

# Serving the Liturgy at Resurrection Parish



## Who celebrates liturgy?

*Everyone, all of us,  
each person in the assembly!*

It is the gathered assembly, united with Christ the High Priest, who celebrates the liturgy. Through our baptism each of us is called to gather with our celebrating community to give God thanks and praise. We are all celebrants.

## What is the role of the priest?

*The priest is our leader of prayer.*

He is ordained through the sacrament of Holy Orders to preside over our prayer, but he is also a member of our community and so prays with us. He is known as the Presider or the main celebrant.

## What is the role of the Assembly?

*As a member of the gathered assembly each of us has a role to play. We are called to take part with our whole mind, body and soul. We are called to full, conscious and active participation.*

We arrive on time, prepared to praise and honour and give thanks to God. Aware that we are part of the body of Christ and not isolated individuals, we show hospitality to one another and are present to each other throughout the liturgy. We sing songs with vigour, we listen attentively to the proclamation of the Word and the homily, we observe moments of prayerful silence, and we pray the prayers and responses of the liturgy with conviction. We perform the ritual gestures like the sign of the cross and the sign of peace with care. During the Eucharistic prayer we unite ourselves to the words and actions of the priest. We join in the communion procession and song and receive communion reverently. We do not leave until our recessional song is completed. Then we remain if possible to visit with other members of the community. We go forth, spiritually recharged to live our lives as followers of Christ.



## What is the Role of Liturgical Ministers?

Liturgy is made up of several elements: gathering, remembering, sharing a meal, going forth. Each of these elements requires the service of individuals, in addition to the full participation of the whole assembly, to help make them happen. Certain members of the community share their gifts by serving in specific ministries. They do so for the sake of the community and to give glory to God.

As members of Resurrection Parish, each of us is called to contribute to our common prayer. We respond to that call by truly celebrating the Mass as part of the assembly. We respond as well by discerning our gifts and offering to serve in a liturgical ministry. If we are not yet serving in a specific ministry, we are asked to consider carefully the following information and to serve in a ministry we are suited for.

## Who serves in liturgical ministry?

Those who have the gift for that ministry and the willingness to serve our community.

They enter into the ministry by filling out a ministry sign up form, either a paper copy or online.



## What are the general qualities of liturgical ministers?

First and foremost they are humble servants. They put their gifts at the disposal of others for the sake of the community and for the glory of God. They take their responsibility seriously. They know when they are scheduled and they arrive early on that day, or they find themselves a reliable replacement.

They learn how to lead in their ministry by attending the provided training sessions. They are open to positive feedback about how they perform their task, and they adapt easily when instructions change. They are eager to learn more about their ministry and willing to take part in on going training. They recognize that the community is spiritually healthy when many are involved in ministry. For this reason they do not expect to serve all of the time. They are careful in their ministry never to attract undue attention to themselves.

All liturgical ministers understand their role as members of the gathered assembly. They are models of good participation and communicate an attitude of prayer throughout the liturgy.

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## Ministry of Altar Server

Altar Servers assist in the liturgical action. They take part in the entrance procession and reverence the altar prayerfully. At times they carry objects. They walk slowly and with dignity. Altar Servers honour the symbols of the liturgy and carry them with care. Lovingly, they set the table for the Eucharist and clear it afterwards. They contribute to the smooth flow of the liturgy by performing their tasks efficiently and with graceful movement.

*This is a functional ministry. When it is done well it contributes to the beauty and reverence of the whole liturgy.*

**Am I in Gr. 4 or older?**

**Can I share my gifts in this ministry?**



## Ministry of Hospitality

First impressions – we have only a matter of moments to make a first impression. As greeters and ushers, ministers of hospitality know that good liturgy thrives in a climate of hospitality, and so they try to set the tone for every liturgy. They arrive a half hour before each Mass to begin the work of gathering the assembly, predisposing the people to good worship by the warmth of their welcome. They are the first face of Christ that people encounter when they enter the church.

