

St. Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 601 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444

StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or by appt. and 30 min. before each Sunday Mass
Weekday Mass: 8:00 a.m. Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

FIFTH Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2023



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Jesus said to his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?"

It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Matthew 5:13-16

**"Your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father."**

Matthew 5:16

TOMMOROW!

50+ Club

Monday, February 6, 2023

Doors Open 12:30pm

Donworth Hall

Encounter Jesus Christ. Love Jesus Christ. Live Jesus Christ

February 5, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A story is told of a church that was destroyed during the 1995 Rwandan genocide. As the parish sought to rebuild itself, it began by rebuilding the church, which once stood at the heart of the community. Unable to provide electricity, however, and with a residual fear of further violence, the scattered community would wait until dark to gather for Sunday Mass. Each week, with the ringing of a bell, a little miracle would happen. As the people made their way to the shell of the church, they brought with them their lamps, using them to light the way and to light their parish church. When finished, they would return home the same way, taking with them their lamps. For anyone observing this, it was impossible not to see the connection between this miraculous event and today's Gospel. For this broken and grieving community, it was a sign of God's continuing presence in the life of their community, a sign that life was returning to normal – that God's light was with them and in them. The only time that little church was lit up was when people were present. That was when they became truly Church!

So it is for all believers as we gather on the Lord's Day. We gather in the light of Christ, and we are challenged to be that same light in the world – to be Christ in the world and in the lives of others. The image of light is a powerful one. We all know how important it is to life. When we have light we are more secure, and we can see the way even if it might be uneven or circuitous. Light is necessary; it brightens our vision of life and invites others to share in our vision.

So the words of Jesus, *You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden*, are both challenging and consoling. Being a Christian is like that! Our lives should shine with Christ's presence, compassion, care and love. And we must show this in practical ways, as Isaiah tells us in the first reading: sharing our bread, sheltering the oppressed and homeless, clothing the naked and fighting against oppression, lies and false accusation. Isaiah sets before us a vision or a road map for life according to the will of God.

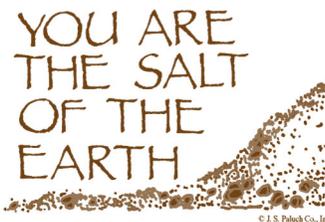
The images of light and salt are interesting and provoking ones. Neither can exist for its own sake. Light is no good if there is no one to use it or to bask in its glow. As the Gospel tells us, you do not light a lamp and then hide it. Light is meant to penetrate and overcome darkness: it does not make sense to hide it. Likewise, salt is no good unless it brings flavor to food.

So our faith is no good if it is all about us. As we deepen our relationship with God through prayer and the Eucharist, we will be strengthened to go out and share our faith with others. Only then will we be fulfilling the Gospel mandate to be Christ's disciples, and to bring glory to God.

The prophet Isaiah says, *Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own*. These are all concrete ways in which we flavor the earth with God's goodness, and allow light to break forth in darkness. But these are not the *only* ways.

Jesus' metaphors do not have to frighten the introverts among us – we are not required to be a giant pillar of salt, or a strobe light on an airfield. Each of us has the opportunity to glorify God according to our gifts, our circumstances and our state in life. So even if all we can offer is a grain of salt, or a flicker of a match light, that is OK. Whatever we have been given by God is meant to be shared for the sake of the world. Whatever we have is worth giving.

May the Lord grant, as Saint Paul says, that our *faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God*, that we may be salt for the earth and light for the world.



Our Saint of the Week - Saint Josephine, Bakhita, c. 1868-1947

"It is an act of justice for the rich to help the poor."

Saint Josephine, affectionately known as Bakhita ("fortunate one"), was born in the southern Sudan region of Darfur. She was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery, eventually working in Italy as a nanny for a wealthy family. It was during this time that she was introduced to formal religion and came to know the Daughters of Charity of Canossa, or the Canossian Sisters. Bakhita was drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized in 1890 and given the name Josephine. Six years later she entered the Canossian Sisters convent in Schio, Italy.

