



*Time & Talent  
Opportunities*

*Historic St. Mary's  
2015-2016*

## *Our Mission*

***We, the family of St. Mary's,  
are a community nourished and sustained  
by the Body and Blood of Christ  
and impelled by the Word of God  
to go forth and evangelize.***

*Be a partner in the mission by:*

Attending and participating weekly in the sharing of the Sunday Eucharist and the sacraments at St. Mary's.

Making a commitment to personal spiritual growth.

Living out the call to discipleship within the community by giving time and talent on a regular basis to carry out the Lord's work.

Financially supporting the mission and ministries of the entire parish through the Sunday and holy day offertory.

**Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life**



October, 2015

Dear parishioners,

All that we are and all that we have — our time, our talent, our money, our families and even the gift of life itself, are from God. *All is Gift!* We are grateful to God for generously giving us these precious and marvelous gifts to enjoy and share with others. It is with this spirit of gratitude and celebration that our parish has embraced stewardship.

***An invitation...***

Please take some time to read the *Time and Talent Opportunities* booklet that is now available on our website at, [www.stmaryslancaster.org/missions/stewardship](http://www.stmaryslancaster.org/missions/stewardship). We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the many ministries that will enable you to offer your time and talent back to God in and through our St. Mary's community.

At the end of the listing of ministries, there is a small guide to help you in your discernment of how God is calling you to share your time and talent. God has given each of us gifts for ourselves as well as for our use to bring His love to those in our lives. What talents and gifts has God given to you share His love with others? To be sure we will never know what God has in store for us if we don't try, so even if you are not sure where God is asking you to serve, pick something and keep trying until He lets you know. In Christ's Joy!

Fr. Leo

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## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

Contact: Matthew Weitzel  
[mweitzel@selhs.org](mailto:mweitzel@selhs.org)

*DESCRIPTION: The council is a consultative body that the pastor can prayerfully reflect with and ask for assistance to guide the overall care and ministry of the parish and the enhancement of its mission. With the pastor, the council sets the mission and direction of the parish. Participation in the council usually leads to a deeper understanding as to how our ministries function within our parish community.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Nominations are accepted once a year in the spring, and some members are appointed by the pastor. You must be a member in good standing in the parish. This is a 3-year commitment that involves attending a monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month as well as occasional work on projects in between meetings. Total time commitment average 2-4 hours/month.

## **EDUCATION:**

### ***Adult Catholic Faith Formation***

Contact: Andrew Odell, 717-303-6445  
[Andrew.odell@trane.com](mailto:Andrew.odell@trane.com)

*DESCRIPTION: Faith formation is about the conversion of the whole person to God, Jesus Christ and his Church. It is living and learning in the midst of a Christian community that shares, nurtures and strengthens the faith of the individuals who make up the Church.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** There are many opportunities for adult faith formation in the parish and the diocese. There are discussions on Apologetics topics, Bible Study, and special seasonal speakers that are offered throughout the year. Check the bulletin and the Witness for topics, dates, times and person to contact.

## ***Library***

Contact: Peggie McGinnis, 717-464-9188  
[pmcginnis@redrosecity.com](mailto:pmcginnis@redrosecity.com)

*DESCRIPTION: The library provides materials for the spiritual enrichment of all St. Mary's parishioners. Keeping the library operating in an orderly fashion helps to ensure that materials are readily available to help spread the Good News and to educate our parishioners.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Volunteers commit to give approximately 1 hour each week for a month, and may be called on to cover up to 2 or 3 months out of the year. Duties include attending to the detail of checking-in and shelving books and also keeping the library straightened and organized. Most often volunteers perform their duties by themselves, unless a parishioner needs help locating materials when they are there. Once or twice a year, additional volunteers are needed to do inventory in a group.

## ***Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)***

Contact: Anne Bleistine, 717-295-2320  
[rae14@comcast.net](mailto:rae14@comcast.net)

*DESCRIPTION: The Parish Religious Education program (PREP) , formerly referred to as CCD, provides religious education for students from preschool through eighth grade. It assists parents of our parish to fulfill their responsibility to pass on the Catholic faith to their children. Our catechists teach most religious education classes on Sunday mornings between the Masses.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Students may enroll in August for the school year. New families moving in to the parish can enroll at any time. Adult parishioners can participate as catechists. Adults and teens can participate as catechist aides, provide music in the classroom and at prayer services. They may also help in the office and at the various retreats. All parishioners are welcome to volunteer for this ministry, although for some positions, adults will need to meet all requirements for the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program. Classes are held from September through May.

## ***Resurrection Catholic School***

Contact: Miss Brenda Weaver, Principal, 717-392-3083  
[bweaver@resurrectioncatholicschool.net](mailto:bweaver@resurrectioncatholicschool.net)

DESCRIPTION: *Resurrection currently serves the parishes of St. Mary, St. Joseph, St. Anthon and San Juan Bautista. We support the parents, the children's primary teachers, by incorporating the Gospel values of Jesus in our daily teaching routine.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: We are seeking individuals who love working with children to share their special interests or talents. For example, are you a storyteller? A collector? A traveler who loves sharing adventures? A history buff? A writer? A witness to a historical event? Or someone who just gets excited working with children? We would love to have you visit and share your gifts with the children in the classroom or at an assembly. You determine the amount of time you wish to share with the students of Resurrection Catholic School.

## ***Vacation Bible School***

Contact: Laurie Weitzel, 717-669-8404  
[laurie.weitzel@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.weitzel@gmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Vacation Bible School gives us a glimpse of exactly what Christ meant when He used those words. For one week each summer, St. Mary's overflows with the enthusiasm and excitement of our young children as they come to worship Christ and deepen their relationship with Him. While the adults serve our children during Vacation Bible School, they are challenged to live their faith with the enthusiasm of the children.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: To make Vacation Bible school happen, we need a lot of help and talent of all kinds. In the months prior to Vacation Bible School, we need volunteers to brainstorm ideas for the week Also needed are coordinators of the music, decorations, registration and our teen helpers. We also need those with artistic talent or who enjoy crafting to help transform the school building into the theme for the week. In the past, the school has been transformed into a jungle habitat, a medieval kingdom, a western scene, a science laboratory, a bayou and a ship on the high seas. During the week of Vacation Bible School, we need teachers willing to help lead the children each morning while they complete crafts, learn Bible stories, learn about the saints, play games and praise the Lord in song. We also rely on many teens and adults to accompany the children to the various activities and help them with the crafts and games. No prior experience is needed, only an enthusiasm for sharing the love of God with the children of our parish. In addition to teaching the children about Christ, this ministry is very important in building our parish community, by forming relationships with other parishioners.

