Get Involved at St Mary’s!
A Guide to Lay Ministries

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There is something for everyone – any age, any ability, and at any level of involvement. We welcome you to check it out, and DO SOME THING!
WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Altar Guild and Flower Committee
Enliven worship behind the scenes
Altar Guild members work in teams, helping to keep the sanctuary, chalices, vestments, candles and sacred linens ready for worship services each week. A small time commitment one weekend each month (90 minutes that Saturday and 30 to 40 minutes after a Sunday service) lets us serve God and build fun relationships that cross generations. Travel often? No problem! AG members readily swap weekends. Ours is an inclusive ministry of warmth, hospitality and teamwork. All adults and teens welcome! The Flower Committee is a separate unit within the Altar Guild that keeps the church in gorgeous greenery and blooms. Join us!
Contact:
Altar Guild:
Deborah Franklin - deborah_franklin@nasw.org
Flower Committee:
Joanne Squire - joannesquire@me.com or Steven Currier - stevencurrier116@gmail

Chalice Bearers
Share the Cup, Bread and Word with St. Mary’s people
This lay ministry provides an opportunity to deepen your spiritual connections to St. Mary’s and make a commitment to your fellow parishioners by participating in the Communion service. In addition to offering the Chalice at Communion time and assisting the clergy at the Altar, other duties differ slightly at the 8am, 9am and 11am worship services, ranging from reading the lessons and prayers of the people at 8am to carrying the cross and torches in the procession and at the reading of the Gospel at 11am. At the 9am service, you would offer the Chalice at Communion with no additional duties. Participation is usually once a month. Scheduling assures that your individual availability is taken into account. You will receive training before you begin this ministry.
Contact:
Pam and Bob Bledsoe - pam_bob@comcast.net

Children’s Homilists
Engage young minds and open yourself to the wisdom of children
In this ministry, we take turns during the school year leading children in a very brief lesson and discussion during the 9am Sunday service, just after the Gospel is read. No prior experience needed; you just need to love and connect well with kids. We will arrange a training before you start, and you can take a turn a few times a year or more often if you like.
Contact:
Meredith Peake - meredith.c.peake@gmail.com

Eucharistic Visitors
Take the sacrament of Communion to parishioners who can’t get to a Sunday service.
Eucharistic Visitors bring the Word of God and Holy Communion to those who are homebound for any reason, such as illness, recent surgery or birth of a newborn. As Christ makes himself known through the Church, Eucharistic Visitors represent our faith community gathered together in prayer and thanksgiving. Training at a Diocesan workshop and individual instruction at St. Mary’s prepares those who respond to this call to ministry. Once trained, commitment is an occasional Sunday following a morning service.
Contact:
Natalie Hala - natalie@smvsf.org

Readers and Prayer Leaders
Help us bring the Word!
We would love for you to join our group of dedicated readers at the 9am and 11am services. Readers provide an important contribution to the worship service by reading the appointed Sunday readings, generally from the Old and New Testaments. Prayer leaders lead the Prayers of the People. No prior experience needed; we will arrange training before you start.
Contact:
Meredith Peake - meredith.c.peake@gmail.com
Usher Ministry
Be the welcoming face of St Mary’s on a Sunday morning

Ushers greet newcomers and regular worshippers at St. Mary’s as welcoming hosts. We provide worship bulletins and guide congregants to their seats. We help newcomers become connected to the parish community. Ushering is a fantastic way to contribute your time and talent to the St. Mary’s community and is a minimal commitment of once per month at the service of your choice. We also ask for volunteers to assist at special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter. Ushering is a great way to meet people as you welcome them in the courtyard and assist in helping to make the services run smoothly to help create a worshipful atmosphere.

Contact:
David Sullivan - david@djsully.net or 415-928-4989, or let any usher know!

Youth Acolytes
Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella, and some incense!

