

Parish Ministries

Worship

Altar Servers

Training: Fr. Maisano 610-268-0296

Scheduling: Melissa Brown 610-274-0364

The role of an altar server is to assist the priest presider at Mass. They assist by carrying the processional crucifix or candles, holding the Roman Missal, and by bringing the chalice and other items to the altar. An altar server is a registered member of the Parish, boy or girl, in fourth grade or above in any school, and who has received First Holy Communion. Girls and boys need their parents' permission and cooperation, and a teacher's or catechist's recommendation. Training is usually conducted during February, March, or April.

Altar Linens, Vesture Caretakers

Linda Rيوفski 610-274-0906

Patsy Vanderkraats

610-268-8864

Parishioners in this ministry help launder or arrange dry-cleaning for Mass linens, altar cloths, and presider vestments. This is usually an unseen but very important and appreciated service.

Baptismal Garment Makers

Sue Ceccarelli

610-255-0421

Volunteers in this ministry provide and decorate the white garment presented to babies and children at baptism. This is another important and appreciated service.

Music Ministers

Judy & Bob Boesch

570-401-7950

Leading and supporting the sung praise of the Lord at our liturgies is very important. Organists provide the needed accompaniment. Cantors support the assembly's singing as does the choir. Cantors and choir members are provided with on-going training. They do not need exceptional talent, but a rather a desire to help all praise the Lord in sacred song. Cantors are needed for three weekend Masses. The choir sings once a month except during the summer. This ministry is open to men, women, older children, and teenagers, who are registered members of the parish and in good standing and practicing our Catholic faith. Non-parishioners are welcome with the knowledge and permission of their proper pastor.

Contemporary Music Ensemble

Rosemarie Marengo 610-268-0102

This liturgical music group features guitarists as well as vocalists. The ensemble leads our sung worship once a month. They are an important part of our liturgical praise of the Lord. (see the above description applicable to all liturgical music ministers)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Fr. Maisano 610-268-0296

This important ministry assists in distributing Holy Communion at all our Masses, including weekday Masses. Ministers may also bring the Eucharist to shut-ins within our parish boundaries. Ministers should be registered parishioners, who have finished high school, fully initiated into our faith, in good standing and practicing the faith. Ministers must receive appointment to this ministry from our Archbishop, which is granted at the request of the pastor.

Sunday Mass Greeters

Angelique Raezer

610-444-1575

Parish individuals and families may act as welcomers to all who come to worship at Sunday Mass. They also usually present the bread and wine and sacrificial donations at Mass. Participation in this ministry is a wonderful way to involve the whole family in the Sunday Eucharist celebration.

Rosary Group

Gwen Oscar 610-506-5767

Sue Ceccarelli 610-255-0421

This prayer group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Church sacristy or narthex. It also meets on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. All are invited to join in this very special prayer.

Hospitality Ministers Chris Ceccarelli 610-255-0421 Tony DiFrancesco 610-274-8498

These ministers help with seating worshippers, directing the Communion and other processions, taking up collections, organizing the presentation of the bread, wine, and sacrificial offerings. They also distribute the Sunday parish bulletin after Mass.

Daily Mass Coordinator

Silvia Lawrence

610-268-0296

Daily Mass worshippers bring up the bread and wine. Usually the ones who request a special Mass intention for a deceased person are invited to do this. Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion also serve at daily Mass.

Lectors

Fred Marengo

610-268-0102

This is another important ministry: proclaiming the Word of God at Mass, at all weekend as well as at weekday Masses. Lectors should be registered members of our parish, in good standing, practicing the faith. Men, women, and high school boys and girls are eligible for this ministry. Training is provided.

Churchkeepers Kathleen Basciani

610-444-2851

Bill Brown

610-268-3469

Mike Sabocsik

610-268-2814

This group keeps our Church, Baptistry, Office wing, and rest rooms neat and clean. Some also help decorate by procuring and arranging floral pieces. Members usually come every Saturday throughout the year at 9:30 a.m. and other times as needed. The good physical order of our Church is not always noticed unless it is neglected. This group makes sure our worship space is always presentable for the greater glory of God and for our worshippers.

Liturgical Ministers Scheduling Fred Marengo 610-268-0102 Melissa Brown 610-274-0364

This ministry makes sure our liturgies are well staffed and ministers notified in a timely fashion.

Community

Monthly Socials Scheduler

Pat Sabocsik

610-268-2814

Parishioners volunteer to provide doughnuts or other pastry and juice for an after Mass time of refreshment and fellowship. This is usually held once a month on the second Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass and on some other occasions. The parish provides coffee, cups, napkins, et. al.

Pre-holiday Bazaar and Craft Show

Maria Boulden

610-274-2449

This event is presented annually on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. It features many fine crafters' wares. It also provides food and drink and games and activities especially for children.

Spaghetti Dinner

Silvia Lawrence

610-268-0296

This event is usually held annually on the last Sunday of February. It is the longest running of our social events and a wonderful community builder. Many volunteers are needed as cooks, servers, dessert providers, set-up, take-down, clean-up crew etc.

Parish Emissaries

Fr. Maisano

610-268-0296

This is a relatively new group. It is a continuation of the Parish Visitation which the pastor had done for over twenty years to keep in more personal contact with parishioners. Emissaries bring literature and other information about the parish and its activities.

Evangelization/Teaching

P.R.E.P.

Brian Jefferes

610-268-0296

Special Needs program

Linda Riofski

610-274-0906

Rosanne Keane

610-268-5250

Our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) provides catechesis, i.e. religious instruction and formation to all children in grades 1 through 8. On staff is a full time Director who is employed by the Parish. We also rely upon volunteer catechists and aides, who are given proper training. Sessions are conducted on Mondays from September through April. The program also provides preparation for all parish children and their parents to experience a fruitful reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Our program has its own handbook for catechists and aides, as well as one for parents.