## **EVANGELIZATION:**

### ***Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)***

Contact: Brian Eltz, 717-394-5238  
[baeltz@comcast.net](mailto:baeltz@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *RCIA is the process by which the Church prepares and welcomes new members, initiating them into the fullness of the Mystical Body of Christ. Through study, prayer, and ritual participants prepare spiritually and practically to become active participants in the life of the Church. The process is for the non-baptized, those validly baptized in other Christian communities, and those baptized Catholic but who never received their other sacraments.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Active Catholics are encouraged to participate in the process. Formal RCIA classes run from September through the following Easter Season. RCIA meets in the Library on Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Those interested in being catechists should contact the pastor and/or RCIA coordinator.

### ***Mass Broadcast Committee***

Contact: Don Peris, 717-333-1947  
[dperis@verizon.net](mailto:dperis@verizon.net)

DESCRIPTION: *The 11:00 am Sunday Mass is recorded each week and delivered to Comcast for a 5:00 PM Sunday evening broadcast on LCTV Channel 66. This Mass is also streamed live via [Livestream.com](http://Livestream.com). Additionally, the sermon is uploaded to our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. DVD copies of each week's Mass are delivered to Willow Valley, Golden Living, and Conestoga View for scheduled viewing. This ministry brings St. Mary's to those who can no longer physically attend Mass, allowing them to feel a part of the community and to hear Christ's message proclaimed in the Gospel by their pastor. This ministry is made possible, in part, by the Knights of Columbus and Snyder's Funeral Home.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Volunteers attend the 11:00 AM Mass to record the liturgy by operating three cameras via remote control. Volunteers should be 16 years of age or older, have some technical ability and be willing to serve 1 weekend per month. Drivers are also needed to help deliver DVDs each week.

## ***Stewardship Council***

Contact: Ramon Estevez 717-823-0316  
[restevez@comcast.net](mailto:restevez@comcast.net)

*DESCRIPTION: The Stewardship Council, in cooperation with God's grace, is committed to learning about stewardship and bringing the message of grateful caretaking to the people of St. Mary's. The objectives of the stewardship council are to assist the Pastor and the Parish Pastoral Council in developing and implementing a pastoral plan in which members of St. Mary's are enriched in their relationship to Jesus and through this relationship, grow in their understanding of Stewardship as a way of life. This development of the relationship with Christ ultimately leads to discipleship and stewardship allowing each member to recognize that All is Gift and to fulfill the primary mission of the Church, to evangelize.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Members of the council are committed to growing in their stewardship journey and are enthusiastic about promoting stewardship as a way of life. The council works to provide parish-wide catechesis and encouragement to individuals who are looking for ways to grow in their trust in God and spread His Kingdom by purposely being active and engaged parishioners who are willing to serve the parish and community with their gifts of time, talent and treasure. The Stewardship Council works to educate people to discover their gifts and charisms, to connect people with ministries and other parish needs, to promote generosity of heart by giving to God our first "fruits", to foster stewardship message. This may be accomplished with seasonal campaigns, ministry fairs, retreats, maintenance of ministry booklets, interface with other ministries and praying for their mission.

## ***Tithe the Tithe***

Contact: Nina Eshleman, 717-393-0985  
[jaynina@comcast.net](mailto:jaynina@comcast.net)

*DESCRIPTION: The Tithe the Tithe (TTT) committee was formed in November 2007 to oversee the distribution of the 10%, or tithe, of the parish's weekly offertory. Our parish mission states for us individually, "We are a community nourished and sustained by the Body and Blood of Christ" and are told to "go forth and evangelize," so must also do collectively. It was decided by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Stewardship Committee that if we are asking the parishioners of St. Mary's individually to acknowledge that All is Gift and that He will provide when we tithe, then the parish as a whole needs to give with that same spirit.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The TTT meets for approximately two hours every other month and discussions are also carried on by email. We are always looking for new members interested in helping discern which organizations and individuals our parish might help. Our TTT members need your prayers, so that we might hear and respond to them in our world as Jesus did.

## ***EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network)***

Contact: Karen Morrisette, 717-581-8315  
[kcassidy1@comcast.net](mailto:kcassidy1@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *Since its founding by Mother Angelica in 1981, EWTN's mission has been to spread the Eternal Word, and to teach others that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life through quality Catholic programming. Media Missionary volunteers respond to our calling from Christ to "make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19) by use of television, radio, and print.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: As a Media Missionary your task is to raise awareness of EWTN in your parish and community. There are many ways that you can volunteer. Help is especially needed in maintaining the list of volunteers across the diocese and making sure that every parish has an EWTN Media Missionary. If you can write a letter, talk on the phone, or distribute brochures and programming guides, you can help EWTN!

## ***St. Paul Street Evangelization***

Contact: Father Leo, 717-392-2578  
[frleo@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:frleo@stmaryslancaster.org)

Our street team shares the Gospel in a non-confrontational way, offering a free rosary, a listening ear and a prayer. St. Paul Street Evangelization is not an apologetics ministry. Instead, we build bridges of trust with our community and help people encounter Jesus Christ and His church. People thank our evangelists for their presence every time they go out and share their faith in the public square.

## **FAMILY LIFE:**

### ***Families in Faith***

Contact: Joe Clupp, 717-464.5041  
[joe@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:joe@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *Parents and children need opportunities to grow spiritually, emotionally and socially and benefit from and meet with other families to build friendship and community while growing in faith.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Families in Faith provides various opportunities for families to grow together. Activities range from the yearly campfire Mass to family Stations of Cross and Christmas Caroling at St. Anne's Home. Families interested in participating or assisting in planning events are always welcome. Meetings are on an as-needed basis to coordinate activities. New ideas and families are always welcome.

### ***Marriage Preparation - Mentor Couples***

Contacts: Andrew and Marika Ellis, 717-397-8554  
[familyellis@comcast.net](mailto:familyellis@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *Engaged couples need to be prepared for the sacrament of marriage by the Church. St. Mary's parish sponsors a mentoring program for all engaged couples. This program matches each engaged couple with a mentor couple from St. Mary's who leads them through an educational program on the sacrament of marriage.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: We need married couples who will provide guidance, friendship and support to engaged couples in the months leading up to the wedding. The gifts needed include a strong married relationship, married 5 years or more, a willingness and openness to share about yourselves and your marriage, and a strong Catholic faith. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet new couples and create new friendships, support values, and build healthy marriages. Each meeting runs for an hour or two and you host the couple in your home 4-5 times. The typical number of matches per year is one to three. Training is provided.