Youth acolytes are key leaders in worship during each 9am Sunday service, inspiring parishioners of all ages as torch bearers, Eucharistic servers, and as Crucifers, as well as leading the process of the altar party. If you are in 4th through 12th grade, you are eligible to join. Older acolytes may be trained as a thurifer, wielding incense in special services, or to get to serve as an associate acolyte coordinator, assisting in shepherding the team. We will work with the young people and parents to ensure flexibility of schedule.

Contact:
Debbie Veatch - veatchdl@gmail.com or Sandy Briggs - sjbtbf@earthlink.net

Kindergarten Choir
Thursday @3:45-4:15pm & Sunday 9am

The Kindergarten Choir is a wonderful introduction to participating in the Worship Service. They join the Children’s Choir every week but only sing on special occasions. Using Royal School of Church Music training materials as the core curriculum in an age-appropriate presentation, Kindergarteners are taught fundamentals of singing, musicianship, theory, sight-reading, and how to follow the Order of Worship. They sing on first Sunday of the scholastic year, St. Francis, All Saints’, First Sunday in Advent, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, Epiphany, First Sunday in Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Dismissal from rehearsal is at 4:15 after Thursday afternoon choir practice, to go home or to child care. Note: Parent volunteer needed for supervision and child care from 4:15-5pm

Contact:
Marla Perkins - marla@smvsf.org

Children’s Choir
Grades 1-3, Thursday @4pm & Sunday 9am

The Children’s Choir is lively, vibrant, and social. They sing regularly for the 9am Sunday service and for special services such as Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve and Easter. Highlights for the choir are the La Virgen de Guadalupe pageant and joining the Youth Choir for the Sankta Lucia and the Three Kings Pageants. They warm up in the courtyard with the Youth Choir on Thursdays at 4pm. They rehearse from 4:15-5:15pm, and sing one anthem weekly at the 9am Eucharist throughout the scholastic year. Sunday morning call-time is 8:30am. Parent and adult volunteers are always needed.

Contact:
Marla Perkins - marla@smvsf.org

Youth Choir
Grades 4-12, Thursday @4pm & Sunday 9am

The Youth Choir warms up in the courtyard with Children’s Choir on Thursdays at 4. They rehearse from 4:15-5:15, sing one anthem weekly, and provide support in singing Hymns, Psalms, and Canticles weekly at 9am Eucharist throughout the scholastic year. Adult volunteer singers occasionally join on Sunday mornings only. Call-time is 8:15am

Contact:
Eric Choate - eric@smvsf.org

Parish Choir
Adult Choir, Thursday 7pm & Sunday 11am

The Parish Choir invites you to join us and audition for our ensemble. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7-9pm, ending with a service of Compline. On Sunday mornings we sing a motet, an anthem, and a Psalm setting, and on important feasts, we sing a choral Mass. We gather in order to glorify God through music; to work to develop the musical talents God gave us to the best of our abilities; to build community as we rehearse together; and to nurture the congregation by providing support in the singing of hymns and musical offerings. Occasional “tutti” occasions: All Saints’, Lessons and Carols, Epiphany, First Sunday in Lent, Pentecost.

Contact:
Eric Choate - eric@smvsf.org
EDUCATION (YOUTH AND ADULT)

Adult Christian Formation

Exploring and Deepening our Faith

This ministry gathers clergy, staff and lay leaders to envision and produce programs for our parish to engage in spiritual exploration and growth as Christians and as Episcopalians. A variety of solo and ongoing seminars help us to strengthen our faith community by sharing our stories and exploring our spiritual concerns together. Usually offered on Sundays, and occasionally on a weeknight, our programs include the Lenten Program, Summer in the City series, Winter/Fall Seminar series, Adult Confirmation class and Parish Retreat programs. We welcome your ideas for program topics.

Contact:
Rev. Marguerite Judson - marguerite@smvsf.org

Sunday School

Age 6 months through 7th Grade
Sunday mornings at 9am in the school year

Our Sunday School classes inform youth of our parish through age appropriate curriculum that encourages them to embrace a Christian life. Study culminates with Confirmation classes. Volunteer opportunities for parents and parishioners include teaching, teacher assistants, and assisting with special outreach projects such as Open Cathedral and Reverse Advent Calendars.

