

## Worship Commission Report

I would like to share a few updates and reflections on the life of our liturgical ministries over the past several weeks.

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### **Formation of New Liturgical Ministers**

We are grateful for the leadership of Noemi Diaz (Eucharistic Ministers) and Christmas Borlongan (Readers) in helping to cultivate new ministers within our parish. Over the past months, we have held workshops and training sessions for those discerning service in these ministries, followed by the commissioning of new ministers.

As a result, you will begin to see new faces serving at the altar and proclaiming the Word, which is a great blessing for our parish. It is always encouraging to witness new members step forward in faith and service, contributing to the vitality and continuity of our liturgical life. It is truly a joy to see new faces, a visible sign that our parish continues to grow and respond to the call to serve.

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### **Reflections on Holy Week and Easter**

This year's Holy Week was especially meaningful for our community.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper was deeply prayerful, highlighted by the reverent celebration of the Washing of the Feet, which beautifully expressed Christ's call to service and humility.

Our Good Friday liturgies, particularly the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, were profoundly moving. The reflection on the Seven Last Words was especially powerful, with testimonies shared by a diverse group of voices—including our youth (altar servers), OCIA participants, and long-time parishioners. Their reflections offered a rich and personal meditation on the Passion of Christ, allowing the entire community to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Cross.

The Easter Vigil was truly a moment of great joy for our parish, as more than 20 OCIA candidates and catechumens received their sacraments. It was a powerful witness to the life of the Church and a reminder of the fruits of accompaniment, formation, and the work of the Holy Spirit in our community.

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## Gratitude for Our Volunteers

Finally, I would like to offer a heartfelt word of gratitude for the many volunteers who made our Lenten and Easter liturgies possible.

During Holy Week, I had the opportunity to witness their dedication firsthand. When I arrived at the church early in the morning—around 9:00 AM—many were already hard at work preparing the space for the day's liturgies. And even after the long and beautiful celebration of the Easter Vigil, they remained present—cleaning, resetting, and ensuring that everything was in place. Their commitment spans not just hours, but entire days, often quietly and without recognition.

I also became aware of a few moments where some of our volunteers experienced difficult or uncomfortable interactions. While these moments may have been unintentional, they stayed with me. They reminded me how much our volunteers give—not only of their time and energy, but of themselves—and how important it is that we accompany them with patience, understanding, and kindness.

In our desire for our liturgies to be beautiful and well-executed, we can sometimes place a quiet expectation of perfection. Yet it is important to remember that our volunteers are not striving for perfection in performance, but offering something far greater—their faithful and generous intention to serve God and the community. It is precisely this intention that makes our liturgies meaningful and alive.

If these volunteers were to step away, we would not be able to celebrate our liturgies—especially moments such as the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday—with the same depth, care, and reverence. Their presence is essential to the life of our parish.

We are truly blessed by their service. I feel strongly that we are called not only to rely on them, but to be more intentional in recognizing, affirming, and appreciating all that they do. A simple word of thanks, a gesture of patience, or an acknowledgment of their efforts can go a long way in honoring their gift to our community.

## **SAYG and YA report March to April 2026**

### **March**

- Planning for the Second Year Retreat Teams have been meeting every week to plan for the upcoming retreats next year.
- The Monthly Youth and Young Adult Holy Hour was held on and celebrated by Fr. Ifaeanyichukwu Henry Uwabunkeonye
- St. Augustine Youth group meetings (SAYG) have started the same week as SALT meetings from 3:30-5pm and are led by the leaders of our SALT group who were also the directors of 2nd Year Confirmation Retreat.
- The Service and Leadership Team (SALT) meeting was on the 15th
- The 2nd Year Confirmation Retreat was on March 6-9th at YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, accompanied by Father Ifeanyi the first two days of the retreat.
  - Our Retreat Team helped guide the 39 second-year Confirmation Students on their faith journey. Our second-year confirmation students stepped away from the noise of daily life for a powerful spiritual journey at Camp Jones Gulch. Departing on Friday Afternoon, the youth embarked on an activity and spiritual filled weekend centering around the theme “Search my Heart”. With prayer, reflection and community building, these young men and women opened their hearts to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. The experience culminated in a beautiful faith sharing led by the students, youth team and chaperones on Sunday, attended by families, friends and sponsors before officially welcomed back to St. Augustine.



## April

- The Monthly Youth and Young Adult Holy Hour was held on and celebrated by Deacon Virgil Capetti.
- St. Augustine Youth group meetings (SAYG) have started the same week as SALT meetings from 3:30-5pm and are led by the leaders of our SALT group.
- The Service and Leadership Team (SALT) meetings were on the 12th and 26th of the month to discuss plans for events and youth group meetings.
- The SALT team have been meeting to prepare for our SAYG Yearly Awards Night Banquet on May 16th
- On April 25th, the 2nd Year Confirmation students had their Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone and other bishops and priests of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



### Upcoming:

- Summer SALT Team with more socials and activities for the Summer
- Graduation Mass TBD May 2026

### ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

#### April:

- **Easter Seed Distribution:** In collaboration with the SAC Catechists, the EC distributed 100 sachets of native seeds and vegetable starters to families following the 9:00 AM Mass.





- **Westborough Middle School Collaboration:** Following an invitation from science teacher Ms. Corrina Low and Fr. Ray's blessing, EC members and families participated in their first community partnership event at the **Linda Mar Beach Cleanup**.





**Upcoming:**

EC will support Fr. Ray's projects to celebrate the St. Francis Jubilee theme of "Care for Creation". Stay tuned!