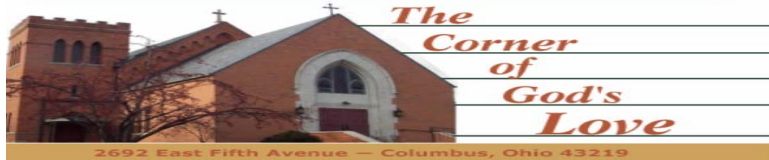


MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

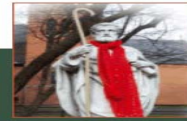
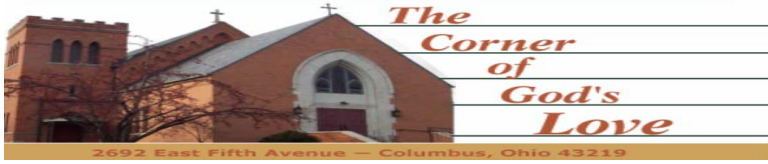
- **ALTAR SERVERS:** The Altar Server Ministry provides parishioners, adults and children grades 5 and older the opportunity to serve the Lord on His altar. Servers assist the priest at the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations. A training class is conducted periodically throughout the year to cover the servers' duties before, during and after Mass and to provide the necessary understanding and reinforcement of the many altar server responsibilities during the Mass.
- **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:** Members of this ministry are called to assist the celebrant in the distribution of the Eucharist at every regularly scheduled weekend Mass, daily Mass, and special Masses. Extraordinary Ministers also take communion to the sick, elderly, homebound and those in hospitals and nursing centers.
- **LECTORS:** Reading God's Word to the congregation during worship is an ancient and sacred ministry. The ministry of the lector calls for a person to grow in a warm and loving knowledge of Scripture. In this ministry, you are an instrument for God's Word to be shared with the congregation. The duties of the lector are to carry the book of the Gospel during the procession and to proclaim the Word of God during the Liturgy of the Word.
- **USHERS:** Ushers serve as the gracious hosts for all attending a mass, assuring that everything is in order for them when they arrive. Being an Usher requires teamwork to coordinate the hosting process. Ushers facilitate all seating in the Sanctuary, waiting to seat latecomers until after the Readings, distribute missals and worship aids, receive the offering, and hand out Sunday bulletins. Ushers also remain after the mass to straighten the Sanctuary. It's the ministry that makes the difference in every Sunday liturgy.
- **GREETERS:** Greeters are the first people to welcome a new person or family at the entrances to the church. Their primary task is to create an initial atmosphere of love, unity and enthusiasm for our visitors. Why is this important? Our Church can at times be an unwelcoming place to some and we never know what the circumstances are in an individual's life. The skills and talents of Greeters, a smile and a handshake, can make the difference in someone's decision to come back.
- **MUSIC:** The Adult Choir provides music for the all liturgies and special occasions. Smaller groups of choir members provide music at each mass, while the entire choir will assemble in song and praise for Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. The music is very diverse – contemporary, traditional, gospel and bilingual. The 5:00 p.m. Saturday choir offers a contemporary flair. The Sunday liturgical music is more traditional with a splash of gospel and contemporary. The first and third Sunday of each month offer a bilingual repertoire of Spanish and English at the 11:30 mass.



- **WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** The activities are many and as diverse as there are meetings with the Pastor and various other committees to organize and coordinate parish liturgical functions. Such planning may include: preparing for the annual parish retreat; preparing for liturgies; preparation of church space for special occasions (cleaning and decorating); scheduling various ministries; working with other committees to plan for Holy Days, Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession and Las Posadas, etc. This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, unless otherwise scheduled.

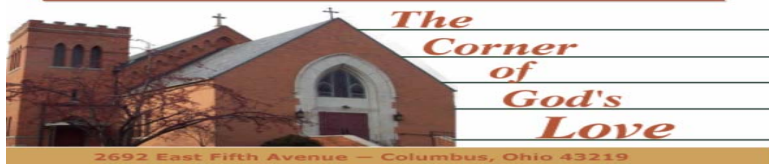
OUTREACH MINISTRY

- **GIVING TREE:** The Giving Tree workers begin preparing for this endeavor in early November. They record donation requests received from outside agencies, nursing homes, and St. Vincent de Paul Society. This group makes ornament tags for the Giving Tree, sorts and distributes gifts given by parishioners to nursing homes, hospitals and families.
- **SOCIAL CONCERNS:** This committee identifies parish and community needs and facilitates appropriate ways for the parish to respond to those needs in the spirit of the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church. Come with an open mind, compassionate spirit and a voice to speak up for those who have no voice.
- **ST. VINCENT de PAUL:** St. Vincent de Paul Society is an organization of men and women devoted to helping people in need. The Society provides direct aid to anyone requesting assistance such as food, clothing, shelter, financial aid and community resource help. Full membership requires attendance at the meetings that are currently held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Associate members do not attend meetings but volunteer to assist in St. Vincent de Paul projects. Contributing membership is also needed and greatly appreciated.
- **KNIGHTS of ST. PETER CLAVER:** We are a fraternal organization of Roman Catholic men and women dedicated to serving our God, Church, and communities. Our Noble Order's patron is Father Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest who was an advocate for African slaves.
- **LATINO MINISTRY:** This ministry is involved in outreach and development seeking to reach out and minister effectively to the Latinos in our midst. This community has much to offer us: deep spirituality, a sense of family and connectedness, and the richness of their cultural traditions and customs. We invite volunteers both Spanish speaking and English speaking to assist in this ministry.
- **SENIORS GROUP:** Over 50? Come join in the fun and well-informed senior group. Because we are small, we meet with other seniors at Christ the King Parish on the 3rd Monday of each month. Activities include keeping current on situations affecting seniors, featured speakers on any number of topics, day/night trips, dinner, game nights and much more.