## ***Marriage Enrichment***

Contacts: Joe Clupp and Amy Clupp, 717-464.5041  
[joe@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:joe@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *Married couples in our parish can benefit from spiritual and emotional support to help them maintain healthy relationships and fulfill their vocations to married life. Family Life Ministry plans and offers marriage retreats, an annual anniversary Mass, and other activities throughout the year to help strengthen marriages in a time when marriages are under attack.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Interested married couples are invited to attend the various activities as scheduled. There are no regular team meetings however periodic meetings are held to plan activities.

## ***Men's Group***

Contact: Rich Stratchko 717-284-4484

DESCRIPTION: *The purpose of the "Many Good Men" Men's Group is to provide a way for men of the parish to use some of their time and talent in making small repairs and upkeep of the parish complex. It is also a way for men to feel a part of our community with camaraderie and a sense of service.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The time commitment is usually 4-6 hours per project, 2-3 times per year. Men who are interested should contact the committee chair to be placed on the list of men called for projects or simply respond to an announcement in the bulletin whenever a project is planned.

## ***Men's Gospel Reflection Group***

Contact: Joe Clupp 717-464-5041  
[joe@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:joe@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *The purpose of the Men's Gospel Reflection Group is to provide an opportunity for men of the parish to spend time during the week to reflect on the Sunday Gospel and consider how to incorporate it into their lives at home and at work. This small group provides an opportunity for fellowship and deepening ones faith through conversation and prayer.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The Gospel reflection group meets every Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. in the Kolbe room for one hour of prayer and Gospel reflection. All men of the parish are invited to attend. Additionally if someone is interested in beginning additional Gospel Reflection groups, they can be easily spun off of this group to allow for flexibility of schedules.

## ***Mothers Group***

Contact: Nikki Hollister (717) 575-1008  
[moomoo12010@yahoo.com](mailto:moomoo12010@yahoo.com)

DESCRIPTION: *St. Mary's Mothers Group is a supportive community for mothers who share the common experience of raising young children. We strive to grow in faith, love and understanding of Jesus Christ, the holy Catholic Church and the vocation of motherhood to which we have all been called.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Mothers Group currently meets in the Kolbe room on the second Thursday of each month from September- May, from 9:30-11:00 am. Check the bulletin to confirm the date, however, in case of changes. Childcare is provided, however, infants and non-separating children are always welcome to remain with their mothers. The Mothers Group also meets for casual outings with our children, play dates at the park, as well as evenings out for mothers and an occasional book study. We stay connected to the group through a private email list that was created to share prayer requests, resources, recipes, and to encourage interaction between group members. Contact Nikki to be added to the list. New mothers are always welcome!

## ***Vocation Awareness***

Contact: Joe Clupp 717-464-5041  
[joe@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:joe@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *The vocations committee helps to inspire and assist the parish community of St. Mary's to foster vocations, especially to the ordained ministry and vowed consecrated life. Members increase parishioners' awareness through Vocation Awareness Week, prayer, and other activities. The committee also interfaces with youth and education ministries.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Meetings are held as needed to plan activities.

## ***Respect Life***

Contact: Anne Marie DiCarlo, 717-584-6590  
[missam65@yahoo.com](mailto:missam65@yahoo.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The purpose of this committee is to promote the protection of life from conception until natural death and evangelize the Catholic faith through legislative action, education, pastoral care, and prayer.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: We meet two times per year to plan around various events in the spring and the fall. Volunteers are needed in many ways for a total of six to eight hours per year.

## ***Welcoming Committee***

Contact: Joe Clupp 717-464-5041  
[joe@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:joe@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *The purpose of Welcoming Committee is to provide a warm welcome to new parishioners and to share what we love about our parish with those who are joining our family of faith.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Members are asked to visit new parishioners and welcome them with a new parishioner welcome packet and to establish relationships with the new parishioners to make them feel welcome and to invite them to become active members of the parish. Welcome packets are distributed on an as needed basis as new parishioners join and based upon the availability of welcoming committee schedules.

## ***Women's Bible Study***

Contact: Robyn Visniski, 717-464-6953  
[robynv@ravassociates.com](mailto:robynv@ravassociates.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The St. Mary's Women's Bible Study meets to study the word of God and enjoy good fellowship together. We inspire each other to live out God's commandments daily in our private lives, our families and the world.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The St. Mary's Women's Bible Study meets Thursday mornings from September through April (except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, when the Mother's Group meets). Coffee and childcare are provided. Infants and non-separating children are always welcome to stay with their mothers. Study topics vary according to the season and the interests of the group. If you have study ideas or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Robyn Visniski, [robynv@ravassociates.com](mailto:robynv@ravassociates.com).

## ***Souled Out Catholic Youth Ministry***

Contact: Cathy Eisenbeil, 717-392-2578, x153  
[cathy@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:cathy@stmaryslancaster.org)

(Like us on Facebook at Souled Out Catholic Youth Ministry at St. Mary's - Lancaster, PA. Follow us on Instagram: at souledout\_ym.)

**OUR MISSION:** SOULED OUT CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY primarily brings the teens of St. Mary's closer in relationship with Christ. While in exuberant community and fellowship with other Catholic Teens, with an authentic encounter of the Sacraments, receiving dynamic faithful Catechesis, and by attending prayer-filled Youth Nights and other events, the teens will learn to live as Disciples of Christ in a world that teaches the opposite. As a response of faith, we strive to serve the poor, homeless, sick, and elderly of St. Mary's, the community, and the world as Jesus has called us. All ministry of SOULED OUT is directed toward giving glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit while honoring Mary the Mother of God.

### **There are 3 parts to our youth ministry:**

Middle School (grades 7 & 8): Students gather together once or twice a month for service projects and social activities. Service projects emphasize and expand upon what is being studied in the religious education and Catholic School programs.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Email us or check out the bulletin for the upcoming schedule. Permission forms are required for all events away from St. Mary's and are available on the church website.

High School (grades 9-12): Meetings are generally on Sunday evenings, 6-8:30 pm, year round. However, some dates may vary depending on the type of meeting or event. The meetings take place in the St. Mary's old school building. Youth nights begin with catechetical teaching, small groups, followed by personal and/or community prayer, and most meetings end with (crazy and sometimes messy!) fun and fellowship. There are retreats, work camps, and opportunities to participate in activities with other youth groups.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** To become involved, just show up at a regular meeting, email [cathy@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:cathy@stmaryslancaster.org), or see the church bulletin for the upcoming schedule. All teens are welcome to bring a friend!

