Ministry Fair spotlights service to parish, community

SEPTEMBER EVENT SHOWCASED OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS

Next time you’re at Mass, bringing your children to school, attending a wedding or other event at The Madeleine, or just driving by…stop for a moment and consider what it takes to keep this community of faith running. Of course there’s Fr. Painter and the paid staff, but these people represent just a fraction of the work required to keep our parish vibrant.

In September, the parish held a Ministry Fair to help shed light on the work that volunteers do at The Madeleine, and to give you, the parishioners, a way to discover how you can deepen your faith, your appreciation of community and your sense of accomplishment by volunteering at The Madeleine.

Our roving reporters discovered what it is these devoted volunteer groups do, and how you can become involved. With this issue of Madeleine Matters, we begin a series of articles highlighting the groups who make The Madeleine the community it is. Here, we spotlight the Praise Choir, Parish Library and Youth Committee. Future issues will highlight the Knights of Columbus, Faith Formation and more.

If you’re involved in an organization at The Madeleine and would like to see an article about your group, send an email to matters@themadeleine.edu

Parish ministries provide framework for service

Ministry. Among other things, it means the spiritual work or service of a Christian or group of Christians. At The Madeleine, our ministries provide a framework for the work we do for the parish and the community.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The focus of the Ministry of the Word is to support spiritual growth through celebration of the sacraments and religious education. This ministry supports preparing for and administering each of the sacraments, including sacramental Marriage planning, Baptism, First Reconciliation, Confirmation and RCIA.

Additionally, this ministry works to provide educational experiences to spread the word of God – groups such as The Spiritual Growth Committee, Faith Formation, Sacramental Preparation, The Madeleine School, Religious Education, Bible Study, Youth Ministry and the Church Library.

MINISTRY OF SERVICE IN AND FOR THE WORLD

This ministry works to educate Madeleine parishioners on the social justice teachings of the Catholic faith. The goal is for each parishioner to understand, embrace and act upon these teachings in their own lives. These efforts are embodied by providing hands-on experiences for community support of the needy through the following programs: The Haitian Project, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Blanchet House, JOIN and The Justice and Peace Committee.

GET INVOLVED! Check the Parish Bulletin for contact information.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

The Ministry of Prayer and Worship implements and supports the worship services at The Madeleine, working to create enriching, diverse devotional experiences for all parishioners to grow in their Catholic faith. This encompasses the Liturgy Committee, Music Ministry, Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Little Church, Nursery and Centering Prayer.

MINISTRY OF CARE & SERVICE

This ministry is focused on care and outreach to parish and local community members. The efforts here include the Community Care Committee, Funeral Receptions, the Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus. The goal is to provide support and comfort to those in need.

Praise Choir’s time and talent creates a treasure for all

The Madeleine Praise Choir is the glue that holds the 9:15 Mass together. Many people specifically attend this Mass because of the excellent music ministry, led by Joanne Barstad for the past 10 years. This group has 15 talented musicians, but notes that they are always looking for more strong voices to help them. “We are really praying for a bass player (stand-up acoustic, or electric) to come forward to join our group”, says Barstad. This is a common theme in the Praise Choir – praying for each other and for the whole congregation.

“It is an honor to help lead the people in prayer – this is not a performance, it is a ministry,” she added. Most all of the musicians are volunteers, including two of Joanne’s daughters, Heather and Heidi. It is a real joy for her to be at the Madeleine Parish where the music is appreciated so much.

While Joanne is proud of all of her members, she did want to highlight piano player Rick Modlin. “Rick is amazing – we are very fortunate to have him. He has performed in Broadway musicals and worked on major motion picture sound tracks. He is very respected in the industry and we have him here in our own Parish – it really is a gift.”

So, if you have some vocal or instrumental talents you would like to share, especially in the upcoming Christmas and Easter seasons, just give us a call!
Youth Committee seeks to create a vibrant youth community

Keeping our young people engaged in a faith-filled environment is challenging in this day and age – yet as they grow, their relationship with God becomes even more important. In developing our 5-year Pastoral Plan, The Madeleine community recognized the importance of providing a spiritual foundation for our youth with the following goal: “have the youth of the Madeleine Parish be active in all areas of parish ministry, and be part of a vibrant youth community.”

To spearhead the achievement of this goal, a Youth Goal Committee is being formed. Their focus will be on identifying the youth of the parish, discovering what needs they may have to further their spiritual formation, and brainstorming ways to engage youth in their Catholic community.

The Parish currently provides some guidance for youth through the Faith Formation Experiences. In addition, many groups that are already active in the parish such as the Justice and Peace committee, Blanchet house, the Knights of Columbus, the Haitian project, Altar society and others are encouraged to reach out to our youth and to invite them to join in and participate in their activities. Another idea being discussed is coordinating with local high schools to enable youth to receive service credit for some of these activities.

A further hope is that the groups that already involve our youth, such as the altar servers and the Confirmation class, might be encouraged to expand their activities and be a springboard into a more connected social network for our parish youth. While more adult support is needed for this, it is thought that with a little encouragement, the kids might be inclined to organize and design their own clubs. Such groups might provide a positive Christian environment where the kids could help support and guide each other through the challenges of the teen experience.

The Council is currently looking for volunteers who are interested in serving on our Youth Committee. Can you help? We are hoping to have committee members from all ages, including youth themselves, to help us explore these questions.

GET INVOLVED! Call Tammy McAllister, 503-331-1045.

Fr. Painter recovering, thanks parish for support

As many of you know, Father Painter was taken to the hospital on Wednesday, December 5 with severe pneumonia. After a 2-week hospitalization, he’s back home at the rectory recovering and getting back into the swing of things.

His absence resulted in several parish activities and communications – including this newsletter – being delayed.

Father Painter has posted a letter to The Madeleine website thanking everyone for their support and prayers during his illness. You can see the letter at www.themadeleine.edu/update.

Father is expecting to return to work part time in February and is looking forward to resuming his regular schedule as soon as possible. Further updates will be posted to the website.

Vocations Committee: awareness and support for the vowed religious life

The mission of the Vocations Committee is to “Join in praying for vocations to priesthood and vowed religious life.” As an offshoot of the SERRA Club, the Vocations Committee works to bring awareness and prayer in support of those who choose to follow the call as priests and religious clergy. The committee asks families to volunteer to take home a candle and prayer card to be read each day for a week. This ministry also offers information about SERRA Club, a wider organization that talks with kids about vocations.

Because candles are donated by the Knights of Columbus, there’s no particular talent or treasure needed. Instead, families can volunteer to take the candle and pray for a week, or individuals can volunteer to be on the committee.

GET INVOLVED! Look for sign-up sheets in the back of the church, or call Fred Farrell or Jim O’Hanlon at 503-287-2079.