

# Together We Serve



**Saint Mary's Catholic Church**  
Directory of Ministries & Programs

## **How Can You Help?**

Through stewardship, we discover what a difference stewardship makes in our daily lives, and what we can do to make a difference in the lives of others.

Good stewardship is an offering of our time, talent and treasure. Modeling our lives after Jesus and continually looking for ways we can share our gifts and give of ourselves in thanksgiving for all that we have.

## **Ministries & Programs Offered**

This booklet contains information on the Ministries and Programs offered at St Mary's.

Please select the areas that you can share your time and talents with your parish family.



**ADORATION:** Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays after 9AM Mass and concluding at 5PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with the Lord. We are always in need of people who will commit to one hour each week or to be on standby in case someone is unable to make their hour. Anyone is welcome to stop by and spend time with our Lord

**ALTAR SERVER:** All boys and girls, who are in the fourth grade and above, are welcome to serve. Altar Servers enter into a fuller participation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass while assisting the priest during the weekend and special Masses. All candidates recognize serving in this role is a privilege. Duties are to be performed with attention and reverence. Servers are scheduled on a rotational basis. Training is required

**ALTAR SOCIETY / LADY OF FATIMA GUILD:** This organization is open to any woman of the parish 18 years of age or older. The annual dues are \$1.00 and are collected during the month of January. Senior citizens, aged 65 and older, may join without paying a membership fee. Each May, a mass is offered for our living members, and in October, a memorial mass is offered for deceased past members.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Adults of the Parish meet on Wednesdays 9AM to 10:30AM in the Parish Hall. Newcomers are invited to join at any time.

**C.A.R.E. GROUPS:** Groups meet once a week over 5 to 6 weeks (usually during Lent and Advent). Join your fellow parishioners in a small group setting to strengthen your Catholic Faith, meet new friends and to have fun.

**CATECHIST:** Do you have a Love of the Lord and of His Children? If so, we are looking for you! Catechists are called to this special ministry to share, educate and form our children in their Catholic Faith.

**CHOIR ADULT:** Adult Choir sings at 11:00AM Mass from September to Mid-June. They also sing for special Liturgies throughout the year. Choir practice is on Thursday evenings.

**CHOIR-YOUTH-** Youth Choir is open to any 4th grade student and beyond. Youth Choir sings once a month from September through April.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** Every Christmas our parish shares the joy of gift giving with the needy people in our area. Names of families and individuals in need are obtained from local agencies. Gift suggestions are placed on a tag on the Christmas tree. Parishioners take the tag and shop for that person/item, wrap the gift and return it to the tree. Volunteers then sort and deliver the gifts. The tags on the giving tree provide gifts for the 101 residents of Ferguson Apartments, clothing for the Coopersville Cares shopping day and HELP Pregnancy Crisis Center

**COFFEE & DONUT SERVERS-** Parishioners provide an atmosphere of fellowship for their fellow parishioners after Sunday Mass by serving coffee, punch and donuts.

**COLLECTION COUNTERS-** Responsible for counting and recording all of the monies collected at all of the Masses. Make bank deposit. Accuracy and Confidentiality is required.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER-** Fully initiated Catholic men and women assist in ministering the body and blood of Christ to the community of the faithful at Mass. The call to serve in this ministry demands sincere reverence, respect and a devotion to the Eucharist. Serving someone with special needs or limitations, or going to someone who cannot come forward in the communion process may be necessary. Training is provided.

**FINANCE COUNCIL-** Composed of parishioners who consult with the pastor in discerning through prayer and study, the administration of the good of the parish members who participate in a series of formation sessions and are appointed by the pastor after consultation with the pastoral council.

**FUNERAL LUNCHEON-** This ministry involves the coordination of luncheons following a funeral. Volunteers prepare and donate food for the luncheon and others help to serve at the luncheon.