Youth Ministry Committee– This is open to adults with YPP Clearances through the Diocese of Harrisburg. This committee serves the middle school and high school portions of Youth Ministry. If you enjoy working with teens and sharing your faith with the youth, this is for you!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Youth Ministry Committee meets monthly as needed to discuss ways to improve our youth ministry, which is ever-changing, and implement a variety of programs and activities.

## **LITURGY:**

### ***Altar Servers***

Contact: Don Peris, 717-333-1947  
[dperis@verizon.net](mailto:dperis@verizon.net)

Scheduling: Karen Peris, 717-333-1947  
[kmperis@verizon.net](mailto:kmperis@verizon.net)

*“Therefore, in the liturgy, you are much more than simple helpers of the parish priest.’ Above all, you are servers of Jesus Christ, of the eternal High Priest. Thus, you, altar servers, are called in particular to be young friends of Jesus. Be determined to go deeper and to cultivate this friendship with Him. You will discover that in Jesus you have found a true friend for life”. Pope John Paul II*

DESCRIPTION: *These 50 plus boys and girls serve Jesus Christ at His holy altar as well as the community of St. Mary’s. They are a constant, visual reminder of our call to serve God and one another. This is a position of great responsibility that requires dedication to the Lord and dependability, but is also a source of joy and fulfillment.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Altar servers may start to serve when they reach the 4th grade. There are training sessions throughout the year for new recruits, as well as specially-planned social activities for all servers throughout the year.

## **Devotion**

Contact: Brian Eltz, 215-805-5335  
[baeltz@comcast.net](mailto:baeltz@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *The goal of the Devotions Committee is to help educate, encourage, and facilitate Catholic devotions in the parish. Devotions include novenas, special celebrations and prayer services for saints' feasts and other private and public devotional prayers (outside of Liturgy).*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Everyone is welcome to participate in Devotions Committee work by suggesting devotions, helping with announcements, leading public devotions, and especially praying for the spread of true devotion to Our Lord, through His saints.

## **Sacristans**

Contact: Don Peris, 717-393-4337  
[dperis@verizon.net](mailto:dperis@verizon.net)

DESCRIPTION: *Sacristans are responsible for insuring that everything is in readiness for the celebration of Mass. It requires a weekly commitment for all Masses as well as holy days and special parish Masses.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: This ministry involves quiet, behind-the-scenes work to enhance our liturgies. Training, reverence, and love for the Eucharist are required.

## **Choir**

Contact: Stephanie Sands, 717-392-3668  
[mzstepher@gmail.com](mailto:mzstepher@gmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *Choir members are men, women and teens who share a love of singing and a love of liturgy. Choir music reflects a wide range of styles from gospel to Gregorian chant.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The choir assists the assembly in singing their liturgy twice a month. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from September through May, with occasional rehearsals added or subtracted as needed. The choir is featured during Christmas, Holy Week and special liturgies throughout the year. Choir members must be dependable and responsible. The ability to read music is helpful but not necessary. Volunteers are welcome.

## **Cantors**

Contact Stephanie Sands, 717-392-3668  
[mzstepher@gmail.com](mailto:mzstepher@gmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The cantor assists in empowering and animating the assembly's sung worship. They should be people who can share their faithful soul and inspire the sung prayer of others.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Cantors are registered members of St. Mary's and fully initiated into the Church. They should be able to sing and read music well. The cantor is a leader, teacher of new music and an effective communicator. The cantor must be dependable and is responsible for learning and/or teaching all assigned music. Beginning cantors and those experienced but new to St. Mary's may undergo an orientation period. Cantors sing 2-3 times a month or more, depending on holy days, parish events and the liturgical season.

## **Instrumental Ensemble**

Contact: Don Peris, 717-393-4337  
[dperis@verizon.net](mailto:dperis@verizon.net)

DESCRIPTION: *This ministry is open to both teen and adult musicians and incorporates a prayerful attitude during rehearsals and Mass. Currently the ensemble is made up of a string quartet, piano, accordion, flute, trumpet and guitar.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The ensemble plays for the 1st 8:30 Mass of the month. Musicians must be able to read music, be responsible and dependable, and attend a monthly rehearsal held between the Masses in the music room on the last Sunday of the month.

## **Youth Choir**

Contact: Kristin Young, 717-391-0151  
[krunge@hotmail.com](mailto:krunge@hotmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The St. Mary's Youth Choir offers young children the opportunity to participate in Mass through the gift of music, in a fun and joyous manner. Children are exposed to the fundamentals of choral singing through a wide variety of age-appropriate repertoire. This is a wonderful way for the musically inclined to minister to the community.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: One 8:30 am Sunday Mass per month from October through May with a one-hour mandatory rehearsal the Saturday morning before the Mass. No auditions are required. Open to ages 6-15 years. We are always looking for new choir members.

### ***Funeral Choir***

Contact: Mike Bitts, 717-333-3173  
[mike@mikebitts.com](mailto:mike@mikebitts.com)

DESCRIPTION: *St. Mary's Assumption Choir provides music and song during the funeral liturgy to comfort those who are suffering the loss of a loved one. Music truly touches the hearts of those who suffer loss.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: If you are interested in becoming a member, you must be free to sing at funerals on weekday mornings. We welcome all who wish to add their voices to this important part of the Bereavement Ministry.

### ***Funeral Luncheon Committee***

Contact: Georgette Young, 717-299-3946  
[geoyoung01@comcast.net](mailto:geoyoung01@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *This ministry helps to remove some responsibility from a family suffering the loss of a loved one. If requested, a luncheon is served to the family and guests following a funeral. The kitchen cafeteria is used when available; however, the committee has ventured to other.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Six to eight warm and friendly volunteers are needed to set up, prepare, serve and clean up at each luncheon. Food handling is the predominant activity; set-up of tables and chairs requires a few able bodies. The time commitment is usually two to five hours, but this varies according to each volunteer's availability. Partial commitment is also welcome.

### ***Master of Ceremonies***

Contact: Clair McCormick, 717-293-9547  
[macbeth717@aol.com](mailto:macbeth717@aol.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The Master of Ceremonies works closely with the Celebrant of special liturgies during the year; such as: Holy Week and Christmas, to assist in overseeing with rituals, rites and customs are liturgically observed and to maintain the rhythm and flow of the liturgy. The Master of Ceremonies takes an active part in training sacristans.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: A Master of Ceremonies is appointed by the pastor.