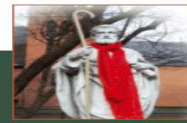
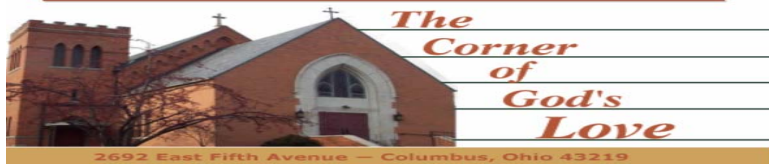
MAINTENANCE MINISTRY

- **PARISH COUNCIL:** The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss issues of concern affecting the parish and discerns the appropriate action needed while advising the pastor. Membership is made up of twelve "elected" apostles. The election is held in September of each year. Anyone interested in serving our parish community in this capacity must be willing to commit to attending the monthly meetings for a three-year term.
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Canon (Church) Law requires that "In each Parish there is to be a finance committee to help the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish." (Code of Canon Law 537). The Parish Finance Committee is consulted before any major item of expenditure is incurred. They advise the Parish priest on the ongoing maintenance of the Church, the Parish Center, as well as overseeing any building projects on these.
- **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:** The mission of the technology committee is to provide a technological environment necessary to enhance ministries utilizing technologies within the parish. The objective of this committee is to explore, evaluate and monitor and support new and existing technology in the parish center. This committee also helps maintain the parish website. Interested parishioners who have computer and technology skills are welcome!
- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE:** The repair and maintenance of our parish buildings (rectory, church, and parish center) is an ongoing activity. We rely on our parishioners for minor repairs and maintenance. Come lend your expertise in one of the trades such as carpentry, electrical, painting, plumbing or general building and home repair. "Weekend do-it-yourselfers" will enjoy this rewarding opportunity to fix it up while fellowshiping with others. We are always in need of an extra body and helping hands. Our parish lawn care includes mowing, trimming, weed control, and some light trash removal. These tasks are accomplished by a team of individuals dedicated to maintaining the neat and clean appearance of the parish grounds. This volunteer opportunity requires only a limited amount of time - only one or two days during the growing season.



EDUCATION MINISTRY

- **YOUTH GROUP:** The purpose of the Friday Night Assembly is to learn and reflect about the Holy Spirit through singing, dancing and the scripture. The youth group meets every Friday from 7pm to 9pm.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** It is our desire that all students grow in knowledge of their faith and in the love of Christ and His Church. We can only do this with the extended help and support of the family. We believe that parents by their example and guidance are the primary religious educators of their children. The Religious Education Program is a fundamental part of the parish's ministries and has steadily been growing in recent years as younger families with children have joined the Parish. St. Thomas the Apostle is also blessed with a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual faith community. Religious Education classes support the parents by providing a formal learning situation and by offering opportunities for peer and community expressions of faith. The primary purpose of St. Thomas the Apostle Religious Education Program, also known as Children's Church, is to provide our children and youth with catholic faith formation through catechesis, scripture, worship, service and community as outlined by the Diocese of Columbus, Religious Education.
- **RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process of discerning and ritualizing stages of gradual conversion. Initiation of adults belongs to all the baptized. The process is about a relationship over time with both God and the Catholic community. It is the Church's method of a faith journey of conversion. You are invited to become a sponsor in order to support and introduce non-Catholic adults to the Catholic faith and its traditions. This is a lengthy and serious commitment. The RCIA process begins in September and ends in May. Sponsors and catechumens meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00 until 8:30.
- **ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Bible Study in is held every Sunday from September-May in the church basement (conducted in English) at 10:15 a.m. Bible Study in Spanish is held in the Parish Center at 10:15 a.m. Come and join the group to study, reflect and meditate on Scripture while sharing and witnessing your faith experience. Facilitators are occasionally needed for these study groups
- **LANGUAGE PROGRAM – ESL:** Sponsored by the Dominican Learning Center every Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm.
- **COMPUTER PROGRAM:** St. Thomas will be conducting computer literacy classes targeted toward the senior citizens of our parish and the community. The classes will expose students to the various components of the computer, an introduction to the Internet, Email and a general knowledge of word processing using Microsoft Word. We also welcome the Latino community to participate our intent is to have instructors and assistants present material to the Spanish speaking members of the parish.



SOCIAL CONCERNS

- **B.R.E.A.D.:** Consists of many different congregations, people of faith working together to bring about justice to the weak and the poor. Even though our beliefs may differ, we make a commitment to God to work together with our congressmen and city officials to bring about change for our communities in the Columbus area.
- **NURSING HOME, HOSPITAL VISIT:** Visiting area nursing homes is a vital part of the ministry at St. Thomas. Our ministers offer support, companionship, compassion and love during time spent with patients and residents at many of the facilities in our area.
- **THE HANDS OF CHRIST:** This ministry assists parishioners who are in need of a helping hand, while they may be dealing with short-term issues, such as recovering from surgery, lack of transportation, loss of a job, etc. Assistance is provided with temporary help through volunteer services such as providing meals, transportation to doctor appointments, or minor household projects.
- **PRAYER CHAIN:** The Telephone Prayer Chain Ministry has operated for quite a number of years at St. Thomas. Prayer requests originate through one of two lead callers found in the back of the ministry booklet. Care is taken to make certain that private information is kept private, and that nothing is said that the prayer recipient does not want said. The Telephone Prayer Chain graciously accepts more callers, as prayer is powerful in numbers. Anyone who is available during the daytime or evening and is willing to make one or more phone calls to pass along the prayer request and PRAY, please consider joining this group.
- **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** Charismatic prayer Group that meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7 pm in the basement.