Contact:
Nancy Clark - nancyclark1628@gmail.com

Youth Group

Grades 6-12 most Sunday evenings of the school year
@ 5:30pm

Youth Group (YG) provides a fun, safe, and loving environment for 6th-12th graders as they explore their relationship with each other, Christ, and the world. Food, games, and conversation highlight most YG meetings, with raucous Adventure Nights happening monthly. Youth Mission Trip occurs annually in the summer, taking high schoolers (grades 9-12) on transformative service trips around the country and the world. Ways to support Youth Group include providing meals, chaperoning or general support of the program and activities.

Contact:
Mike Stafford - mike@smvsf.org

AFFINITY GROUPS

Daughters of the King

For women – a life of Service and Prayer

The Daughters of the King is a national order for women who undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating prayer and service into a life that is dedicated to strengthening the spiritual health and engagement of the parish. At St. Mary’s, in addition to various service and prayer projects, the Daughters typically sponsor a reflective Quiet Day, usually at the beginning of Lent, that is open to the entire congregation and other service and prayer projects.

Contact:
Malaney Johnides - 415-407-9631

Fall Fellowship Feasts

Have dinner with your fellow parishioners

This is an opportunity to get to know some of the wonderful people at St. Mary’s. Share three potluck meals over three months in the Autumn. Share meals and conversation as partners on the journey of faith at St. Mary the Virgin. Sign up is late September; the groups are designated to help you meet someone new!

Contact:
Rev. Marguerite Judson - marguerite@smvsf.org

Men’s Group

For men – Fellowship and Community

This group provides an opportunity for the men of the parish to meet for fellowship, share stories, and strengthen our bonds of friendship. We also continually explore ways to welcome new members and serve the broader parish. Men’s group events include meeting for dinner and conversation throughout the year and organizing a Parish Barbecue (or two). Events are advertised in the Sunday Bulletin and Highlights. Our discussion topics will include the challenges and pressures we face in our daily lives, to meet the expectations of our careers, our families, our parents and ourselves.

Contact:
Will Long - will.long@comcast.net
SMV Pride
For the LGBTQ+ Community and Allies
Members and friends of St. Mary’s LGBTQ+ Community meet quarterly (more or less) to strengthen our connections with each other through social interaction. We welcome new members and inquirers as we discern opportunities for inclusion and outreach on behalf of St. Mary the Virgin to groups that embrace and support LGBTQ+ concerns throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. We also strive to build greater awareness at St. Mary’s of the needs and concerns of the LGBTQ+ community via our participation in the liturgy and prayers during Pride month (June) as well as throughout the year.

Contact:
Alan Mata - amata_2@outlook.com

Young Professionals Group
Werk werk werk – Community and Service
Young professional parishioners aged approximately 20-40 gather once a month-ish to build relationships and community through social events and service projects, such as serving at Edward II, serving food to the homeless, helping with the Holiday Giving Tree and many more activities to come!

Contact:
the Coordinator - yp@smvsf.org or
Mary Beed - maryobeed@gmail.com or
Molly Irwin - molly@cirw.in

PARISH MINISTRIES

Buildings and Grounds Ministry
Taking care of our Church building + Rectory
The Ministry of Building and Grounds involves overseeing the care, maintenance and repair of all of our St. Mary’s properties, including the Rectory. A committee provides leadership, vision and direction for capital improvements and expenditures. Volunteers assist in special projects and periodic maintenance, improvements and repairs, which are usually scheduled on a Saturday several times a year. We are proud of St. Mary’s campus and want our church home and our Rectory to be safe, functional, and looking its best, so we invite you to volunteer when a maintenance & cleanup day is scheduled, or volunteer for a special project if you have the needed skills.

Contact:
Arthur Perkins - arthur.perkins.sf@comcast.net;
Roulhac Austin - roulhac@flash.net;
Sandy Stadtfeld - sandy.stadtfeld@gmail.com; or
David Sullivan - david@djsully.net

Communications Team
Extra, Extra! Read all about it!
Volunteers take part in the Communications ministry by helping to keep parishioners informed of our life at St. Mary’s. Vital contributions by photographers, writers, copy editors, proof readers, and audio recorders (for our forums) shape the weekly Highlights online newsletter, the Annual Report, and keep parishioners informed about life at St. Mary’s. Consider joining the team!