At her canonization ceremony on October 1, 2000, Pope John Paul II said of St. Josephine: "In today's world, countless women continue to be victimized, even in developed modern societies. In St. Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights."

Bakhita knew the reality of being a slave, an immigrant, and a spiritual seeker. Even while she was outwardly denied freedom and human dignity, her spirit was free. It was that freedom of spirit that allowed her to follow her heart and live her true vocation.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Feb 6

8:00 a.m.

Kathleen Dowling *Sp. Int.*
(By: Maureen Dowling)

Tuesday, Feb 7

8:00 a.m.

† **Ann Brien**
(By: Dan & Sally Holper)

Wednesday, Feb 8

8:00 a.m.

† **Nenita Sangalang**
(By: Elvie Ysip)

Thursday, Feb 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Mary Ho**
(By: Viet Ho)

Friday, FebJan 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Charlie Guevara**
(By: Griselda MacDonald)

Saturday, Feb 11

8:00 a.m.

Fr. Dave Pettingill *Sp. Int.*
(By: Azaian & Siblings)

4:30 p.m.

Jesse James *Sp. Int.*
(By: Lynn)

Sunday, Feb 12

8:00 a.m.

Shay Ingelfinger *Sp. Int.*
(By: Parish Staff & Volunteers)

9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

11:30 a.m.

† **Albert Gragnani**
(By: Diane Gragnani)

6:30 p.m.

† **Pat & Betty Moriarty**
(By: Kirwan Family)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — If you share your food with the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, then light shall break forth upon you (*Isaiah 58:7-10*).

Psalm — One who is just is a model for the righteous (*Psalms 112*).

Second Reading — My message to you, says Paul, was not clever words of wisdom but the proclamation of Christ crucified (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*).

Gospel — You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world (*Matthew 5:13-16*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Tu B'Shvat (the Jewish new year of trees) begins at sunset

Monday: St. Paul Miki and Companions

Wednesday: St. Jerome Emiliani;
St. Josephine Bakhita;
International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking

Friday: St. Scholastica

Saturday: Our Lady of Lourdes;
Blessed Virgin Mary;
World Day of the Sick

STAY CONNECTED TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY!

FOLLOW St Stephen Church on SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram : @SaintStephenParishSF

Facebook : @SaintStephenSF

YouTube : @StStephenParishSF

2022 STATEMENT OF DONATIONS

For TAX Purposes

Donation Statements shall automatically be mailed to parishioners with donations of at least \$250 & above starting February 1st on the mailing address on record with the Parish Office.

For any questions/ clarifications on your 2022 Donation Statement for tax purposes, email the parish bookkeeper;

teresa@saintstephensf.org

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ST STEPHEN CHURCH has made the decision to move to a more improved and updated database system catered to the needs of the parish!

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PARISH REGISTRATION by going to <https://onrealm.org/saintstephensf>.

Watch out for more detailed information as we move to onRealm. Brochures and posters shall be made available at the Vestibule for your guidance.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



February 5, 2017

Light shines through the darkness for the upright.

— Psalm 112:4

Sick Relatives & Friends

Please pray for the sick and homebound of our community and for all those written in our book of the sick. May they know the healing touch of Jesus.

Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Rev Bill McCain, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plondaya, Robert Liam, Marino Tulao, Eden Finn, Edileide Jose Barbosa, Kenneth Fambrini, Larry Barbieri, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierrez, Catherine Scossieria, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

Please call the office to add or remove names



FAMILY CONNECTION

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

Background of the Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Gospel Reading

Following upon the teaching of the [Beatitudes](#), Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual [Works of Mercy](#). When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

Loyola Press



Volunteers Needed ! 2023 WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM

St. Stephen's will provide another dinner for the SF Interfaith Winter Shelter program, on Saturday, February 18, 2023, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM at First Unitarian Universalist Society (1187 Franklin Street at Geary Blvd.).

We need food to serve 60 guests.

Please sign up in the church vestibule.

