

Role of the Laity
PARISH COMMITTEES (continued)
March 15, 2020

Last week in this space I discussed the role of parish committees in general and two specific ones – the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. Today I want to briefly address the remaining parish committees here at St. Joseph's. I will briefly describe their respective purpose and roles.

Liturgy and Faith Formation Committee

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the church is directed; it is also the source from which all its power flows." (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy). These official words of the Church clearly demonstrate how important the Liturgy Committee is in any parish. A Liturgy Committee operates under the direction of the Pastor and is charged with preparing for all liturgical services to ensure they comply with the directives of the church and that they are celebrated in an appropriate manner. Specific responsibilities include preparing for the different liturgical seasons (e.g. Advent, Lent), preparing for Mass, selection of music, training of liturgical ministers and education of the parishioners. At St. Joseph's this committee also is charged with organizing adult faith formation whether it be via regular educational sessions, weekly scripture study or educational pieces in the bulletin. It has been stated by some authors, that adult faith formation is equally important if not more important than youth faith formation. Youth faith formation is led by several parishioners under the direction of the pastor and diocesan guidelines.

Morningstar Ministry, formerly called the St. Joseph Altar Society was changed to the Morningstar Altar Society and eventually to the Morningstar Ministry to reflect the broadening scope of this ministry beyond the traditional altar and sacristan responsibilities. This is a ministry lead by the women of the parish but is open to all parishioners. In addition to the altar / sacristan responsibilities, it also is responsible for the semiannual Barn Sale; serves as liaison with the Ecumenical Group in Warrenton; coordinates seasonal Church decorations (Advent / Christmas, Lent / Easter, etc); and other charitable activities such as the Shoebox ministry.

Building, Grounds and Maintenance Committee is a committee that evolved from the New Church Building Committee after the new church building was complete. It has the responsibility of planning for and maintaining the facilities (e.g. roof replacement) and grounds (e.g. all landscaping) and planning for future changes (e.g. outdoor stations). In its role it works closely with the Finance Council, Pastoral Council and under the direction of the pastor.

As you see, there is much to do in our small parish. Once again, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for all you contribute to St. Josephs and for your support. As you continue to consider how you can serve St. Josephs, please let me know of your interest.

Fr. Rafael