

## St. James Ministries for Teens



### **ALTAR SERVER**

To serve at the altar is helping a priest, our parish, and above all God. Serving allows the students to play an active part in parish life. It is a way of giving back to the parish community. The main function of altar servers is to assist the priest (and God) at the altar. Altar servers do this in many different ways: holding the book, holding the acolyte candle, carrying the cross, as well as setting the altar before the blessing of the Eucharist. To serve at the altar is helping a priest, our parish, and above all God. Serving allows the students to play an active part in parish life. It is a way of giving back to the parish community. Altar servers (grades 4-12) assist at every weekly Mass and weddings. Orientation will be in the Spring each year. If interested, please contact Sharon Dillon (St. James Altar Server Coordinator) at [sjaltar@gmail.com](mailto:sjaltar@gmail.com).

### **CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word)**

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is offered during the 10AM Sunday Mass most Sundays with the exception of liturgical holy days. Children's Liturgy is a special form of catechesis for our young children grades K-3rd. Children are invited into the chapel during the Liturgy of the Word to hear God's Word proclaimed out of the Children's Catholic Bible. They hear the same Sunday readings as in Mass, but in language that they can easily understand. The children are lead in a discussion and an activity that gives them the opportunity to reflect on God's Word and explore how it connects to their lives. They then return to their family for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. CLOW introduces children to both the structure of liturgical worship and participation in worship so they grow in their understanding and love of God. Teen volunteers are needed to assist the adult leaders each Sunday since many children participate. If interested, please contact Sharon Moeykens (Children's Ministry Coordinator) at [smoeykens@stjamesah.org](mailto:smoeykens@stjamesah.org).

### **EM (Extraordinary Minister)**

Being an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist makes you part of the most intimate moment in the Liturgy by distributing the Eucharist to the Body of Christ, His Church. Eucharistic Ministers must regularly share in the Eucharist, be Confirmed, and committed to our faith. Prospective ministers participate in a deanery training session plus attend a specific training for St. James. Periodically the Parish will hold training sessions throughout the year. Please watch the bulletin and website for information. Once trained, Eucharistic Ministers join a Mass team which distributes the Eucharist every other week. If interested, please contact Gary Hammelmann (EM Ministry Lead) at [GAH818@yahoo.com](mailto:GAH818@yahoo.com).

## **GREETERS**

In a parish as large as St. James, the Greeting Ministry hopes to provide a kind, familiar face at each Mass to receive each person into our parish community and make them feel welcome and at home. As people enter our church and parish center during weekend liturgies and special holidays, the Greeting Ministers happily welcome them with open arms. The greeters make all feel welcome and also facilitate the distribution of liturgy materials. Greeting Ministers are assigned to specific Mass times as fit their schedule and needs. There is an easy sign up genius on the St. James website. The requirements to be a Greeting Minister are a friendly attitude and a great smile! Families, teens and adults can participate together. Being a Greeting Minister is a great way to get to know others in the parish, to feel a part of the St. James Community, and to participate more fully in the liturgy. If interested, please contact Chris Avell (Greeter Ministry Lead) at [christine.avell@comcast.net](mailto:christine.avell@comcast.net).

## **LECTOR**

St. James Lectors are assigned to proclaim the first and second readings at all Sunday Masses as well as Holy Days, Ash Wednesday, the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) and holidays. To become a lector, completion of training at a Vicariate session is required; this training is offered at various times during the year. Lectors must be in high school and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The lector then meets with the St. James coordinator regarding the expectations and procedures at St. James. Workbooks with the readings and pertinent background and tips are also provided. A lector reads once a month, on average. If interested, please contact Katie Sowa (Lector Ministry Lead) at [kathy\\_sowa@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy_sowa@yahoo.com).