Our 20,000 Square Foot Parish Center Available to Rent for Special Occasions

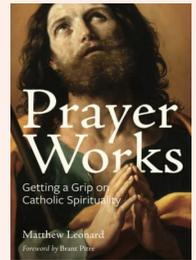
call Shay Ingelfinger at 415 681-2444
For more information, ext.7 or
donworthevents@saintstephensf.org
regarding the hourly rate available for
our parishioners.



St Stephen's Book Club

February 2023

- **Prayer Works: Getting a Grip on Catholic Spirituality**
by Matthew Leonard



If you've never read a book on prayer, you've got the right one. And if you've read lots of books on prayer, you've still got the right one. Prayer Works is a unique blend of great storytelling, laugh-out-loud humor, and rock-solid instruction. Matthew Leonard has the rare gift of making deep topics easy to understand and digest.

Practical and inspirational, this book will set your heart on fire and teach you how to engage in a life of divine intimacy you never thought possible. Put simply, Prayer Works will radically transform your life.

Come join us as we meet the in person on the second Saturday of the month in the parish office conference room. Contact Mary Molly at the parish office for details. Phone - 415 681-2444x4



CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer in Time of Illness Lord Jesus,
I believe that having passed through the
gate of life in baptism,

I will always have your protection and
comfort. Yet today the pains of my illness threaten
to overcome me and cause me to forget all the good
things you have given me in this life.

I pray in confidence that you would send forth
your Spirit to refresh and revive me as you have always
done in the past. May I continue to witness to your
goodness in this life so that I may be with you at the
heavenly banquet table in eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

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Keep the Lights On!

A mother and her small child once drove past the restored home of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield. It was night and the national shrine of the United States was brightly lit. "Look, mama," the child said excitedly, "Mr. Lincoln has left his lights on." The mother smiled. "Yes" she replied; "he left them on for the whole world to see." Although Lincoln has been dead since 1865, he is still a tremendous inspiration to all people. But in a much more true sense Christ, "God from God, Light from Light" remains and will remain to the end the shining beacon for all peoples of all times. Christ has shared his Light with us his disciples and asks us to be what we are: the light of the world.

EFFORTLESS

The only thing that comes to a person without effort is old age.

—Anonymous



Are you called to be a Deacon?
Join us for upcoming Diaconate meetings!

Diaconate Formation Informational Nights

Contacts: Deacon Fred Totah, Director of Diaconate Formation 415-614-5615; totah.fred@sfarch.org

Deacon Mike Ghiorso, Director of Permanent Diaconate 415-614-5530 | ghiorsom@sfatch.org

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. St. Raphael Parish | 1104 5th Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 -7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Archdiocese of San Francisco | One Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94109

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. St. Mark Parish | 325 Marine View Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002

The Office of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate will hold Informational evenings for men considering the possibility of serving the Church as Permanent Deacons. The evening will include discussion of the ministry of the Deacon in the Church, the Formation program, and the application process. Please join us.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11)

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the oldest of nine children in a poor family from Lourdes, France, saw Our Lady in the first of eighteen apparitions. At the grotto of Massabielle, Bernadette saw “a small lady in white” who invited her to return each day. During the visions the Lady communicated a message of penance, instructed Bernadette to dig so that a spring of water began to flow, requested that a chapel be built there at the grotto, and eventually identified herself by saying “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Throughout these apparitions, Our Lady addressed Bernadette in a formal way, treating the humble girl with dignity. In 1862 the authenticity of the apparitions was confirmed by Church authorities. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was recognized worldwide in 1907. Lourdes became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of the faithful; their faith and the faith of many others was revitalized through the story of a simple young girl from rural France. © J. S. Paluch



JOIN OUR ST. STEPHEN CHOIR

Please consider joining our Stephen Choir! The only requirements are that you love to sing, and desire to learn music and vocal techniques (no experience is necessary). As a member you support our parishioners, enhance the Liturgy and form new friendships.

The choir sings mostly at the 9:30am Mass, and once per month at the 11:30am Mass. Contact our Choir Director Fredrick Schaefer at email: 1dogpony@gmail.com

World Day of the Sick

Saturday, February 11, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

Cathedral of Christ the Light

Oakland, CA

The San Francisco and Oakland dioceses are uniting to celebrate a very special World Day of the Sick at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland on Saturday, February 11 at 11 am.