Contact:
Molly Irwin - molly@cirw.in or the
Parish Administrator - office@smvsf.org

Website, graphic design, and experience with social media posting are particularly welcome.

Contact:
Nancy Clothier - webmaster@smvsf.org
**Pastoral Care**  
*Supporting parishioners in need*

The Pastoral Care Committee embodies the love of Jesus by extending compassionate caring and support for a variety of needs, both short and long term. The type of support members of our team provides can include making phone calls, writing personal notes, meal delivery, personal visits and various other activities that offer spiritual and physical nourishment. We bring open hearts and sympathetic presence to those in need. Whether you have only a little time or more to share, we have assignments you can choose from that will enrich your life and the lives of those you care for.

**Contact:**  
Josie McGann - josiemcgann@gmail.com

**Stephen Ministry**  
*Be equipped to support those in great suffering*

Stephen Ministry equips lay-people to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, such as divorce or separation, job loss, loss of a loved one, or another difficult situation or crisis. Through 50 hours of training and supportive ongoing supervision, Stephen Ministers are provided the spiritual, counseling, and referral tools and continuing support to share God’s love and embrace during times of loss, grief, recovery, and personal challenge. Stephen Ministers are assigned single care receivers with whom they meet at least weekly over an extended period of time. Care receivers self-identify, and all care relationships are totally confidential. All parishioners are invited to discern their call to serve God as a Stephen Minister.

**Contact:**  
David Crosson - david48ec@gmail.com

**Stewardship**  
*Cultivating Resources for Christ’s Mission and Ministry*

The Stewardship ministry is dedicated to encouraging parishioners to give their time, talent and treasures to the benefit of the St. Mary the Virgin community and beyond. The aim is to help ensure that we have the resources necessary to meet the aspirations reflected in other ministries. Each fall, the Stewardship ministry leads a campaign to inspire parishioners to make financial pledges as their means allow, and then monitors the results. The goal is to make the pledging process more inclusive and thereby allow parishioners to connect more fully with St. Mary’s mission.

**Contact:**  
Vestry member Allan Jergesen - ajergesen@hansonbridgett.com

**Welcome Team**  
*Making St Mary’s inviting for newcomers*

How did you feel when you first came to St Mary’s? Invited? Loved? Accepted? Let’s help create that same feeling for newcomers as they enter our doors and join our community. Involvement in the Welcome Team can be at any level: be a greeter in the courtyard after a 8am, 9am, or 11am service, help with the quarterly newcomer events, and help with the yearly Ministry Fair to help get newcomers (and old-comers) involved into the life of St Mary the Virgin.

**Contact:**  
Molly Irwin - molly@cirw.in
COMMUNITY & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Creation Care
Stewards of the Earth
Care and justice for all God’s creation is a core value of The Episcopal Church. On quarterly Sundays throughout the year, the Creation Care Ministry helps plan the liturgy, special prayers and music to celebrate this important stewardship. We also host coffee hour refreshments and display our Creation Care Banner. We welcome your ideas for topics and events of interest related to caring for God’s creation.
Contact:
Anna Sylvester - annavalue@gmail.com or Wendy Moseley - moseleywb@gmail.com

Justice Ministry
Supporting communities through advocacy & accompaniment
With the Rev. Erickson’s enthusiastic support, the first meeting of St. Mary’s Justice Ministries was held on January 30, 2018. Since then, over seventy parishioners have become engaged with justice issues ranging from housing equity, police violence against youth in The Mission, and accompaniment of undocumented immigrants through various incarceration and legal proceedings. The Justice Ministries meet periodically, but no less frequently than quarterly. Opportunities to participate in various Justice Ministry activities are emailed to participants on a weekly basis. In spring 2019, six Justice Ministers worked with an international team to secure asylum status for a refugee who was released from Adelanto ICE Detention Center and is now living with a parishioner in the Bay Area.
Contact:
Margaret Stafford - mpstafford@gmail.com or David Crosson - david48ec@gmail.com

