

Essential Volunteer Opportunities at St. James

Our parish life depends on the gifts of many hands and hearts. These essential ministries keep our worship flowing, our welcome warm, and our connections strong. Please prayerfully consider where you might serve. Training and support are provided for every role.

Usher/Greeter

Ushers and greeters are the first friendly faces people meet when they walk through our red doors. They welcome parishioners and visitors, hand out bulletins, answer simple questions, and help folks find a seat. Ushers also assist with the flow of the service (helping at the offertory, guiding people to communion, etc.). This ministry is about extending the warmth and hospitality of Christ to everyone who comes through our doors.

Acolyte/Server

Acolytes and servers assist at the altar and help the liturgy flow smoothly. They carry the cross, light candles, hold the Gospel book, and assist the priest at the Eucharist. Serving in this role deepens your understanding of worship and is a meaningful way to participate in the heart of our common prayer. All are welcome to help with this ministry of service. Training and ongoing support are provided.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the church for worship by caring for the sacred vessels, linens, candles, and vestments. Members prepare the sanctuary before each service and put things in order afterward, often working quietly and behind the scenes. This ministry is a gift of reverence and devotion, ensuring our worship space is always ready to welcome Christ and his people.

Coffee Hour Host

Hospitality continues after worship when we gather for coffee, refreshments, and conversation. Coffee hour hosts provide simple snacks and drinks, set them out in the parish hall, and help with cleanup afterward. This ministry helps create space for fellowship and friendship, turning Sunday worship into a time of deeper community.

Worship Aid Preparation

Each month, the worship aids (bulletins) are printed and assembled for the congregation. Volunteers help by folding and stapling the bulletins for the month and preparing mailings for those who participate online. This ministry does **not** involve writing or composing the worship aids—only the practical, hands-on work that ensures everything is ready so our worship can flow smoothly.

Phone Attendant

Because St. James does not keep regular office hours, we rely on volunteers to serve as phone attendants. Each volunteer takes a one- or two-week turn using a parish-provided cell phone (Android or iPhone). During that time, you answer incoming calls, pass along messages, and connect callers with the rector or parish resources as needed. This ministry offers a welcoming voice and ensures that no one feels alone when they reach out to the church.