

Directory of the Ministries at St. William Parish

Cleaning Group

So far, the cleaning in the church was the responsibility of the Albertynian sisters present at the parish (actually Sr. Anna), who organized people for cleaning once a week. After the sisters left in 2018, the role of cleaning organizer was taken over by Mrs. Wiesława Puchacz, who after some time, specifically after the pandemic, was able to gather a permanent group of 12 people (mainly Poles, but not only), who up to this day, every Monday till noon, volunteer to clean our entire temple. Once a year, the Pastor thanks them at lunch gathering.

Weekly Offertory Counting Group

This volunteer group, which changed from time to time (due to illnesses, the passing of some of them to eternity), is still serving us by counting money from Sunday Masses. Needless to say, the members of this group are licensed and trusted by the Archdiocese and the parish. It is a great facilitation for the work of the pastor and the business manager responsible for the finances of the parish. Two or three times a year we meet for a special thanksgiving lunch.

Altar Servers

We used to have many of them for Polish, Spanish and English-language Masses. Unfortunately, the pandemic period decimated their ranks, so that after the pandemic we started creating new groups. As always, recruits at English Masses are students of our St. William School and Religious Educational Program; at Polish Masses students of the Polish School, and at Spanish Masses - from the Spanish Educational Program. Responsible for preparing them for the liturgical service are: Polish married couple Wojciech and Małgorzata Karpiesiuk, deacon Leonel Segura for the Spanish group, and Mrs. Dorota Archacki for the English-speaking group.

Lectors

This is also a new chapter in our parish after the outbreak. We started recruiting them for Polish and English Masses. The Spanish community is doing better with over 33 lectors. Responsible for individual groups are: in the case of the Polish group (12 people) - Mrs. Dorota Archacki and Pastor (meetings every 1st Sunday of the month, after the 9 AM Mass), English group - Aida Rodriguez and Anna (meetings every last Saturday of the month), Spanish lectors - dk. Leonel Segura and Alfredo Patino-Lopez (first Saturday of the month in the afternoon). Once a year, we organize outgoing formation meetings (on Saturday) as a day of reflection (Gregory Fidanzia and Dorota Archacki in charge).

Ushers

This is quite a strong post-pandemic group that makes itself felt when cleaning benches during the immediate opening of churches after the pandemic. Currently, each language group has several ushers. Responsible are Franiszek Waksmański (Polish group), Jose Hernandez (Spanish group) and John Gallagher (English group). The groups meet with the Pastor and Dorota Archacki once every 3 months for organizational purposes.

Bible Study Groups

These groups existed even in the times of Fr. Jarosław Maciejewski, who was the Associate Pastor of the parish of St. William until the end of June 2022. He led an English- and Polish-language groups once every 2 weeks. After the departure of Fr. Jaroslaw, the Polish group was taken over by Father Roman Deyna (emeritus priest), who meets twice a month (Wednesdays at 7:30 PM). We are waiting for favorable winds to reinitiate the English group. The Spanish group has been meeting since 2022 for Bible formation every Saturday at 9-11 AM (responsible: Nancy Melgar).

Hispanic Evangelization Group

It is a relatively new group founded on the initiative of dk Jaime, who handed over its leadership to Deacon Leonel

Segura. Currently, since 2022, it has been run by Carlos Guillermo, specially prepared for the evangelization of the parish, who prepares Spanish formation meetings once every 2 months. We are slowly preparing for similar meetings to be held in English as well.

Evangelization Group (English speaking)

A formation group (of 10 people) in the spirit of the Bible; uses various programs and evangelization's tools (e.g. the movie Chosen, the Mass guidance). They meet once every two weeks; responsible Linda Ricchio.

Polish Marian Group (as part of the Renew My Church program)

We had a lot of difficulties with the formation of this group due to the correct understanding of the goals and objectives of the new Renew My Church pastoral program implemented by the Archdiocese of Chicago. In the case of the Polish group, we decided to direct it in a Marian way and create an equivalent of the English Alpha recruiting new members from the Polish community for evangelization work. This group, thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Alicja Pożywio, who took over from 2022 to lead it, began its permanent formation and preparation for the evangelization of the next hosts. We are good in this respect. Meetings are held every Monday at 7 PM in the Rectory.