Larkin Street Youth Services (Edward II)
Preparing meals & building relationships with formerly homeless youth
Located in our neighborhood, Edward II is permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless youth in San Francisco, ages 18-24. St. Mary’s volunteers prepare and serve a meal to the residents of Edward II on the second Sunday of each month, often with the help of the residents. Volunteers organize other special activities for major holidays. A friendly and trusting fellowship has developed because of this cooperative and fun activity. Volunteer leaders take turns planning the dinner and new volunteers are most welcome.
Contact:
Marta Johnson - martajohnsf@gmail.com

Next Door Shelter Eucharists
Worshipping with those in transition
Next Door is a residential shelter on Polk & Geary managed by Episcopal Community Services. Nancy and Tim serve as deacons at these weekly Eucharistic services which are held every Thursday at 5:30, with refreshments afterwards, finishing at 6:45. Parishioners are invited to help with ushering, the liturgy, refreshments, and to share the Holy Spirit with the shelter residents who eagerly await permanent housing.
Contact:
Rev. Tim Smith - timinsanfrancisco@gmail.com or Nancy Bryan - nhbsf@me.com

Open Cathedral
Bringing food to an outdoor Eucharist for the homeless
Open Cathedral is a weekly outdoor Eucharist service held at the Civic Center for unhoused San Francisco residents and those in transition. The service is conducted by clergy of the S.F. Night Ministry with assistance of Open Cathedral volunteers and deacons. Our fifth and sixth graders help to prepare 100 sandwiches and fill the lunch bags on the third Sunday of every third month, help bring the food downtown and participate in the service.
Contact:
Nancy Bryan - nhbsf@me.com
SF Interfaith Council Winter Shelter Dinners

*Hosting dinners for homeless men during the winter*

St. Mary’s parishioners have partnered with parishioners from our neighboring church St Vincent de Paul annually since 2017 to prepare and host a Spirit-filled dinner for 75-100 homeless men at either St. Mary’s Cathedral or St. Boniface in the Tenderloin. Our dinners are in partnership with the SF Interfaith Council, which sponsors a winter shelter dinner program for the homeless during a cold and wet time of the year. For each upcoming winter season we will be hosting two dinners and invite parishioners of all ages, including families with children, to minister and share in the Holy Spirit with our dinner guests by helping to prepare and serve dinner for them. Please join us for a memorable experience of giving, receiving and sharing in Jesus’ name!

**Contact:**
Rev. Tim Smith - timinsanfrancisco@gmail.com or Ruth Tatum - Ruthtatum@yahoo.com

SF/Marin Food Bank

*Weekly deliveries of healthy, mostly locally-grown food to the disabled and the elderly*

Every Thursday morning – beginning in 2016 - a group of St. Mary’s volunteers from St. Mary’s delivers food consisting of mostly fresh, locally-grown produce to 65 elderly or disabled residents of San Francisco. We partner with the SF/ Marin Food Bank, whose trucks deliver the food to St. Mary’s before our volunteers leave for deliveries to neighborhoods easily accessible from the church. Each delivery team consists of two volunteers, one of whom drives and the other delivers the food to the recipients. About two hours and often less are needed to complete each team’s food deliveries. We invite you to join our Spirit-filled food ministry of joy and community and help us feed our sisters and brothers. Volunteers welcome, even if you are only occasionally available!

**Contact:**
Rev. Tim Smith - timinsanfrancisco@gmail.com or Barbara Addeo - babar705@gmail.com

SEASONAL

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

*St Mary’s annual fundraiser benefiting community organizations*

Tidings of Comfort and Joy is an annual St. Mary’s event held during the Christmas Season to raise money for local nonprofits. Our congregation raises over $35,000 annually and 100% of the funds support grants to local nonprofit organizations. Components of the fundraiser include sales of holiday greens and baked goods, as well as a benefactors’ celebration. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate these events.

