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Have you heard about the great things happening at St. Dominic?

Fr. Chris Boutin and I are so blessed to be leaders among so many Christian leaders here at St. Dominic. Christ called each of his disciples to come and follow him, to make him and his church a priority. To walk a journey with the Lord is always exciting, always rewarding and charged with grace filled moments shared with other committed disciples. Won’t you journey with us? In the pages that follow there are numerous ways to participate in the life of Christ and His Church. Please look through this booklet and ask the Holy Spirit, what you can do. There is life here at St. Dominic, but Christ came that we would have life and have it more abundantly. You are needed for the “more abundant” part!

May God bless you and this great parish.

Fr. Jim Cink
Pastor
**Liturgical Ministries**

The **Liturgy Committee** helps plan parish liturgies and special services. Membership includes the chairpersons of the various liturgical ministries, but is also open to anyone who would like to help enrich our worship.

The **Ushers** function as greeters in welcoming those attending Mass. Additional ushers direct people to available pews, oversee the offertory collections, direct the communion lines and distribute bulletins at the church doors after Mass. Ushers also have an overall congregation safety oversight position; they monitor the Mass for safety from the outside and also monitor the congregation from a health and safety standpoint; whether that is assisting a congregation member with an issue (i.e. contacting emergency personnel; ambulance, police, etc.)

The responsibility of a **Lector** is to read the scriptures during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Lectors read the introduction before Mass (if there is not a cantor), the first and second readings, responsorial psalm (if not sung) and the Prayers of the Faithful. Anyone in the parish, willing to read in front of a group, is eligible to become a Lector.

The **Gift Bearer** ministry provides a means for having parishioners participate in the Mass by bringing forward the gifts of bread and wine in the Offertory procession.

The **St Dominic Choir** sings weekly at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Additionally, the Choir sings for the liturgically rich celebrations of Christmas and Easter along with the other great feasts of the church year. New members are welcomed and encouraged. You do not need to sing like Pavarotti, but possess a love of singing and a willingness to learn and blend with the ensemble. Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

Members of the **Altar Care** ministry are responsible for the general appearance of the main sanctuary, chapel and devotional areas of the church. Duties include straightening the hymnbooks, dusting the altar, changing the holy water, cleaning the windows and the candleholders. This work is typically done on Saturday mornings, taking approximately 1 ½ hours.
Faith Formation Ministries

All adult members of the parish are invited to attend the Adult Faith Formation enrichment programs held on Sunday mornings beginning in September and concluding in May. This is a great opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge of what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Faith and Fellowship for Young Adults is an informal session designed for young adults (20-39) to gather for faith sharing, food and fellowship. Each month, young people of the parish gather in the priest's home; this setting allows for them to build community and provides nourishment for both the body and the soul.

St. Dominic Children's Religious Education Program strives to establish a Christian environment where students will learn to respect God, self and others. The program provides an atmosphere that will help develop a strong sense of community service and Christian fellowship that will lead to a productive and faith-filled life. The Children's Religious Education (CRE) program consists of instruction classes for all students in grades Pre-K through Grade 8 attending public and private schools. CRE meets during the school year after the 9:00 am Mass in the Saint Dominic School classrooms. The Pre-School program meets during the 9:00 am Mass.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a formation process for unbaptized persons and for members of other Christian churches seeking admission into the Catholic Church. Catholics, who want to know more about their faith, are also welcome to attend. The formation process begins each year in late September and concludes at Easter.

Rediscovering Your Catholic Faith is a process for Catholics who have been away from the Church and would like to reconnect with the faith. It allows individuals to obtain answers to questions they have about the Church. Most importantly, it gives them the opportunity to become reconciled with Christ and his Church.

The Scripture Study group emphasizes prayer, reading, study and spreading the Gospel. The group reads the bible utilizing the Collegeville Study Guide. All are welcome.

Vacation Bible School provides children in grades PK to Grade 5 a week-long opportunity to learn more about the Bible through drama, arts/crafts, games and videos. Young people in Grades 6 – 12, as well as adults, are encouraged to volunteer in positions such as teachers, teacher aides, group leaders and/or musicians.
Pastoral Outreach

The Legion of Mary is an association of men and women who, within the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary, formed a Legion performing service for the Church. There are two types of membership: active and auxiliary. The duty of the auxiliary member is the daily recitation of the rosary and recitation of the prayers contained in the Legion prayer leaflet. The active Legion member attends a weekly meeting and does two hours of apostolic work each week.

Food for the Bereaved enables people to serve in a simple but meaningful way while expressing sympathy and caring to a bereaved family of the parish. The program consists of several teams, each with a team captain, who receives information regarding needs in the parish. The members then prepare a dish or provide soft drinks and arrange to have them delivered to the family. The group also prepares frozen meals on occasion to have on hand in times of need. This group is coordinated through the Women’s Club.

The Bereavement Committee send sympathy cards to our bereaved and also contacts them by phone or home visits.

The Welcoming Committee contacts new parishioners by phone or by home visit, providing information concerning church activities, and organizations. They assist in introducing families or individuals to the parish community.

The Evangelization Committee serves the Church as faith enrichment for all parish members, as an outreach to non-practicing and marginal Christians, and an outreach to non-Catholics. The committee develops, plans, and conducts various projects ranging from in-church missions, Lenten and Advent programs, to home visits. New members and new ideas are encouraged.

The Network of Care provides transportation to church, doctor’s offices or the grocery store to those in the parish that are sick and/or elderly. They also, on occasion, prepare meals, make minor home repairs, do yard work, sit with the sick or elderly, and visit or phone the grieving. Network of Care professional members, such as nurses, lawyers, psychologists, and financial planners, provide assistance as needed.

