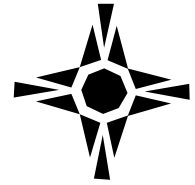


St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Worship and Word



ALTAR SERVER Altar servers are an integral part of the liturgy. They set up the table for the Eucharist, provide an escort for the presentation of the gifts, and assist the presider.

ART & ENVIRONMENT Members integrate into the liturgy, by the use of colors, symbols, flowers and other decorations, appropriate themes to visually enhance the worship space.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER of the EUCHARIST Ministers share the gift of the Eucharist during Mass. They prepare the altar with the gifts of bread and wine, distribute the body and blood to the assembly, wash and return the cups and bowls to the sacristy.

HISPANIC LITURGY Arranges for and supports the liturgy for the Hispanic community and is celebrated each Sunday at 12:30 pm.

LECTOR The lector proclaims God's word to the gathered worshipping community from the ambo which is also known as the lectern.

LITURGY COMMITTEE Coordinates the music, environment, and rituals to complement the theme of our Sunday Liturgies.

MUSIC MINISTRY The choirs and cantors create an atmosphere through which the Holy Spirit flows in order to lead the congregation in song as part of the worship and praise of God.

SCRIPTURE STUDY Designed for lectors to familiarize themselves with the upcoming week's scripture readings. Though interested people are also invited to read and reflect upon the readings as well.

USHER Ushers provide a safe and reverent place for the parish community to celebrate the Mass and various activities.

Pastoral Life

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES Small Christian communities foster spiritual growth, scriptural awareness and continuing education. They provide opportunities to gather and seek ways of responding to God's presence in their lives and the world.

DIVINE MERCY Members meet weekly to study how God's mercy works in people's lives and to pray for the ill and lost.

NO MORE SECRETS This group provides a forum for the reconciliation and healing of those sexually abused by the clergy.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is an ongoing four step process of initiation that guides and instructs adults desiring the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation and provides a faith journey for non-Catholics who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith. The program begins in August and ends with Pentecost. Participants meet on Tuesday evenings for instruction and faith sharing and participate in Sunday liturgies and special ceremonies.

RECONNECTION ~ RETURNING CATHOLICS A program that provides a vehicle for those interested in returning to active participation in the church.

Pastoral Care

GRIEF MINISTRY Ministers reach out to parish families at the time of loss of a loved one, offering prayerful support and sympathy. As part of this ministry there is a variety of Care Notes on numerous topics that are available to all in the vestibule.

Hospital Ministry Eucharistic ministers bring Communion to Catholic patients in the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and the VA.

Ministry to the sick & homebound Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist deliver a sense of Christian hope to those they visit, bring Communion on a regular basis, and exhibit a friendly and compassionate manner to those in acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and private residences in our parish.



Faith Formation

Infant/Child Baptism Ministers help fulfill the church's requirement for instruction of parents and Godparents prior to the baptism of the child. Classes are held in English on the first Wednesday of each month and in Spanish the first Thursday.

Liturgy of the Word Catechists discuss the readings during the nine o'clock family mass. Children gather in the parish hall to listen to the word of God in a format that is designed for the young churchgoer. They return to the church invited to the sanctuary for the Eucharistic portion of the Mass.

Religious Education Catechists' purpose is to foster the children to knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the good news of Jesus Christ in their life according to the church's teachings. The Wednesday evening program is offered to children in preschool through eighth grade and provides the parents of our parish with a partnership in the faith formation of their children. Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist is a 2-year program traditionally beginning in the first grade.

Youth Group Students in ninth through twelfth grades are invited to join this group throughout their high school years. It provides Christian based activities in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bi-monthly. Sunday evening meetings, attendance at retreats, and volunteering are some required elements of the program.

Parish Services

Finance Committee An appointed panel of parishioners who review the parish budget and provide financial expertise to the Parochial Administrator.

Greeters Teams of two people contact and call on the newly registered parishioners. Their purpose is to welcome newcomers, acquaint them with our parish community, answer any questions, and make them feel welcome.

Legion of Mary A spiritual group that prays, serves, and evangelizes under the banner of the blessed mother. Every week, members visit and pray with patients at local nursing homes and the VA hospital taking the Eucharist to those patients able to receive the sacrament. Members visit the homebound and provide transportation to the doctor, store and church as well as assist them in any way possible. Meetings are held weekly in the Sacristy.

Parish School and School Board Saint Catherine Elementary School for students in preschool through eighth grade is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition. It serves the children of Martinez and surrounding communities.

Pastoral Council A panel of appointed parishioners who provide long-range pastoral planning for the parish. The council is an advisory board for the pastor, who presides over the council.



Community Services

Loaves and Fishes An interfaith program that provides a hot meal on weekdays to those in need. Saint Catherine's parishioners prepare and serve a lunch on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the First Baptist Church located at 1802 Alhambra Avenue.

Mary Help of Christians This ministry offers help or finds assistance for whoever asks, whenever possible.

Social Awareness This group fosters social awareness and justice through outreach efforts in the parish, our city of Martinez, Contra Costa County, and the worldwide community. Outreach projects include local homeless shelters, Respect Life, Habitat for Humanity, and Christmas gifts for the needy.

Saint Vincent de Paul The Society is dedicated to helping those in need by providing person-to-person services, vouchers for food and bags of groceries. Members meet weekly in fellowship to discuss their work and to pray for the community, and cook and serve lunch at Loaves and Fishes monthly.