The Mass will feature the world premiere of Frank LaRocca's Messe des Malades on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Sacrament of the sick will be offered to those seriously ill in mind or body and the elderly.

Doctors, nurses, first responders and all other medical professionals and caregivers are invited to attend and receive a special blessing. All attendees will be invited to join a community reception and receive a gift of Holy Water from Lourdes.

The Mass is co-sponsored by the Order of Malta and the Benedict XVI Institute. To register:

<https://rebrand.ly/worlddayofsick2023>

For questions regarding special needs, contact Order of Malta coordinator Randy Harris at lrh@jmbm.com.



The Sunset Deanery (of which we are a part) has been gifted a bus to take people from the parking lot behind St. Stephen's Church to the Cathedral for Mass and back. If you wish to reserve a free spot on the bus, please call St. Stephen Parish Office at 415-681-2444. Note: Please aim to be at the Church Parking Lot by 9am as the bus leaves at exactly 9:30am.

Superbowl Squares

The Men's Club is excited to be organizing the annual 50/50 pool for Super Bowl Squares; \$100 per square. Squares will be sold through Friday, February 10th. Please contact **Christian Fernandez** at (415) 806-6364 or you can email the Men's Club at StStephenMen@gmail.com if you would like to purchase a square.

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

The prophet Isaiah inspires us with these words: “Light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.” All of us celebrating the liturgy today praise God for these words of encouragement. Surely each of us knows the gloomy side of life, but today’s readings propose a brilliant antidote to misery: the light of service. Isaiah focuses on physical suffering, telling us to provide food, clothing, housing, and equal opportunity to those with limited resources. Moving beyond material needs, Saint Paul demonstrates how to proceed humbly when attending to people’s spiritual needs. Saint Matthew’s Gospel stirs us to bold action: whatever gifts we have, we must put them at the service of our communities. As Christians, we must engage with one another without holding back, letting our light shine before all.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

As soon as Christmas ends, people begin planning for Easter! Originally, the source of our Paschal Triduum was but a single liturgy extending from Saturday sundown to sunrise on Easter Sunday. The two days leading up to the liturgy were days of fast, not only for the elect, but for the church preparing to baptize them. A fifth-century pope explained that the church imitated the apostles, who were in hiding with their grief from the arrest of Jesus, and therefore sacraments, even penance, were forbidden.

Inevitably, though, people wanted to come together, and so eventually a Liturgy of the Word developed for Good Friday. This was the first step toward today's shape of the Triduum, and gradually new ideas were embraced, including the veneration of the cross and a simple Communion service. Interestingly, the Word remained central, since we know that in those days the pope did not receive Communion at this liturgy, even though the faithful had that option. In the other churches of Rome, priests and people received Communion under both species. Although the custom of Communion on Good Friday took hold, it did not endure past the Middle Ages. The central liturgies of the year slowly unraveled and disappeared from parish life. Remember that there were no seminaries in those days, and books were a rare luxury. Most priests could only manage to celebrate a simple "low" Mass, and few parishes could afford the ritual books that would guide a priest through the complex forms. Holy Week remained important in private devotion, but for a time the liturgies virtually disappeared.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

As a Church, we now move into Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the Latin root for "order," which is why we line the Sundays up on the calendar and count them—with "ordinal" numbers—one by one. The orderly way we proceed through the liturgical year reminds us that our faith offers a strategic goal for our lives: eternal happiness with God, who is love. Today's readings share stories of believers who order their daily activities toward the goal of sharing God's love. Isaiah embraces his role as God's servant and works to bring glory not only to Israel, but to the entire world. In a similar way, Saint Paul identifies himself as Christ's witness in the world and reminds the Corinthians of their life goal: "to be holy." The Gospel shows us John the Baptist, servant and witness, attentive to God's loving orders, the divine plan for salvation.

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This Week's Humor



One night, a man on his way...