The Vocations Cup serves as a reminder of the importance of praying for vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and Permanent Deaconate. Each week the Vocations Cup is presented to a family at the 9 a.m. Mass to place in a prominent place in the home and pray for vocations. Families are also encouraged to promote vocations within their own family. Parents play a vital role in helping their children discover their gifts and talents and use them to build up the kingdom of God. God calls us all to a life in service to him in every vocation: single life, married life, religious life, and priesthood.

The Pilgrim Virgin Ministry was started by the Legion of Mary and the Knights of Columbus to promote the recitation of the Rosary and to pray for World Peace.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue is delivered to a Host Family by a member of the K of C and the Legion of Mary. At the home, the Rosary is prayed along with the Litany of our Lady and appropriate prayers for one week.

The Respect Life Committee only has a few events during the year such as the school essay contest, life chain, banquet, and carnation sale on Mother’s Day. We also assist to increase awareness and education for our parish through bulletin inserts and possible speakers on issues such as birth control, euthanasia and abortion. Most of the work of our members is through individual prayer. We do have a connection with Alabama Citizens from Life to keep informed of current pro-life legislation.
Youth Ministries

The Booster Club is a parish organization created to oversee participation of parish school-aged children in the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization’s sports – football, basketball, volleyball and soccer and golf. The Booster Club meets monthly and interested parents are welcome and encouraged to participate.

School and Classroom Volunteers

School volunteers assist in various ways including working as classroom aides, teacher assistants, art room volunteers, library volunteers and with field day activities.

Parish Administration and Social Functions

The Stewardship Council is dedicated to helping parish leaders, the parish community, households and individual parishioners grow in awareness and understanding of stewardship as a way of life. This is accomplished by nurturing faith-filled homes, personal prayer and study, and by fostering generosity and evangelization through prayerful commitment and accountability. The council typically has between five and ten members at any given time.

Catholic Charities Appeal Volunteers assist the Parish Chair on Appeal Sunday. Volunteers will help to reach out to members of the parish, from a provided list, asking for their support of the Appeal. A script and list will provided to each volunteer. Appeal Sunday is historically the last Sunday of January.

The Wedding Committee assists in preparing the church for weddings. Members of the committee will speak with the bride prior to the event to determine what is needed for the ceremony.

The Dominican Fryers are a group of men and women who gather during Lent to run the weekly Fish Frys. We prepare and serve the food, clean the hall and kitchen. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with your fellow parishioners. We always need volunteers.

The Jubilee Club was formed to give “seniors” an opportunity to meet socially. Members meet monthly for supper and entertainment such as speakers, Bingo, music groups, and a casino night. On occasion, the club sponsors day and overnight bus trips to various places of interest.
Other Organizations

The **St. Vincent de Paul Society** establishes personal contact with those in need and brings the most efficient aid possible. Members visit nursing homes, as well as parish and community families as needed. Once a year the Society hosts a party for citizens in the community who are handicapped in any way. They also support the district organization and the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store.

The **Daughters of Mary** are women renewing faith and family, who gather to reflect on the Gospel reading in the Marian tradition. They meet each Monday at 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The **Knights of Columbus** ministry is a Catholic Fraternal men’s organization dedicated to promoting the goal of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. The group spent approximately 500 hours this past year in parish and community events.

The **Men of St. Joseph** is an association of Christian men, united under the Catholic Church, who meet weekly to pray together and encourage each other as the spiritual leaders of their families. The purpose of the Men of St. Joseph is to instill holiness in men and facilitate spiritual leadership in family and community life.

**Boy Scouts** is one of the traditional membership divisions of BSA, and is available to boys in the parish who have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years old or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10, or who are 11, but not yet 18 years old. The program achieves the BSA’s objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Cub Scouting is a year-round family program designed for boys who are in the first grade through fifth grade (or 7, 8, 9, and 10 years of age). **Cub Scouts** teaches boys to do their best, and to be helpful to others. Cub Scouts involve boys in a Cub Scout Den where they can earn status and recognition. Boys also gain a sense of personal achievement from the new skills they learn.

**Girl Scouts** is an informal, educational program centered on the interests and abilities of girls from ages 5 – 18. Girl Scouts focus on friendships, care for others, service and care of our environment.
Children and Teen Ministries

The Altar Server ministry is open to any boy or girl of Saint Dominic Parish who has reached the fifth grade. Those interested are contacted and trained in the summer and fall. Altar servers assist the priest at the various liturgical services held in the parish.

Angels on a Mission is a group for 5th-6th graders are commissioned to be Light of Christ. They perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy, stand for life, and bring joy to people in special ways. They are beacons of hope for the school, neighborhood, and community.

High School Catholic Youth Organization (Sr. CYO) is open to all high school students of the parish. There are activities for the youth of St. Dominic almost every Sunday and Wednesday evening. This ministry is set up for the students to meet socially and to increase their faith. Retreats, religious education, youth conferences, Life Chain, Catholic Heart Workcamp, and hosting the Pilgrim Virgin are just a few of the religious activities the ministry provides. The group also works on service projects such as cleaning yards, building and running the Haunted House, Spirit House upkeep, and working the parish fish fries. And, of course, there’s plenty of fun, too.

The Junior CYO is comprised of all 7th and 8th grade parish students. The ministry is designed to be a social outlet for the students that provides a safe and age-appropriate opportunity for our youth to have fun, serve God, and the community at large.