## ***Decorating Group***

Contact: Mary Walters, 717-293-0203  
[marybetty1057walters@verizon.net](mailto:marybetty1057walters@verizon.net)

DESCRIPTION: *The decorating group gathers to adorn our church and enhance our liturgies throughout the year, using appropriate visual imagery and symbolism. Being part of this group is a wonderful opportunity to work “behind the scenes,” make new friends and bless all who worship at St. Mary’s by enhancing its beauty.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Although a good eye is helpful, a willingness to work as a team with fellow parishioners is more important than decorating experience. Group members may be active decorating throughout the entire year, or simply offer their time at Christmas or Easter, when the need is greatest. Most of the decorating is scheduled in the evenings after 7:00 pm or on Saturday mornings.

## ***Praise & Worship***

Contact: Stephanie Zimmerman, 717-291-6810  
[slzimm1@gmail.com](mailto:slzimm1@gmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *An intimate time to spend with Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. Music is provided to help create a mood for prayerful praise and worship. Parishioners also have the opportunity to attend reconciliation.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Parishioners are invited to attend these evenings held once a month. Help with set up is also needed.

## ***Church Linens***

Contact: Theresa Caulwell, 717-672-0895

DESCRIPTION: *The linens need special care and treatment when being laundered. You will be given instructions if you decide to work in this ministry.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Parishioners take turns in collecting the laundry weekly. After washing, ironing and folding the linens, they are returned to the sacristy.

## ***Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion***

Contact: Deacon Manny Velazquez, 717-392-2578  
[dmannypr@verizon.net](mailto:dmannypr@verizon.net)

Scheduling: Millie Rodriguez, 717-560-0551  
[milrodz@yahoo.com](mailto:milrodz@yahoo.com)

Homebound: Mary McCafferty, 717-392-2578 Email:  
[mary@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:mary@stmaryslancaster.org)

*DESCRIPTION: Extraordinary ministers of communion assist the priest and deacon of the Church in distributing Holy Communion during Mass. Ministers also bring Holy Communion to parishioners in the hospital, nursing homes, or those homebound, and conduct communion services at several facilities.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Extraordinary ministers are chosen by the pastor. He or she must attend a training session St. Mary's and obtain the proper clearances from the Diocese. In addition to serving about every third weekend, ministers are asked to serve on holy days including Christmas and Easter. Extraordinary ministers are expected to attend Forty Hours and parish retreats and missions. Part of the EM's role is distributing Holy Communion to the sick. An EM must be available for this aspect of the ministry when called upon. A format is available to follow, and Mary McCafferty will review the format before assigning anyone.

## ***Lectors***

Contact: Ann DeLaurentis, 717-392-0606  
[anndelaurentis@verizon.net](mailto:anndelaurentis@verizon.net)

*DESCRIPTION: The lector proclaims the readings during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and is also responsible for the opening and closing announcements. The lector loves Sacred Scripture and prays and prepares conscientiously. Rather than merely reading out loud, the lector proclaims the heartfelt truth of God's Word. The lector is a person with effective public speaking skills and is responsible and dependable and fully initiated in the Church.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Lectors must apply and can be invited to this ministry by the Fr. Leo or the Director of Liturgy. Lectors attend development workshops offered at the parish or diocese. New lectors to the parish receive orientation and training before being scheduled. Lectors are scheduled approximately once every other month and must arrive in the sacristy one-half hour before Mass begins. New lectors will be asked to be available for any Mass on the weekend and an occasional holy day evening Mass.

## ***Ushers and Greeters***

Contact: Don Spica, 717-575-4603  
[djspica@yahoo.com](mailto:djspica@yahoo.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The purpose of the ministry of hospitality is to welcome everyone as another Christ. The ushers greet people as they arrive and try to make them feel at home, especially visitors and those unfamiliar with the church. The ushers are responsible for assisting with seating, taking up the offertory, assigning the gift bearers, facilitating the communion procession, distributing the bulletins and performing any miscellaneous task that may be required during Mass or any service. They also need to be able to handle emergencies.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Approximately six ushers are needed at each Mass. Ushers are scheduled on a weekly basis. The number of ushers in the pool determines the number of Masses an usher serves in a month's time. Meetings are usually conducted about four times a year between the Sunday morning Masses. Ushers receive training; they are asked to wear a uniform blue jacket or blazer, which can be provided if needed, and a name badge. We welcome and need volunteers.

## **PASTORAL:**

### ***Church Cleaning***

Contact: Nina Eshleman, 717-393-0985  
[jaynina@comcast.net](mailto:jaynina@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *Historic St. Mary's is renowned for the classic beauty of the church proper, along with the spirit of volunteerism of her parishioners. Keeping the physical structure of St. Mary's clean and bright for all the parishioners and visitors who come to worship daily and weekly is a never-ending job, with the spirit and physical labors of our volunteers assisting in the task.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: We ask each volunteer to give approximately 1/2 hour per month, working with a team on a given week of the month. Duties include light dusting of the church proper or vestibule or choir loft. Also vacuuming of floor runners if volunteer is able. We will suit the job to each person's physical abilities and their time/day limits. Individuals, couples and families are welcome!

## **Gardening**

Contact: Betty Anne O'Brien, 717-392-2578  
[bettyanne@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:bettyanne@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *The beauty of our grounds contributes to making St. Mary's a warm, welcoming haven for our community and the many visitors we receive. Upkeep of the landscaping around the church during the spring, summer and fall takes a lot of hands.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Volunteers are usually assigned a specific area on the grounds to plant and upkeep over the growing season. Help is also needed in the spring and fall for special cleanup days or projects.

## **Bereavement Ministry**

Contact: Darlene Labezius-Driscoll, 717-393-8846  
[darlenedriscoll@gmail.com](mailto:darlenedriscoll@gmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *St. Mary's Bereavement Ministry serves those in need after the death of a loved one. As a loving, caring, and compassionate ministry, we offer support in many ways for at least a year after a loss.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Help is needed to send cards, assist with planning and be present at special Masses and support groups. Members in this ministry also attend the viewing or funeral to bring the love and comfort of God and of our parish community to families at the time of loss. Time commitment varies with each member's availability. New members are welcome.

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Contact: Ronnie Medlock, 717-725-8667 (or contact Tina Skubon at the Parish Office)  
[imedlock@comcast.net](mailto:imedlock@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *Our beautiful St. Mary's Church and peripheral buildings must be well maintained for future generations. This group works with others to develop and execute a plan for ongoing maintenance. Persons with experience in any aspect of building maintenance or project management are encouraged to become members.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: This committee is formed for planning purposes only. The work to be done will be accomplished by professional contractors or in-house skilled tradesmen. Time commitment includes the monthly meetings and any assignments that may be necessary.