Catholic Schooling

Fr. Maisano

610-268-0296

Since we do not have our own full-time school, some parish families send their elementary age children to neighboring parishes which do have a school. Presently almost all of these children are enrolled at *Assumption, B.V.M. School*, West Grove. The Pastor and DRE visit the children there regularly. The Parish provides a subsidy to the School for children of supportive parish families. Some of our Parish children attend *Bishop Shanahan High School* in Downingtown. The Parish is assessed by the Archdiocese for the support of Archdiocesan Schools. Some children also attend Catholic high schools in nearby Delaware.

R.C.I.A. Team

Silvia Lawrence	610-268-0296
Brian Jefferes	610-268-0296
Sheldon Bertz	610-444-1822
Fr. Maisano	610-268-0296

This process offers catechesis to adult non-Catholics who wish to embrace our faith. It provides the necessary religious instruction and formation for inquirers. A component of this process includes liturgical rites of welcome and celebration, hence the name **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA). The process usually begins in early October and continues through Pentecost, meeting on Tuesday evenings.

Adult Religious Education

Fr. Maisano	610-268-0296
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This ministry offers programs for adult Catholics who wish to deepen their understanding and appreciation for the rich teachings and traditions of our faith, including programs of Scripture study.

Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word

Donna DiUbaldo	610-268-1574
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This ministry offers children an opportunity to hear and understand God's holy Word during Mass apart from the fuller congregation. Volunteer catechists lead the group, which meets every Sunday during the 9:30a.m. Mass.

Community of Disciples

Sheldon Bertz	610-444-1822
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This group meets most weeks on Wednesday evenings to read, reflect, and share insights on the following Sunday's Scriptures. It uses the publication *At Home With The Word*, which is distributed to all parish families, as a guide.

Communications (IT)

Ric Harris	610-274-8148
Chris & Dena Killian	215-460-0880
Colette McDonald	610-255-0050

Besides this website (www.stgabrielavondalepa.org), we also have a *Facebook* page, <https://www.facebook.com/StGabrielAvondale>.

Please contact Ric Harris for information on the website and Chris and Dena Killian for information on the *Facebook* page.

The weekly Parish Bulletin is composed by the Parish Staff. Notices for possible publication should be presented a week beforehand.

The Parish has an outdoor sign with spiritual and inspirational messages. Suggestions are welcome. Please contact Colette McDonald.

Service**Ministry to the Sick/Homebound**

Fr. Maisano	610-268-0296
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The Pastor calls regularly upon the sick and homebound upon request, bringing them Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at times also bring Communion to the same. Parishioners who are hospitalized or in care facilities are regularly ministered to by chaplains assigned to these institutions.

Respect Life Group

Gwen Oscar

610-268-8449

This Group strives to bring awareness to all parishioners of the right to life of all persons, from conception to natural death. It sponsors baby shower of gifts for needy parents and for facilities which care for the newborn and their parents.

High School Youth Group

John Zdebski

610-268-1692

This Group invites high schoolers for activities including faith development, social events, and service opportunities. It usually meets on Sunday evenings.

Aid For Friends

Ron & Lenore Lupo

610-268-5927

This food and friendship program assists those unable to provide meals for themselves. It includes volunteer cooks and visitors. The Parish is provided with a freezer located at Saint Gabriel Hall to which volunteer cooks may bring home cooked meals. Containers for the meals are available by the freezer and in the Church vestibule.

Non-Perishable Food Collection

Silvia Lawrence

610-268-0296

The Parish collects non-perishable food stuffs, mainly canned goods, for delivery to local pantries. Donations may be placed in the basket in the Church vestibule.

Good Samaritan Ministry

Denise Tracy

610-925-4759

This Group responds to requests for financial and other assistance. It sponsors the annual pre-Christmas *Gift of Giving* program.

Bereavement Ministry

Santi Pizzini

610-274-8431

Donna DiUbaldo

610-268-1574

This ministry reaches out to comfort those who have lost a family member through death. It also assists in providing assistance in celebrating the funeral liturgy.

Technology

Tony Evangelista

610-444-0118

Volunteers skilled in computer science offer assistance in helping with the proper maintenance and operation of the Parish systems.

Blood Drive

Denise Tracy

610-925-4759

The Parish, through the *Red Cross*, sponsors annual blood donor drive.

Leadership**Pastoral Council**

Fr. Maisano

610-268-0296

This Committee of parishioners, elected as well as appointed, assists in providing advice and counsel to the Pastor and Staff regarding the overall spiritual and pastoral mission of the Parish. It meets regularly.

Stewardship/Finance Council

Fred Marengo

610-268-0102

This Committee of parishioners, consisting of volunteers and appointed ones, provides assistance regarding the financial resources of the Parish. It also provides practical help in counting and banking donations. It meets regularly.

Building/Maintenance Committee

Pat Waller

610-268-2125

Bill Brown

610-268-3469

Val Schan

484-883-9388

This volunteer Committee provides advice regarding the proper maintenance of the Parish's buildings, property, and equipment. Members also provide practical help with repairs and installations.

Stewardship**Stewardship/Finance Council**

Fr. Maisano

610-268-0296

(see description above)

Witness Speakers

Fred Marengo

610-268-0102

Every year, the Parish strives to renew parishioners' commitment to support and build up the Parish by giving of their time, talent, and treasure. The Pastor's homily and the talks of parishioners seek to promote Christian stewardship.

Catholic Charities Appeal

Michael Finnegan

610-925-3362

The Parish supports this Archdiocesan wide appeal to provide funding for the many charitable works of our local Church to assist the poor, elderly, and others in need. The Appeal is usually made by a direct mail campaign.