## **LOAVES & FISHES**

For over 30 years, St. James has reached out to the homeless in Chicago's Uptown Neighborhood. The LOAVES & FISHES Ministry will continue to provide a Saturday evening meal of soup & bread and a brown bag lunch for up to 60 men and 40 women. LOAVES & FISHES continues its need for family/teen volunteers to make 100 lunches. If interested, please contact Kevin & Geralyn Walsh (Loaves & Fishes Ministry Leads) at (847)361-1480.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY – TEEN ENSEMBLE**

The Teen Ensemble includes teens in grades 9 – 12 who provide music through choir/instruments monthly on Sundays at 5PM in the Parish Center. Rehearsals are on Sundays at 2:30PM-3:45PM (choir) and 1:30PM (instruments). Rehearsals are at 3PM (instruments) and 3:30PM (choir) on Mass days. Teen musicians are all encouraged to participate and you do not need to be in your school choir, band or orchestra. You will learn popular songs Christian rock songs, traditional hymns, and created upbeat versions of older hymns. There may be other Mass opportunities throughout the year including Christmas, Lent, Music Ministry concerts and St. James Graduation. If interested, please contact John Towner (Teen Ensemble Director) at [jtowner1129@comcast.net](mailto:jtowner1129@comcast.net).

## **RE (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)/ODM (OPEN DOORS MINISTRY)**

Religious Education provides faith formation and Sacrament preparation in a classroom setting to 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Open Doors Ministry enables St. James to offer Religious Education to those children with special needs at the same time as our classroom-based program. The goal of this program is to build upon the strengths of each child, help prepare them for the sacraments, and provide support to ensure all children have the opportunity for full and active participation in the parish RE program. Teen volunteers are needed for RE and ODM (grades 6-12) on Tuesdays at 4:30-5:45PM and 6:30-7:45PM from September through April. If interested in volunteering, please contact the Religious Education Office at [stjamesRE@stjamesah.org](mailto:stjamesRE@stjamesah.org).

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School is a Religious Education program for our youngest children. This ministry is a fun, Christ-centered, hour-long program that takes place during the 10AM Mass twice a month. Each week an age appropriate Bible story is introduced. Catechists use books, crafts, and music to enhance the weekly lesson. Any child who will be three or four years old or in kindergarten before September 1st may participate in this ministry. Classes meet twice a month from September-April. Group Leaders will travel with one group, all year. The Station Leaders will run the activities for each rotation of the groups. We are in need of many volunteers. Please consider assisting our Ministry with your talents. Teen volunteers in grades 6-12 are welcome to help. A sign up will be available in the spring/summer for fall. Please contact Sharon Moeykens (Children's Ministry Coordinator) for more information [sundayschool@stjamesah.org](mailto:sundayschool@stjamesah.org).

## **VBS (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL)**

This is a fun, weeklong Catholic Bible camp for 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students participate in bible stories, artwork, crafts, games and snacks. The dates for 2018 are: June 18-22 in the Parish Center. MANY volunteers are needed starting with entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Volunteer time commitment is: 8:15/8:30-12:15pm. Volunteers can register for 1 day or the whole week. Training will be on Friday, June 15 again with decoration help. If interested in volunteering, please contact Sharon Moeykens (Children's Ministry Coordinator) at [vbsstjames@gmail.com](mailto:vbsstjames@gmail.com).

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Youth ministry will have a middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) groups to participate in holiday service opportunities, retreats, mission, and small groups. There will be a sign up to participate in youth ministry each fall.

### 2018 Mission Trips –

- Catholic Heart Work Camp in Farmington, MI: June 24-30 (rising 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Local Mission - Back of the Tracks(Arlington Heights)/St. Malachy (Chicago): July 23-27 (rising 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

If interested in participating in youth ministry or the mission trips, please contact Christina Hudson (Director of Discipleship & Evangelization) at [chudson@stjamesah.org](mailto:chudson@stjamesah.org).

**You are able to receive service hours through participation in these ministries, but most importantly you are serving God and our community!!!!**