**GIFT BEARER-** What an honor it is to carry the wine, hosts and offerings to the priest at Mass for consecration! Any occasion can be a time to serve as a Gift Bearer: a birthday, an anniversary, or just a "happy day." Or maybe you would like to bring up the gifts on the memorial of a loved one. Gift Bearers actively participate in the celebration of the Mass by presenting the gifts of Bread and Wine at the altar and require no special skill or permanent ministerial duty, and yet it is a beautiful and significant part of the Mass performed by lay people

**GOD'S KITCHEN-** Help serve meals on select Saturdays of the Month at God's Kitchen in Grand Rapids.

**HOSPITALITY MINISTER-** Ministers greet worshippers, assist with seating, coordinate gift bearers, gather the weekly offertory and other special collections, distribute bulletins, remove clutter from pews after Masses. Also required is giving assistance to any parishioner needing special attention, i.e. arranging for Eucharistic Minister to bring Communion to parishioner if they are unable to come forward, and attending to any ill parishioners. You provide a vital ministry by serving as hospitality ministers to all our fellow guests at the Lord's table.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS-** Men 18 years and older that are practicing Catholics are welcome to become a member of the Knights of Columbus. Knights are required to go through 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees. The Knights support our parish activities, the local and surrounding communities and the world.

**LECTOR-** Parishioners, young and old, proclaim God's Word in scripture, lead the parish in the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass. Being a lector is spiritually rewarding and brings the Word of God to life during Mass. This ministry is open to any actively practicing Catholic who is high school age or older, who has been confirmed. Training is provided.

**MARTHA LEAGUE-** Prepare and deliver a meal to parishioners who made need help due to recovering from a surgery, during an illness, injury, death in the family or a new baby, etc.

**MENTOR OF MARRIAGE PREPARATION-** Parishioners who are in faith-filled, sacramental marriages and who have a sincere desire to help those who are about to be married are trained in marriage mentoring. A firm understanding of our faith and a commitment to the sacramental nature of marriage are required. Marriage mentors meet with couples as they plan to marry, discussing a host of issues that are part of every marriage covenant. Mentors help couples to be better prepared for the many demands that this sacrament makes of those who seek to enter into marriage. Mentor couples meet with couples five or six times prior to the wedding. Meetings are held at the convenience of the parties involved. Mentor couples must be married, practicing Catholics who treat all discussions as confidential.

**MUSICIANS-** Parishioners (Adult & Youth) are called upon to provide music for a liturgy.

**PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE-** Help with the planning and organization of Parish Activities: Parish Picnic, Euchre & Bingo Parties, Golf Outings, Soup Supper, etc.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Composed of parishioners who consult with the pastor in discerning through prayer and study how the parish can best carry out the mission of Christ in our world. Membership is open to parish members who participate in a series of formation sessions and are selected by the Pastor.

**PRAYER LINE:** Prayer line ministers agree to pray for any request made. Anyone can be a part of prayer line if they are willing to commit to a few minutes of prayer and to make a phone call or two to pass on the request. Confidentiality is required.

**RESPECT LIFE/40 DAYS FOR LIFE:** 40 Days for Life is a unique pro-life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil in front of a Grand Rapids abortion clinics. Volunteers sign up to pray for one hour at the clinic during the campaign. (twice a year)

**SACRISTAN:** Ministers help in preparing the Sanctuary and the Altar for the Liturgy, including the hosts, wine and vessels. Additional responsibilities include ensuring that “all is in order” for the Mass. Service in this capacity requires previous experience as Lector or Eucharistic Minister.

**SICK & HOMEBOUND VISITATION:** Volunteers visit fellow parishioners who are limited in their social outings, so as to help them not to feel forgotten by the parish family.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Many Volunteers Needed for 1 week of VBS in June.. Leaders, aides, cooks, day-care, etc.

**YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER:** Parents and young adults who would like to lend their talents to being a part of the Core teams for high school Lifeteen or middle school Edge, or to be on one of the planning committees for social, service, or faith growth.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE:** New parishioners are visited by members of this committee who present them with an information packet and introduce them to the parish.

**WORSHIP & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:** Parishioners who volunteer their time to adorn and prepare the sacred space of St Mary's for the changing of the church's calendar. Throughout the Liturgical year, they come together to enhance our surroundings for the seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, or any other special feast of the church. This does not require any special talents other than a willingness to serve.

## **You Can Make a Difference!**

### **Stewardship is...**

- The way we take care of things and people God has given to us.
- How we use the talents we were blessed with.
- The way we say "Thank You" to God.

***"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10***