**Contact:**
Ava Eichler - ava1940@gmail.com
John Schlesinger - jschles99@gmail.com

Grant Team

*Granting funds to local small nonprofit organizations*

The St Mary’s Grant Team reviews funding requests from local nonprofits and allocates money raised at the annual Tidings of Comfort and Joy fundraiser. They typically make 12 grants each year and visit each nonprofit annually to learn about the work they are doing, building relationships between the groups and St. Mary’s.

**Contact:**
Laura Wharton - Laura.ann.wharton@gmail.com or John Schlesinger - jschles99@gmail.com

Family Nativity

*Intergenerational Nativity (with beasties!)*

A much-loved St. Mary’s tradition, the Family Nativity is held each Christmas Eve afternoon and brings to life the story of the birth of Jesus through performance, worship and song. Adult volunteers are essential in several capacities, including: directing, costuming, and assisting in casting and rehearsals, plus roles in the actual nativity service itself. No memorization required! Help your faith community build memories that last a lifetime.

**Contact:**
Rev. Marguerite Judson - marguerite@smvsf.org
Rise Against Hunger
Packaging meals for the hungry in poverty-stricken overseas communities

Since 2016 St. Mary’s has partnered with the global non-profit Rise Against Hunger, formerly known as Stop Hunger Now, in hosting Saturday morning events once or twice annually in Parish Hall to package meals for shipment to poverty-stricken overseas communities. About 75-85 parishioners including many families with children as well as other members of the community participate in each event. We have packaged an average of 12,000 meals for each event! It is a Spirit-filled, fun, and community-building event helping to reduce global hunger! We invite you to join our ministry and help with pre-event arrangements as well as with set-up and take-down on the day of the event.

Contact:
Rev. Tim Smith at timinsanfrancisco@gmail.com; Susan Barber - susanbarber@me.com; or Amy Nachman - stretchmccovey@gmail.com

Parish Retreat
A weekend away at The Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg, held yearly in May

The Parish Retreat is a much-loved tradition and a time for parishioners of all ages, from all services, to come together and enjoy fun and fellowship. It is held during a weekend in May at the Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg. You can hike, eat, swim in the saltwater pool, taste cheese and wines, worship in the Ranch’s lovely historic chapel, drop into quiet contemplation, explore the town of Healdsburg, make crafts, play games, eat s’mores by the campfire, and of course, share fellowship and community! Do it all or just enjoy sitting with a book, basking in the beauty of the wine country. The registration costs include comfortable lodging, all meals, crafts, other supervised activities for children, and entertainment for all.

Contact:
Christian Cebrian - ccebrian@gmail.com or Amy Cebrian - amycebrian@gmail.com

Rebuilding Together San Francisco
Renovating homes of vulnerable SF residents for a Saturday in late April

Rebuilding Together SF provides home repair and renovation programs for low-income, elderly, and disabled San Franciscans and for nonprofit and community facilities. St Mary’s partners with St James’ Episcopal Church as volunteers to do construction work, painting or grounds improvements to a house or community space once a year on the last Saturday of April. This provides an opportunity for comradery with other volunteers, while also improving the lives of those unable to perform the work themselves.

Contact:
David Sullivan - david@djsully.net

Parish Fair
Yearly event in the Summer for the parish to invite in the Cow Hollow community

Come one, come all! We invite you to join us for fun and games at the Annual St. Mary the Virgin Parish Fair. Takes place in the church courtyard with carnival games, tombola, face painting, caricature drawing, dance lessons, snow cones, and more! This is a big community event in association with the local Union Street Fair, and an opportunity to invite our friends and neighbors into the Church. We start planning for this fun event in January, and the Fair is in early June.

Contact:
Molly Irwin - molly@cirw.in

Parish Picnic
Potluck BBQ for the whole Parish held yearly in the Fall

This annual celebratory gathering builds community by offering our faith family the opportunity to relax and play together. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and take down, activities and games and for assisting with the pot luck picnic.

Contact:
Jeff Landry - jefflandrys@gmail.com