## ***Development and Preservation***

Contact: Terry Warco, 717-209-4077  
[twarco@yahoo.com](mailto:twarco@yahoo.com)

*DESCRIPTION: The Development and Preservation Committee was formed in 2009 and given the goal of building on work already completed by the Accessibility Committee and responding to needs expressed by parishioners. The committee is working to develop plans that will make the church building accessible to all, install modern, sufficient rest rooms and create gathering and meeting space. The requirement to protect and enhance the legacy that our predecessors bequeathed to us underlies all of the committee's actions.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** The committee meets monthly at 7:00am for 60 to 90 minutes. Those interested in participating in the Development and Preservation Committee should contact either Fr. Leo or Terry Warco.

## ***Mailing Group***

Contact: Tina Skubon, 717-392-2578  
[tina@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:tina@stmaryslancaster.org)

*DESCRIPTION: When we communicate with the whole parish through newsletters, letters from the pastor, etc., we need a lot of helping hands to assemble the mailings. If you want to meet new parishioners or catch up with those you already know, this is the group for you.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** The work involves folding, stuffing, and addressing envelopes. Once we place your name on our list of mailing volunteers, you will be called for each mailing. There are approximately 4-5 mailings per year; each takes about 2 hours. It is not necessary to be able to work at all of the mailings to be part of the group.

## ***Office Support***

Contact: Tina Skubon, 717-392-2578  
[tina@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:tina@stmaryslancaster.org)

*DESCRIPTION: The busy parish office has a few periods during the day and evening when volunteers are needed to answer the phone and greet visitors.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Some two-hour time slots on a weekday or four-hour time slots on Saturdays are available. General office experience is helpful but not necessary. It is difficult to anticipate how busy the time will be. Bring a book for quiet reading during a slow shift.

### ***Homebound Ministry***

Contact: Mary McCafferty, 717-471-4928 (Visitation)  
[mary@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:mary@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *We have parishioners who are homebound either in nursing homes, hospitals or rehabilitation centers or in their own home. One of the ways we strive to keep them connected to their parish family is by visits from members of the congregation. We sometimes have a need for our homebound parishioners to be transported to church or to doctor appointments.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Friendly Visitors are trained in a workshop and are asked to visit twice a month. Love of people and the ability to be a good listener are two gifts needed for this ministry. We keep a list of volunteers who are available during the day to provide transportation on an on-call basis. We also need volunteers to help with delivering flowers at Christmas and to help with transportation, greeting, assisting guests, and serving the luncheon for our annual Mass of Anointing.

### ***Manna Ministry***

Contact: Mary Lawhead, 717-299-3424  
[lawhead5@comcast.net](mailto:lawhead5@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *We celebrate the joy of a new child in our parish by providing a meal for the entire family who has received this new gift from God. We hope this small gesture allows the parents more time with their new bundle of joy. We would like to see this ministry expanded to sick parishioners and those who have suffered a loss. Parishioners are needed to join the pool of those willing to offer a meal.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Sign up to join the pool of those willing to provide a meal. The coordinator calls the volunteers to make and deliver a meal when needed. Time involved is 1-3 hours each meal. Level of participation is up to the volunteer.

### ***Special Event Setup and Serving***

Contact: Fran Sescilla, 717-464-4196  
[twoatmallard@aol.com](mailto:twoatmallard@aol.com)

DESCRIPTION: *When the parish has events, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work. A ministry group chairing an event often needs help setting up tables and chairs and setting out or serving the food. This group's contribution is essential to the success of the event and is lots of fun.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The time involved is on an as-needed basis, depending on the event. Interested parishioners are always welcome to help as little or as much as they can.

## **Newsletter**

Contacts: Betty Anne O'Brien, 717-392-2578  
[bettyanne@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:bettyanne@stmaryslancaster.org)

Fran Sescilla, 717-464-4196  
[tboatmallard@aol.com](mailto:tboatmallard@aol.com)

DESCRIPTION: *Communicating all that is happening at St. Mary's is an important part of keeping our faith community connected. Four times a year a parish newsletter is published highlighting the happenings in the parish and detailing upcoming events.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Contributions are always welcome, and help is needed to put the newsletter together each quarter.

## **Prayer Line**

Contacts: Julia Gottschall, 717-872-8726  
[juliamg1615@comcast.net](mailto:juliamg1615@comcast.net)

Paul and Marie Sauer, 717-459-3360  
[tenfortyez@comcast.net](mailto:tenfortyez@comcast.net)

DESCRIPTION: *People, whatever their religion, need to know they can have prayers said for a loved one, friend, relative, someone they've heard about, even themselves. It is because of their faith in God that they request prayers. It is our faith in God that the prayers will be heard and answered as God wills.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Praying for others is the commitment, and prayer requests are kept confidential. To help in this ministry of prayer, you need to be willing to pray for others and to make a phone call during the day between 8:00 am and 9:00 pm to pass on the prayer request when one comes in. Very rarely, there may be an emergency situation where a call might need to be made beyond those hours. Other than the phone call to pass the request along, you need to be willing to pray every day for these special intentions. The spiritual rewards in this ministry are abundant, and this ministry requires only 10-20 minutes a day!

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Contact: Nikki Hollister, 717-575-1008  
[MooMoo12010@yahoo.com](mailto:MooMoo12010@yahoo.com)

DESCRIPTION: *Love and compassion as well as a love of knitting or crocheting have been combined into this prayerful ministry which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. The prayer shawls are also used in times of celebration and joy. Each shawl is "prayed into" as it is being made with the hope that the recipient feels God's arms around them.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: This group of women meets once a month at 7:00 pm in the dining room in the rectory from September to May. They knit or crochet at home, following a pattern from the prayer shawl ministry web site, and bring the finished product to each meeting to be later blessed and distributed to those in need.

Volunteers with an ability to knit or crochet and a desire to pray for the intended recipient of the prayer shawl are welcome.

## ***Hospitality***

Contacts: Jet Visneski, 717-206-5669  
[pevilv@comcast.net](mailto:pevilv@comcast.net)

Bernadette Weaver, 717-826-7967  
[bweaver@wisesnacks.com](mailto:bweaver@wisesnacks.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The Hospitality Ministry provides parishioners with a warm and friendly place to fellowship following both Sunday Masses. Coffee, donuts and bagels are served each week, in our cafeteria.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Volunteers / families are needed weekly from September - May to help set up the tables and chairs, brew coffee and set up the beverage and food table. You will be asked to volunteer approximately once a month. There is an early shift 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.(includes attending Mass at 8:30) and a later shift from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE AND JUSTICE:**

### ***The Catholic Worker House of Lancaster***

Contact: Joe Dougherty, 717-560-6366  
[itdsfo@gmail.com](mailto:itdsfo@gmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *A faith community of lay persons dedicated to serve Christ in the poor, the homeless and unemployed through the availability of hospitality, which bears witness to the works of mercy and justice in an atmosphere of prayer simplicity and peace.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Attend meetings for planning and fundraising and work at the house. Announcements for meetings are in the church bulletin, and notice will be sent to those who sign up for this ministry.

