

**St. Francis Xavier
Pastoral Ministries**



MINISTRY OF MUSIC & LITURGY

The Ministry of Music and Liturgy provides each celebration of the Eucharist with Eucharistic

This booklet describes the various ministries offered at St. Francis Xavier. We believe that once you are aware of all the ministries we offer here at SFX, you will want to become involved with one or more of them. We need volunteers for all of these ministries and we feel that SFX has an abundance of loving people with open hearts who will hear the call of Christ within these ministries.

Ministry of Music and Liturgy

Ministry of Education

Parish Life Ministry

Social Outreach Ministry

Parish Communication Ministry

Ministry of Evangelization

Finance Council

Ministers, Lectors and Musicians or Cantors. In addition, this ministry oversees the Children's Liturgy of the Word, the Parish Mission and Workshops. Altar, wedding and funeral sacristans are provided through this ministry as are altar servers and the flower guild.

You may join any of the Liturgical Music groups, such as:

- ❖ SFX Choir
- ❖ Xavier Singers
- ❖ Cantors
- ❖ Instrumentalists
- ❖ Children's Choir
- ❖ Hand Bell Choir

Special liturgies are planned for Confirmation, First Communion and First Reconciliation.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This division of the Ministry of Education provides

MINISTRY OF EVANGELIZATION

NEVER RECEIVED ANYTHING ON THIS ONE!

COMMUNICATION MINISTRY

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Vacation Bible School, the Parish School of Religion, Sacramental Preparation and Individual Catechesis.

MINISTRY OF ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Ministry of Adult Faith Formation oversees Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA); Adult Education; Baptismal Preparation; the Lenten Speaker Series; and Breaking Open the Word (every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.).

MINISTRY FOR YOUTH

Many ministries are involved in this large group, which caters to the needs of our grammar school and high school youth. Special topics such as Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care and Prayer/Worship are addressed in this ministry.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Contact the School Principal and Pastor for more information.

ELIZABETH MINISTRY

Women of all ages praying for, cooking for, and ministering to women in their child-bearing years.

NEWCOMERS HOSPITALITY

FAMILY LIFE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Seven events featuring dinners and speakers. Some examples in the past have been Bishop Foley, Dr. Dale Wisely and a pictorial tour of the Holy Land. Nursery is provided for these events.

SINGLES

Connecting with CASBA (Catholic Singles of the Birmingham Area), this ministry features dinners, movies, athletic events, etc., for singles.

MARRIED FELLOWSHIP

Married couples coming together to get acquainted over "happy hour" and dinner at a host home throughout the school year.

NURSERY

Care for children six-months through four-years-old at Masses and for parish meetings as needed.

TIME OUT FOR MOMS

Second Monday of each month - a time for mothers to be enriched with topics on spirituality, family, couple relationships and child care.

NURSING HOME OUTREACH

We honor and celebrate the gift of life and faith, especially with those residing in skilled nursing and assisted living units of local healthcare facilities. Opportunities for ministry include: assisting with monthly birthday parties by baking cookies or cakes or actually entertaining or visiting with residents and serving refreshments; bringing children to visit and/or present a musical program; serving as a Pastoral Visitor and/or Minister of Communion or prayer leader (rosary). Sites for ministry include: Kirkwood (Irondale), The Columbia Cottages (Cahaba Heights), St. Martin's and Fairhaven (both in Eastwood Mall area).

MINISTRY TO THE BEREAVED

Offers support and consolation to those who have suffered the loss of family and friends through death. We offer a meal to bereaved families; send sympathy notes and lists of community grief recovery support groups; offer a Memorial Mass for the Deceased on the first Thursday of each month; organize a Grief Recovery Workshop each Spring; and a Holidays and Grief session each Fall. Our priests and pastoral staff members are available to offer support to any bereaved person in need. Opportunities for ministry include: clerical work and hospitality; phone calls to the bereaved; help with preparation of and/or delivery of meals; service as facilitator of the monthly support group.

SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

MINISTRY TO THE SICK/AGED/HOMEBOUND

This ministry witnesses the prayerful and loving support of our Catholic Faith Community to those unable to worship with us and participate in other parish activities due to age, acute or chronic illness or disability.

Pastoral Visits by our priests and lay ministers offer support primarily through a caring, listening presence and prayer. These visits may or may not include the sharing of the Sacrament of Communion depending on the wishes of the individual visited. There are ministry opportunities for individuals and families who wish to make visits only and for others willing to include the sharing of the Sacrament of Communion with their visit. Occasionally, there are requests by the aged and physically challenged for transportation to Mass.

Care Teams are made up of 5-6 individuals who are trained and organized to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to members of the parish who may be chronically or terminally ill, disabled, frail, elderly or other persons with special needs. The Team activities may include transportation to the doctor or grocery store, household or yard chores, errands, meals, social outings, visits, phone calls or providing time for caregivers to have a respite or break.

CINCO de MAYO, MEXICO

This ministry shares our parish community in outreach to our brothers and sisters in a third-world environment. No formal training is required, however participants are required to attend any and all planning meetings while in the preparatory stages of a mission trip. All talents can be used in this mission outreach. Projects have generally included, but are not limited to, light construction, crafts and medical and/or dental assistance to individuals. Personal expenses for the mission trip are minimal (\$100 or less) to cover cost of food & lodging for one week.

PARTY FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

This ministry reaches out to the physically challenged of St. Francis Xavier and the Birmingham area. A party is held annually on the first Sunday of October for our guests. Help is needed with the following: publicity; invitations to party; soliciting donations of money or prizes from local businesses/parishioners; writing articles for parish bulletin and newspapers; food preparation; games; decorations; hospitality; distributing prizes.

MINISTRY TO ACTIVE SENIOR ADULTS

A monthly Senior luncheon brings Senior Adults together for Mass, a meal, songs & bingo. Dedicated helpers are needed to place announcements in the "One Voice" and parish bulletin, receive reservations, and all activities involved in putting the actual luncheon/bingo game on. We also celebrate any birthdays. Occasionally a sight-seeing trip or trip abroad may be sponsored by this ministry.

SFX PRAYER LINE (591-2850)

The SFX Prayer Line is a network of ministers of prayer who provide intercessory prayer for the needs of the parish. In addition to praying for the needs listed in the weekly bulletin, prayer requests are received by phone or e-mail (SFXPrayerLine@aol.com) and are passed on to ministers of prayer by Rosalie Sacco. Prayer requests may be received for any need: spiritual, physical or mental - and are not limited to the needs of the SFX Parish. Requests will be kept confidential, if requested.

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

This ministry fosters a love for life from conception to natural death through prayer, sacrifice and works of charity. This ministry works through prayer support, providing support to existing pro-life organizations and by collecting goods for mothers in crisis pregnancies through the Easter Tree for Life, etc.

MEALS ON WHEELS

This ministry delivers a warm meal to the homebound or aged. There is a one-time training on delivery of meals with coordinator to learn the route and policy of Meals on Wheels. The ministry offers a friendly smile and attitude to clients, delivers a wholesome meal, and takes an interest in the client and reports any apparent needs to the Meals on Wheels office. A car is required to deliver meals. There is a one-year commitment, which can be renewed by volunteer.

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