St. Joseph Group

This group is a relatively a new creation founded on the basis of the devotion to St. Joseph (in Polish), which has been taking place in our parish for 5 years (2018), every fourth Saturday of the month at 7 PM. It is led by Pastor along with Przemysław Rebeszko, meeting first in the church and then in the rectory, around 8:15 PM. It is about the Eucharistic, Marian and Joseph' formation of men (currently there are 34), with whom appropriate knowledge, spirituality and prayer are shared. The brothers are obliged to pray the rosary continuously, changing its mysteries each month, and to participate in the service. The group was significantly strengthened after the uprising in the church of the altar of St. Joseph, in connection with the announcement by Pope Francis Jubilee Year of St. Joseph (2021).

Rosary Groups (Polish, English and Spanish)

Rosary groups have a long tradition in the parish of St. William, led by Mrs. Wiesława Puchacz, under the supervision of Fr. Jarosław Maciejewski in Polish; today Father Roman Deyna continues the spiritual and formative care, meeting with the members of the Rosary every first Wednesday of the month after the evening Mass (at 7:30 PM). In addition, there is an English-speaking group for a long time, once led by Katarzyna Pietrzyk (she died in January 2019), now by Katarina Bossi &

Gloria Galvez, who meet every day before the morning English Mass, at 7:30 AM. The Spanish group meets for the rosary every Tuesday as part of the Spanish day in our parish. Prayers begin at 6:30 PM, followed by Mass and Holy Hour until approx. 9 PM. Responsible -Elisa Rivera.

St. Rita Group

This is an initiative started under the previous Pastor, Fr. Robert Łojek, who, coming to the parish in 2010, when he found it in complete disarray, wanted to strengthen it spiritually and numerically by introducing devotion to the patron saint of impossible things, seeing in St. Rita spiritual support to raise the parish financially and spiritually. Since then, the service has been held every third Saturday of the month at 7 PM by the current Pastor.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel (2018)

A great blessing for our parish is the creation of the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration in 2018. It can be said that it was created accidentally, by indicating its future place in the former baptismal chapel (which lost its original meaning and transformed over time into storage) by Mrs. Alicja Pożywio, then director of the Religious Education Program at St. William. By investing \$16 thousand and building an adoration altar, placing air conditioning and a camera, the room was transformed into the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration. The

introduction of an electronic key system (which can still be purchased at the rectory for a \$20 donation) allowed anyone to enter at any time of the day or night to adore the Blessed Sacrament.

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (English group)

This is a brand new English-speaking group founded as an initiative of Mr. Walter Viola, with the help of Linda Ricchio. It is a formation and prayer group that meets every Thursday at 7:30 PM, at the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, in inclement weather at the church. The group consists of about 15 people.

Legion of Mary (English and Spanish group)

A brand new (2023) English formation group that meets every Saturday at 2:30 PM, at St. Michael room in the church; it is led by Ray Gerard; The Spanish group has been meeting for 4 years, since the Spanish Mass was actually created in the parish (responsible: Marta Matadamas); meetings are held every Tuesday at 5 PM in the convent hall (a future parish center); it is run by Luis Cadena together with the aforementioned Maria.

Famenal (exactly meaning family in unity, from the Spanish abbreviation of the name: **fam**-ilia **en** **allianza**)

A Spanish-speaking formation group for married couples, consisting in the evangelization of married couples in a Catholic spirit to better serve the parish; the organization was initiated

in Mexico and works well in the USA, in the environment of Mexican families in many parishes (contact: Mario and Maria Gudino); many participants of this movement are involved in the life of the parish: lectors, ministers of the Eucharist, Holy Communion to the sick, etc. 2 or 3 times in the year there are formative plenary meetings with responsible groups coming from Mexico.

Liturgical Groups (English and Spanish-speaking)

The Spanish liturgical group was established 2 years ago, when the Spanish group began to organize itself in our parish. The responsible is elected once every two years; now it is Alfredo Patiño. The group meets every 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 PM in the convent. The group prepares a plan of liturgical and pastoral work for each month. The English liturgical group has been around for a long time, although it was led in a renewed form before the pandemic by Deacon Juan Ponce de Leon, who died in 2020, together with Elaine Simola. After the pandemic, Elaine led the meeting until 2023, when she gave way to Carlos Guillermo Novoa and Helena de Ponce de Leon for health reasons. Meetings are held once every 3 months and they prepare the liturgical agenda of the parish for the upcoming events.

Youth Group (English)

Meetings every Friday afternoon to get closer to God through sport and formation; responsible Dorota Archacki.

Family Mass (in Polish and English)

Every third Sunday of the month we have a Family Mass at 1:30pm (Polish), and at 12 PM (English).