Volunteer teachers include parents or any parishioners wishing to share their faith with these young people. Training and assistance by the director of religious education is available at all times for persons willing to participate in this ministry. Please share your gifts. **Confirmation Preparation:** This two-year preparation generally begins at the start of eighth grade and culminates in the reception of the sacrament during the Spring of Freshman Year. As confirmands reflect on the Creed, Morality and Christian Life together throughout the two year process, they begin to experience their growing faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We need mature, faithful people as leaders and teachers

(RCIA) CHRISTIAN INITIATION: The initiation process welcomes unbaptized (catechumen) and uncatechized (candidate) people into our Catholic faith. Moving toward the celebration of the initiation sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, the inquirers progress with help from the community in a variety of ways. **Inquiry period:** Individuals seeking a faith life meet with ministers to discuss concerns about the process of initiation and about the Catholic faith. The ministers are available on a year-round basis. **Catechists** meet each week with those who commit to the process of moving toward full initiation into the Church. Catechists unpack the Word with the elect each week, sharing and reflecting on their individual faith journey, relating scripture to their own lives. **Sponsors:** agree to give encouragement through their presence and pray to catechumens and candidates. Sponsors are fully initiated members of the parish who will worship with these people on a weekly basis, and are available to discuss concerns throughout the process of initiation. The process of Christian Initiation takes a minimum of one year. We depend on the many works of people who will commit to this ministry. Come share the journey!

LITURGY & WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS: Altar servers minister for liturgical events in the parish. Any student, boy or girl from the fourth grade and up are invited to join. Experienced altar servers fully train newcomers. Training involves weekly practice sessions for about four weeks. Schedules are flexible to meet family needs.

ADULT ALTAR SERVERS (ACOLYTES) for WEEKDAYS AND FUNERALS: Men and women who minister for liturgical events in the parish. Training involves weekly practice sessions for about four weeks. Schedules are flexible to meet family needs. These men and women also assist at Funerals with vessels, incense, books, etc.

COLLECTORS: This ministry of hospitality includes greeting and welcoming as well as seating and taking up the collections. Handicapped access by means of an elevator is also a responsibility of this group of volunteers. Meetings are rarely held and any adult can join by checking "usher" on the involvement card.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are lay people or religious who are selected by the pastor for this role of service. These individuals attend an orientation session and are commissioned by the Diocese to serve in their parish. Eucharistic Ministers distribute the Eucharist at Mass as assistants to the priest when other ordained ministers are not readily available. In addition to serving at Mass, some of these ministers may bring the Eucharist to the infirm or housebound.

GREETERS: Offer hospitality and welcoming to parishioners and visitors alike. They welcome worshippers before mass and distribute bulletins at the end of Mass.

MUSIC MINISTRY: There are a variety of opportunities for those interested in this ministry. Parish Choir and a Children's Choir. The choir serves the liturgy by enhancing the song of the assembly and facilitates assembly singing. Choir members do not need to know how to read music. Cooperation, a willingness to learn and commitment to the prayer of the people create the ingredients that shape good choir members.

PRAYER GROUP; Prayer meetings are Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30PM at the Parish Life Center's Fr. Keliher Hospitality Room. Our format includes the rosary, prayers to the Holy Spirit, singing praises, quiet time, short teaching, group discussion, petitions, and prayers for our leaders, our nation and the souls in purgatory, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

READERS: Parish readers help the presence of God to become alive through the proclamation of the Words. With practice and training, readers will grow in prayerful appreciation of God's Word. The Word, thereby challenging others as they proclaim God's Word, will challenge readers. Readers assist at the weekend liturgies, holy days, funerals and other liturgical celebrations.

SACRISTANS: Volunteers become acquainted with the preparation before a liturgy or the aftermath of a celebration. Other responsibilities include unlocking church doors, turning lights on before liturgies, keeping track of bread and wine for ordering purposes, cleaning altar linens, checking and preparing the altar vessels, vestments, and Sanctuary before Mass and cleaning up after Mass.

PARISH SUPPORT

MAILING TEAM: "The Holy Stuffers" gathers when extra hands are needed to stuff envelopes, fold letters, mail schedules or brochures during the liturgical year of the community. This ministry needs extra hands on board any time you can give help. Please consider offering some time to this group.

PARISH LIFE

FINANCE COUNCIL: This group helps the Pastor to develop a working budget for the Parish and help prioritize financial issues. An accounting, banking and/or business background is desired. Contact the Pastor, if interested.

PASTORAL COUNCIL: This group of discerned and chosen members seeks to vision of on the current and future spiritual and pastoral needs of the parish. Discerned/elected Members serve a two-year term.

PARISH OUTREACH

COFFEE & DONUTS TEAM: This Hospitality Team provides refreshments to the parish following selected parish functions and organizes the outreach to the community after the 8:30AM Sunday Mass. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and welcome new people and connect with old friends.