Ministers of hospitality smile and greet people as soon as they walk in door. They offer assistance when needed. They usher people directly to seats when the church is getting full. They treat everyone kindly. The ministers are on the lookout for strangers and ensure they are especially welcomed. A greeter remains at each entrance way until all late comers have been seated. A greeter seats latecomers at points when the Liturgy of the Word will not be disturbed. Ushers take up the collection efficiently, from front to back and then store it in the designated space. An usher will help the family selected to bring the gifts forward and they will bring the collection forward. Ushers may need to facilitate the communion procession.

These ministers also say good bye to people as they leave, and hand out the bulletins at all entrances. They tidy up the worship space and church entry, but do not rush people out of the church. These ministers can be a variety of ages and family situations.

*Hospitality is one of the simplest ministries to lead but it is important. It requires ministers who will have a genuine concern for all who enter the church doors, people ready to offer the welcome of Christ.*

**Am I able to share a friendly smile?**

**Am I willing to come a bit early and stay a bit later for the sake of our community?**



## Ministry of Liturgical Décor

People in this ministry are creative and have a special concern about the look, season and feel of the liturgy. In collaboration with the Parish Team and Liturgy Committee they make certain the worship space serves the needs of the assembly, the season (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time) and celebration.

They make every effort to facilitate the people's participation ensuring that any art in the church serves the liturgical action of the assembly and that visual symbols, like crosses and images of saints are not multiplied.

They keep clutter out of the worship space and church entrance. They attend to seasonal enhancement of the church to create an appropriate atmosphere. They enhance the whole space because all of it is sacred.

*This ministry requires many hands to lighten the work load. Be a part of it seasonal or for the whole year. Sign up can be done at the Welcome Desk or by calling the parish office.*

**Am I creative?**

**There are a variety of ways to serve in this ministry, am I willing?**

**Sign up for this ministry through the office or at the Welcome Desk and at the Service Ministry held each year.**



## Ministry of Environment

These ministries are a part of the Liturgical Décor Committee. They have specific tasks that aid the Liturgical Décor Committee and the parish as a whole.

They include:

### Altar Cloths and Altar Server Garments:

The weekly duties of this role include checking the altar cloths to ensure they are clean and changing soiled cloths.

### Plants:

The weekly duties include checking on all live plants, watering and maintaining them, working with the Décor Coordinator to ensure proper plants are in place. These duties vary over the year, but do increase over the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

**Do I have some time each week?**

**Can I find someone to work with to share these ministries?**

**Sign up for this ministry through the office or at the Welcome Desk and at the Service Ministry held each year.**

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## Ministry of Mass Coordinators

This ministry works with the Pastor and ministers serving for the Masses, taking the role of Mass Coordinator. They coordinate one of the three Sunday Masses. These ministers prepare all that is needed for the celebration of the Eucharist. They perform their tasks unobtrusively and efficiently, before the assembly is gathered. They are flexible and agreeable people who make certain all ministers for that liturgy are present, and find replacements for those who do not arrive on time. They clean up after each Mass, properly purifying and washing communion vessels. They attend to details regarding the liturgy.

*Am I a 'details' person?*

*Can I come early and stay late to serve in this role?*

## Ministry of Children's Liturgy

People in this ministry do not necessarily have children, but want to help our young people grow in their relationship with Jesus and our Parish Community. Parents, Grandparents and older teens are all welcome to help in this important ministry to the children of our parish.



This ministry involves working in a two person team, preparing for (a guide line is already established) and delivering a lesson for approximately one Children's Liturgy session per month; participating in the two training sessions (2 hours each, one in the fall and one in the new year) per year; ensuring that the Children's Liturgy supplies and room are kept neat and tidy; and connecting with children in our parish week by week through prayer and interaction.

This ministry is seeking leaders who would join a coordination team to do the tasks of scheduling, coordinating each of the 3 masses, and the duplication of bulletins and teaching notes on a monthly basis.

*Do I love working with children?*

*Am I willing to commit about two hours of preparation time and one mass per month to the children of our parish?*

## Ministry of the Welcome Desk

Many times people are told to "please call the office during the week" in answer to their questions. The Welcome and Information Desk brings the office to the weekend celebration.