### ***Food Bank***

Contact: Rick Poillon, 717-951-2823  
[rickp@willowval.com](mailto:rickp@willowval.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The role of the St. Mary's Food Bank Ministry is to keep the food bank at San Juan Bautista stocked with food items for distribution to people in need. This is accomplished with quarterly food collections and a Thanksgiving canned food collection at St. Mary's, plus a monthly food order sourced by Darrenkamp's Market at Willow Valley. Volunteers collect the food and take it to San Juan Bautista. They also handle the monthly food orders.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: The quarterly volunteers spend approximately an hour on their collection Sunday. Monthly volunteers for the food order from Darrenkamp's need about an hour to pick up the grocery order and make delivery to San Juan Bautista.

The coordinator prepares and sends out the volunteer list yearly, calls the volunteers to remind them of the Sunday collection, secures the monthly food lists, places the orders with Darrenkamp's, and sends announcements to Betty Anne, in the Parish office, for bulletin notices and announcements.

## ***Community Meals Program***

Contact: Father Leo, 717-392-2578  
[frleo@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:frleo@stmaryslancaster.org)

*DESCRIPTION: The Lancaster churches endeavor to provide decent, substantial dinners to the homeless and others in need of a meal, every night of the week in downtown Lancaster. Currently, about 150 people are served each night. The Friday night meal is served weekly in St. Mary's cafeteria. St. Mary's parish shares this responsibility six times a year. Nine other local Catholic parishes assume the responsibility on the other Fridays of the month. On the other nights of the week, this need is met at four downtown churches of different denominations.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** On the third Friday of the scheduled month, St. Mary's provides all of the food, as well as the volunteers needed to setup tables, prepare the meal, serve dinner and clean up. This ministry provides an opportunity for all age groups and talents to serve the less fortunate of our community. Currently, St. Mary's has three core teams that plan and help prepare meals twice a year. Other volunteers are then contacted to fill out the needs of each team. A Friday night commitment is for 3 hours, from around 3:30 to 6:30 pm.

## ***Panera Dough-Nation Project***

Contact: Joanne Lovell, 717-293-0299  
[rijolovell@comcast.net](mailto:rijolovell@comcast.net)

*DESCRIPTION: This ministry redistributes leftover bread and pastries from Panera Bread, located at 2092 Fruitville Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601, in Hawthorne Centre, and gives it to those in need in our local community. Our responsibility in this endeavor is to get the food to people in need, be timely in it's distribution, regularly evaluate whether others need our help, and discern whether those we presently serve are still in need of our help. The Panera Dough-Nation program is a nationwide effort with headquarters in St. Louis, MO.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** We currently have five teams helping on this project. Each team picks-up and delivers once every six weeks, plus fills in when one team has a substitution need. The team picks the food up on Thursday after Panera closes. They deliver the food to a variety of locations in town, as soon as possible, on Friday morning. New members are always welcome in this ministry.

### ***Prison Ministry Team***

Contact: Jean M. Bickmire, 717-808-9519  
[ridarainbow@hotmail.com](mailto:ridarainbow@hotmail.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The team consists of Christians who coordinate with community services and employers to facilitate successful transitional plans of individuals released from incarceration and their families to meaningful and enriching places in society. Members will provide a mentoring system that will effectively support each other on the Prison Ministry team as well as those who have been incarcerated.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Volunteers will receive training to become authorized to serve in this ministry. Authorized team members will visit both male and female prisoners at the Lancaster County Prison. The team will determine and maintain a database of Catholic prisoners and connect with them before release. The team, who will be trained in mentoring, will also develop a support system to provide the transitioning people with the proper tools for becoming caring, competent and responsible citizens of society.

### ***People with Disabilities Advocacy***

Contact: Yvonne Devosa, 717-560-0674  
[ymrd@yahoo.com](mailto:ymrd@yahoo.com)

DESCRIPTION: *The parish advocate is appointed by the pastor in order to work with, and for, parishioners with disabilities, and their families. The advocate strives to assist persons with disabilities become full participants in the life of the parish spiritually, physically and socially. The advocate does this by promoting a spirit of invitation, welcome and inclusion in the parish.*

### ***St. Vincent De Paul Ministry***

Contact: Tina Skubon, 392-2578  
[tina@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:tina@stmaryslancaster.org)

DESCRIPTION: *The primary mission is to help the poor and less fortunate of our parish and the local community with their basic living needs. It is a wonderful opportunity for outreach, both financially and spiritually. This ministry is funded primarily by our parish's tithing on the weekly offertory.*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Volunteers respond to requests for help with rent, utilities, etc. This usually involves several phone calls to follow up on requests. Some requests are simple; others are more complex. This work can usually be done from home; volunteers are usually assigned one day per week. Training is provided.

## **FINANCE:**

### ***Finance Council***

Contacts: Ben DiCarlo, [Bgdicarlo@gmail.com](mailto:Bgdicarlo@gmail.com),

Father Leo Goodman, 717-392-2578  
[frleo@stmaryslancaster.org](mailto:frleo@stmaryslancaster.org)

*DESCRIPTION: The council's objective is to assist the pastor in making financial decisions in order to keep our parish financially viable and in conformance with the financial directives and policies of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Code of Canon Law.*

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** We operate with a council consisting of eight to ten members of the parish appointed by the pastor and several committees to oversee the many specific financial needs. We are constantly in need of parishioners who would like to help out by:

- Devoting a few hours a month to counting our weekly offerings,
- Interviewing families who are in need of financial assistance to attend our Catholic schools,
- Helping to prepare, present and monitor the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal,
- Developing the budget and monitoring it, and
- Providing computer expertise in developing spreadsheets and financial reports.

Financial background and experience is helpful but not entirely necessary in many of our need areas. Time commitment varies with each committee but can be tailored to individual council members.

## Sacraments at St. Mary's

### ***Baptism***

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made partners in her mission. Parents who seek Baptism for their child must:

- be registered members of St. Mary's Church
- be attending Mass regularly and participating in the sacramental life of the Church
- attend a Baptismal class

Older children and adults seeking Baptism and other sacraments enter the RCIA process, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIC, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. Refer to the entry for RCIC in this book for information on that process.