One night, a man on his way home happened upon a drunk, down on his hands and knees searching for something under a street light. The man asked the drunk what he was looking for so diligently and the drunk said he had tripped and his Rolex wrist watch had broken loose from his wrist. The man, being a kindhearted soul, got down on his hands and knees and began assisting the drunk looking for his watch. After about ten minutes without any success, the man asked the drunk exactly where he tripped. "About a half a block up the street," the drunk said. "Why, pray tell," the man asked the drunk, "are you looking for your watch here if you lost it a half a block up the street?" The drunk replied, "The light is a lot better here."

The preacher asked the small boy to show him the way to the post office and the boy courteously obliged

"Thank you", the preacher said. "You are a bright and polite young man. How would you like to listen to my sermon this evening so that I may show you the way to Heaven?" "You're going to show me the way to Heaven?" the boy said in astonishment. "But you don't even know the way to the post office!"

God and Canadians

When God made Canadians, he made them polite, peace-loving, and nice. But the Devil said, "you are disturbing the balance of nature". God thought about it, and said, "you are right. But I don't want to undo my work." Devil: "well, there is only one way to fix this." So God created Canadian Geese.

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A CHURCH ACCESSIBLE!

Saint Stephen Church is left open Monday through Saturday from after the morning Mass until 4:00 p.m. This gives you the opportunity to stop by and make a person/private visit with the Blessed Sacrament and to offer your prayers in a quiet, warm and comfortable atmosphere. So, when you are out for an afternoon walk or returning home from shopping or work -- feel free to stop by.



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Liliedahl

Pastor, ext. 1

Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

Fr. Cameron Faller

Priest in Residence, SFSU Chaplain

Fr. Michael Healy

Priest in Residence

Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad

Permanent Deacon

deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

Sharon McCarthy Allen

Principal

Carol P Cagalingan

Parish Manager, ext. 3

carol@SaintStephenSF.org

Mary Molly Mullaney

Faith Formation Coordinator, ext. 4

faithformation@SaintStephenSF.org

Shay Ingelfinger

Event Center Coordinator, ext.7

donworthevents@SaintStephenSF.org

Teresa Devincenzi

Bookkeeper, ext.5

teresa@SaintStephenSF.org

Fredrick Schaefer

Music/Choir Director, ext 8

or 415 342-4508

1dogpony@gmail.com

Ed Prete

Bulletin Editor, ext. 6

e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

ST STEPHEN PARISH 2022-2023

ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY

CONTACT PERSON

- Altar Servers Giovanna Hrvatin
- Altar Society Joan Leehane
- Bridge Group Virginia Stefanelli
- Caritas Nellie Hizon
- Church Hospitality Mary Molly Mullaney
- Communion Ministers Mary Molly Mullaney
- Faith Formation Mary Molly Mullaney
- Fifty Plus Club Helga D'Arcy
- Finance Council Laura Birsinger
- Front Ofc Lead Volunteer Fely Boquiren
- Grief Support Clergy
- Head Sacristan Ed Quan
- Lectors Mary Molly Mullaney
- Liturgy Committee Fr. Michael Liliedahl
- Marriage Preparation Clergy
- Men's Club Martin Murphy
- Parish Council Vicky Francisco
- RCIA Mary Molly Mullaney
- St. Stephen Book Club Mary Molly Mullaney
- Ushers Jim Scheg
- Women's Guild Naomi Kelly

Parish Office Phone 415.681.2444

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us!

You can **sign up** or **update** your information by completing this form & placing it in the collection basket, by mailing it to the Parish Office, by phone at 415-681-2444 or at www.saintstephensf.org

Name _____ Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Complete Mailing Address _____ City/Zip _____

Weekly Sunday envelopes , circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving.

I am interested in assisting the Parish in an organization or ministry as (Please encircle your choice/s):
 Acolyte/ Altar Service, Altar Society, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Greeter/Usher, Hospitality after Mass/Special Events, Holy Communion Ministers to the Homebound, Music/Choir, Lector &/or Holy Communion Ministers, Parish Center Front Office Volunteer.

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