*Do I have a reasonably good understanding of what is happening in the parish and am I willing to stay connected in this way?*

*Do I communicate well with people in a welcoming and inviting way?*

## Ministry of Serving Communion



Ministers of communion love the Eucharist. They know they are helping to distribute the most precious gift of all, the Body and Blood of Christ.

They approach the altar reverently during the singing of the Lamb of God. The Presider serves communion to these ministers first so that they may then distribute what they in turn have received.

Communion ministers smile and look at the person they are serving, striving to make each individual's communion a genuine encounter with the Lord. They present the Body of Christ and the Cup of Salvation to each person by holding it up slightly and saying 'The Body of Christ' or 'The Blood of Christ' They place the host firmly in the person's palm or carefully give them the cup. They wipe the rim of the cup inside and out, and turn the cup slightly before they present it to the next person.

At the credence table they help one another to consume the remaining Precious Blood if necessary. The Communion Bread Minister to return to the altar last takes any remaining consecrated hosts to the Tabernacle. A couple of the ministers help the Mass Coordinator purify the vessels at the credence table after Mass.

*This ministry requires great reverence for the Eucharist, a prayerful attitude and a love for the people of God.*

*Do I have a reverence for the Eucharist?*

*Am I willing to put aside my own shyness to serve my community?*



## Ministry of Music

One of the greatest influences in the quality of our worship is liturgical music and the singing of the assembly. The role of this ministry is to lead and support the assembly. The musicians and choir members encourage the assembly to articulate their faith and come alive at liturgy.

This ministry involves practices, working with a variety of music and committing to a rotational schedule for providing music at each Mass.

The ministry requires that an application form be filled out and submitted. Application forms can be found at the office and the Welcome Desk during the sign-up times of the year.

*Am I willing to sing or play before the Lord?*

*Am I willing to share my skills?*

*Do I have the time to commit to a practice time and Mass time each week?*

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## Ministry of Proclamation

Proclaimers (Readers) are competent readers who love the Word of God and make it come alive in the liturgy. They know that we, the assembly, come to the Eucharist to hear sacred scripture and to be inspired by it. They are aware that they must proclaim effectively if God's people are to understand the homily. Above all they know it is God who speaks when they proclaim.

These ministers take time to read the scripture before they proclaim at Mass. They allow adequate time for people to settle before they begin reading. They read not too quickly, not too slowly, and they vary the tone of their voice to suit the text. They pace their reading, pausing at appropriate moments so that we who are listening have time to take in the meaning. They emphasize appropriate words. They make eye contact with assembly so that the community knows this text is being proclaimed for *them*. Proclaimers remain at the ambo reverently and prayerfully at the end of the reading, inviting the assembly to ponder with the silence. Proclaimers also voice the prayers of the people – the General Intercessions. They should sit near the front of the church.

*This ministry requires an ongoing commitment to reflect and pray with the Word of God.*

*Do I love the Word of God?*

*Am I comfortable reading in public with a good voice and expression?*



**All of these ministries are an important part of our weekly celebrations.**

**Anyone, of any age is asked to please consider sharing your gifts and helping to make Resurrection Parish a true community of worship!**

*Liturgy means the 'work of the work of the people'.*

*Liturgy is us coming to do the work of prayer.*

*Together the liturgical ministers and assembly celebrate powerfully and with enthusiasm.*

*Christ is present in  
the Priest,  
the Assembly,  
the Word and  
the Eucharist.*

*Liturgy is the ritual, symbolic meeting place between the divine call to salvation and the human response to faith.*

*Liturgy employs all five our senses –  
What do we hear?*

*What do we taste?*

*What do we smell?*

*What do we touch?*

*What do we see?*

*Come to your ministry from your personal prayer:*

*It is the home from which you journey to the house of God's people, to tables of your common prayer.*

*Come prepared to be surprised in the assembly of your neighbours.*

*Come as you are!*

*Come as sinners who need to find mercy, as redeemed who need to give thanks.*

*Come with all that needs to be healed, to the Lord who comes to heal you.*

*Come with no expectations but the sure hope of communion with the Holy One in the family of God's people.*

Austin Fleming