### ***Reconciliation***

The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us back to union with Christ and His Church. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. You may also see the priest after the noon Mass or call the rectory for a time that may be convenient for you. Children begin preparation for their First Reconciliation in the First Grade. It is a two-year preparation, and children receive the sacrament for the first time during their second grade year.

### ***Eucharist***

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. Sunday Masses are celebrated at 5:30 pm Saturday evening and at 8:30 am and 11:00 am on Sunday morning. Monday through Friday Mass is held at 12:05. Children begin preparation for their First Eucharist in the First Grade. It is a two-year preparation period, and children receive their First Holy Communion in May of the second year. In addition, Eucharistic Adoration is held on the first Sunday of each month between the Masses and during Praise and Worship at 6:30pm each second Sunday.

### ***Confirmation***

The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Like Baptism, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark of being a Christian. Students in the parish prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation through a two year program that begins in seventh grade. During this two year period of preparation, they study, do service projects and make two retreats. The Bishop usually confirms the students in the late spring of their eighth-grade year.

### ***Holy Orders***

The essential rite of the sacrament of Holy Orders consists of the Bishop's imposition of hands on the head of the ordained and in the bishop's specific consecratory prayer asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His gifts proper to the ministry to which the candidate is being ordained. While this sacrament is not administered in the parish, preparation begins through the love and care of our community to all those called to this vocation.

### ***Matrimony***

Through the matrimonial covenant, a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership for the whole of their lives. This covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament. The spouses are strengthened and consecrated for the duties and the dignity of their state by this sacrament. Spiritual guidance, liturgical planning and couple mentoring are all a part of the preparation process. Arrangements should be made at the rectory at least nine months prior to the wedding date.

### ***Anointing of the Sick***

The Anointing of the Sick is not only a sacrament for those who are at the point of death, but may be requested through a call to the rectory for a person who is seriously ill or preparing for surgery. A Mass of Anointing is held yearly in the spring.

**PARISH-WIDE COUNCILS  
MINISTRIES**

Parish Office:

119 S. Prince St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
Phone: (717) 392-2578  
Email: P049assumptionlanc@hbgdiocese.org.

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Leo M. Goodman III, Pastor  
Rev. Mr. Manuel Velazquez, Deacon  
Tina Skubon, Parish Manager  
Betty Anne O'Brien, Administrative Assistant  
Trish Frintzilas-Frey, Receptionist  
Clem Filippelli, Maintenance  
Julie Rasp, Housekeeper  
Cathy Eisenbiel, Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
Stephanie Sands, Director of Music  
Anne Barnes, Director of Religious Education  
Joseph Clupp, Director of Family Life Ministry  
Donald Peris, Jr., Liturgy Director  
Matthew Weitzel, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Diocese of Harrisburg:

Phone: (717) 657-4804  
[www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org)

## ***So, what are MY gifts? What is God calling ME to do?***

Discovering our gifts and calling requires prayer, reflection and experimentation. Participating in our parish community not only contributes to the community but also helps us to discern the gifts God has given us.

It helps if someone asks us to participate in a ministry. Keeping that in mind, we all need to look for gifts in others and invite them to use them. However, don't wait for someone to ask.

If you're having trouble deciding how to participate, you could take the following steps:

### **Identify your gifts:**

- List 10 skills you have developed or would like to develop such as communications, hospitality, computers, financial, artistry
- List 5 adjectives that others would use to describe you, for example, compassionate, efficient, inquisitive, resourceful, reliable)
- Ask others what gifts they see in you

### **Identify your passions:**

- List areas both within and outside of the parish you feel passionate about, such as aging, evangelization, homelessness, worship/liturgy, disabilities)
- List the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy (feeding the hungry, instruction, prayer, concern for the poor (see CCC 2447 for reference)
- List some contexts where you would prefer to work. Do you like to work alone or in a group, with teens or children, the ill or dying?)
- 10 skills you have developed or would like to develop such as communications, hospitality, computers, financial, artistry
- List 5 adjectives that others would use to describe you, for example, compassionate, efficient, inquisitive, resourceful, reliable)
- Ask others what gifts they see in you

### **Identify your time commitment:**

- Describe the best type of time commitment for you to make at this point in time. Can you make a one-time commitment, a short term commitment or a long term commitment? How many hours of the week could you devote to a mission?
- List areas both within and outside of the parish you feel passionate about, such as aging, evangelization, homelessness, worship/liturgy, disabilities)

**Then:**

- Look through the ministries for a ministry that matches your skills, interests, personality, passions and available time
- Talk to someone in a ministry you are considering
- Contact the ministry head and discuss your personal interest and voice any concerns you might have
- Consider participating in a ministry on a trial basis

**Examples of how to participate:**

- To know more about your faith or Scripture, consider participating in one of the many adult education opportunities offered, teaching a religious education class or being a sponsor for someone in RCIA
- To find companions for your faith journey, consider joining the Women's Group or Men's Group
- If you have a gift for relating to teens or children or simply miss having them in your daily life, consider helping with the Youth Ministry, Religious Education or Vacation Bible School
- If your heart is troubled by the suffering of others, you might want to volunteer for the Food Bank, Homebound Ministry, Community Meals, Bereavement Ministry, Manna Ministry, Prison Ministry or The Catholic Worker House of Lancaster
- If you have a special love for the beauty of the Liturgy, the Word or music, join the Decorating Committee, Altar Servers or a Choir
- If you have financial or other business skills to share, consider being a part of the Finance Council or other applicable ministries
- Deepen your prayer life by joining the Prayer Line
- As a member of St. Mary's, borrow relevant books, tapes or videos from the library to help you strengthen and learn about your faith
- If you are not sure, try something that a friend is involved in and see if it is a fit for you.

**Perhaps you see a need and do not see an existing ministry here at St. Mary's, then let us know and you can, potentially, start a new ministry!**

## Relevant Readings to Aid You in Your Ministry Discovery

You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of my followers, will certainly receive a reward. (Matt 10:42)

Your heavenly Father knows all you need. Seek first His kingship over you, His way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides (Matt 6:32-33)

Love one another as I love you. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain (John 15:12, 16)

Who welcomes you, welcomes Me (Matt 10:40)

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus who inspires and perfects our faith (Hebrews 12:2)

Do not neglect to do good to share what you have. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind (Hebrews 13:16)

There are different kinds of gifts but the same spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord (1 Cor 12:4, 5)

I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven (Matt 18:3)