EVENTS TEAM: The mission of the events committee is to host social events within the OLQM community, open to the parish, across all demographics, including families, to foster a sense of parish community. We hope to plan and host 4 events a year. If anyone in the parish would like to join our group, **we would love to have you!** This is an excellent opportunity to meet and welcome new people and connect with old friends.

HEALTH CARE MINISTRY/PARISH NURSE: The Health Care Ministry is committed to the healing ministry of the church. Through health counseling, education, home visits and prayer, the Health Care ministry promotes the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of Our Lady of Queen of Martyrs community. The Team is composed of healthcare professionals and other caregivers. The ministry offers education, blood pressure screening, referral services, health counseling, advocacy, home visits, transportation for occasional hospital and physician visits.

NEWCOMERS TEAM: A parish “Welcome Wagon” to welcome new families or individual parishioners with as welcome basket and ministry booklet, introducing them to the ministries of the Parish and some of its members.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: The Society exists to serve people in need of food and clothing. In extreme cases, such as unexpected unemployment, they may assist in helping to meet some costs for essential services such as utility bills for a brief period of time. At Thanksgiving and Christmas time, they gather and distribute food baskets to needy families. The Society may also offer spiritual help if needed. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society operates under the jurisdiction of the parish as its own organization, with a formal affiliation through district, state and national councils.

VOCATIONS TEAM: “Come and Follow Me” is the invitation from the Lord to minister in His name. The Vocations Team mission is to foster Vocation education in the parish level for the priesthood, diaconate and religious life through prayer, poster contests, adoption of a Diocesan Seminarian, educational formation through bulletin inserts, etc. We are all called to be vocation directors personally inviting our youth to church leadership.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Offered to students in grades 6 through 9, this ministry regularly meets on the first Sunday of each month during the school year. Students participate in numerous religious, social, educational and community service programs.

YOUTH ADVISOR TEAM: The Adult Youth Ministry Team is made up of adults who are looking to share their faith and act as adult volunteers at any of the Youth Ministry events.

PARISH SUPPORT

Small children who carefully drop money into the collection basket often smile proudly as they settle back into their pews. Adults should likewise feel satisfied when they support their parish’s work. Their donations reap untold benefits for both the community and themselves. Your support of our parish does much more than support the physical plan because our needs extend far beyond fueling furnaces, painting walls and landscaping. Your financial support also helps our parish bring Christ’s healing embrace to children, the elderly, the sick and the poor in our community. Your gifts also benefit you for Christ has promised,

“Give and it shall be given to you ... for the measure you measure with will be measured back to you”. (*Luke 6:38*)

As good stewards, one should plan Church giving carefully along with prayerfully examining what one is doing for their parish. Is your support what it should be? Has it kept pace with increased income? Is it proportional to your ability to give?

Part of that careful planning can begin with the budget envelope system which you will receive upon registration. We strongly suggest that your *treasure* commitment be a conscious decision beginning with a certain percentage of household income. This amount should come *before* all other expenses and not on what is left over *after* expenses.

When we give to our parish, it should be a deliberate decision which recognizes one’s need to give and the ability to do so, as an act of gratitude to God. We should respond generously to our parish’s collections, because we know God is calling us to be a loving community of faith.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Remembering Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in your WILL is a further opportunity to contribute to your parish even after God has called you to Himself. The proper legal title is listed below and should be given to your attorney when making your bequest.

Roman Catholic Bishop of Fall River
Corporation Sole Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
Seekonk, Massachusetts 02771

ART and ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: This team assumes the responsibility of the aesthetics of the worship space through the seasons of the Church according to the directives on Art and Environment in the Church. This team works together so that everyone entering our parish will feel included and comfortable in an appealing surrounding, from the steps of the church to the narthex, through the worship space and nave. The team provides a subtle yet powerful beauty when liturgies and other celebrations occur.

WAKE LEADERS: Men and women who assist by leading the Vigil Rite during the wake of a parishioner. These men and women represent the Parish and our Parish Family to the mourners and lead the deceased family and friends in prayer. Training is provided. A vigil rite leaders book is provided. The vigil service lasts about 15 minutes and the wake leader does the vigil rite sometime during the wake hours.

PRAYER SHAWL: Calling all knitters and crocheters – those that can, those that would like to learn, and those that would like to support us through prayer and/or by supplying materials for our devoted group who pray and knit shawls into creation. We strive to reach out to the people of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and the wider community, bringing the mystical reality of God into people's lives, using shawls as an outward sign. It is an exciting venture, which includes prayer, community spirit and sharing. Many prayers are knitted into each shawl being created. We give shawls to the homebound, to people receiving chemotherapy, people with serious medical problems, and people in grief. All recipients have been very touched by our gesture