



**TIME AND TALENT
COMMITMENT TO CHRIST
AND OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**

The Cathedral of St. Mary of the
Immaculate Conception, Lafayette, Indiana

Dear St. Mary Cathedral Parish Family,

Welcome to a wonderful opportunity to embrace a deepening in our awareness of good Christian Stewardship. Our Faith teaches us that our time, talent, and treasure are all gifts given from God. Good stewardship requires good use of these gifts on loan to us from God. One day we will be asked to give an account of how we managed these gifts. The needs of others, the needs of the Church and society, speak to an invitation from God to share our gifts and to live with a spirit of generosity.

We have many needs in our own parish and community. Part of our long-standing parish mission is to use our gifts to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ and to take personal responsibility for our parish's resources by contributing time, talent, and treasure. We need your help to meet these needs. I am asking for your commitment toward this endeavor now and going forward.

At Mass this coming Pentecost weekend, we will all have a concrete way to express our commitment to serve our parish and community. The Stewardship Committee has produced this helpful booklet and tri-fold pamphlet. These have been mailed to you ahead of time in order for you to read about and study the service opportunities currently available at St. Mary Cathedral. With the tri-fold pamphlet, you are asked to choose what you have an *Interest* in helping with, *Continuing* with, or being *Remove* from. I would ask that you pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to guide you in this endeavor, and then make your marks accordingly. Finally, remember to bring this pamphlet with you to Mass at the Cathedral at Pentecost, when we will have a special moment to collect them and ask the Lord's blessing on our desire to serve. Once collected, the Stewardship Committee will tally the results and put you into contact with the appropriate leaders at our parish in order to enable your engagement and service.

I am in tremendous awe at all the wonderful work that goes on at our parish. I am so grateful for the gifts St. Mary Cathedral has received. Thank you for all you that you have already shared in helping to build up our parish community. Please know of my pledge of prayer and service for you and our parish family. May God bless you and may God bless our parish!

Sincerely In Christ,

Fr. Jeff Martin
Pastor

Welcome to St. Mary Cathedral Parish



Parish Office

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Our Parish's Mission

**The mission of the people of St. Mary Cathedral parish
is to worship God in word and sacrament and to use
our gifts to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ**

Our Mission is based on the following values:

Loving God and Neighbor

through support of parish activities and community groups;

Developing Personal and Community Conversion

throughout our lifetime.

Teaching Parishioners of all Ages

the Gospel message handed down to us from the apostles,

Reaching Out

to invite others to share the Gospel of Jesus; and

Taking Personal Responsibility for Stewardship

of our Parish's resources by contributing time, talent and treasure
and communicating openly and honestly about our parish's needs
and assets.

A St. Mary Cathedral Parishioner

A St. Mary Cathedral parishioner is a registered, practicing member of the St. Mary Cathedral faith community who celebrates regularly in the Roman Catholic tradition, is committed to consistently sharing their time, talent, and treasure, according to their means, and who prayerfully seeks to serve others, both within and beyond the parish community.

Prayer for Generosity

Dear Lord,

Thank you for teaching me to be generous as you have been generous to me.
Thank you for showing me that all I am, and have, are gifts from you.
And that these gifts from you, Lord, are meant to be shared.
Show me the joys of generosity.
Help me to understand that others, perhaps unknown to me,
depend on me for help.
Remind me that my world, my parish, needs “Good Samaritans”
heal the wounds of our times.
Make me a gift to others in your name Jesus Christ. Amen

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Stewardship Prayer

Our parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy, if I am
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will be prayerful, if I pray.
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.
It will bring others into its worship, if I invite and bring them.
It will be a parish of loyalty and Love, of fearlessness and faith,
Of compassion, charity, and mercy, if I, who make it what it is,
Am filled with these same things!
Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task
Of being all the things that I want our parish to be. Amen.

The parish invites member participation in current projects as one feels called, as well as the creation of new endeavors inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Four Pillars

The four pillars of Stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) at St. Mary Cathedral are **Prayer, Hospitality, Service, and Formation**. Within each pillar are to be found the current opportunities to give of time, talent, and treasure at St. Mary Cathedral

PILLAR of PRAYER

Liturgy: There are many liturgical ministries that greatly affect the quality of worship in our parish. Special training is offered once a year for Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers and altar servers.

- **Altar servers:** Assist the priest in service of the liturgy at Mass.
 - **Knights of the Holy Temple:** A special group of Jr./Sr. High School male altar servers.
- **Ushers:** Assist the congregation in the service of the liturgy at Mass with seating, tithing collection, Mass setup, etc.
- **Lectors:** Read the Word of God during Mass and at other liturgies.
- **Extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion:** Assist the priest in service of the liturgy with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass.
- **Sacristans:** Assist the priest in the service of the liturgy with Mass setup and cleanup.
- **Art & environment:** Assist the parish with décor in the church and other spaces.
- **Liturgy planning team:** Assist the priest and Liturgical Coordinator with various liturgies.

Music: The music ministry is an integral part of the liturgical life of our parish. It is a growing ministry that reaches out to parishioner's school age through adults. We currently have four music groups.

- **Traditional Choir:** Typically sings at the 11:00 AM Mass on Sundays and other special liturgies.

PILLAR of PRAYER

- **Contemporary Ensemble:** Provides music at the 9:00 AM Mass on Sundays and other special liturgies.
- **Children's Choir:** Sings once a month during the school year.
- **Teen Ensemble:** Open to Jr./Sr. High School students.
- **Instrumentalists:** Organists, pianists, violinists and guitar players are used to enhance special liturgies.
- **Cantors:** Our cantor program is open to all parishioners by audition.

Eucharistic Adoration: This ministry provides at least four adorers for the hour between 9:00 and 10:00 AM on the first Friday of each month for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as at other times, for the spiritual welfare of the parish, community, Church, and World.

Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary is a worldwide association of Catholic men and women who offer their service to their pastor to support him in performing spiritual works in the parish. The Legion's aims are to: increase the personal holiness of its members through the imitation of the virtues of Mary, foster a deeper devotion to Mary among all people, and undertake various apostolic works.

PILLARY of HOSPITALITY

Evangelization Team: The Evangelization team searches for new ways in which to share the Good News of Jesus with our parish and community at large. Twice a year the team offers “Homecoming,” an opportunity for inactive Catholics to come together in confidence to voice concerns. New initiatives are always being considered.

Funeral Dinners: Help to provide funeral dinners in Bishops Memorial Hall for families of St. Mary Parishioners.

New Parishioner Committee: Help to welcome visitors and new parishioners to the St. Mary Cathedral family.

- **New Family Mentors:** Spend time getting to know and helping new families integrate into the parish.
- **Welcome Table:** Help to staff the Welcome Table in the Gathering Space to add a welcoming face to our parish.

Coffee and Donuts: Help to organize and staff a coffee and donuts social after weekend Masses.

Men’s Softball team: The men’s softball team plays in the Men’s Church softball league at Lyboubt Field. They typically play on Mondays from May through August in the Summer league and September through October for the Fall league. Participants and organizers are needed.

Parish Newsletter: Write, compose, edit, and distribute a hard-copy newsletter that covers relevant material for the parish.

PILLAR of SERVICE

Altar & Rosary Society: The goal of this organization is to unite women of the parish in religious, educational and social activities. They provide funeral dinners in Bishops Memorial Hall for families of St. Mary Parishioners and host receptions for major parish and diocesan functions. In addition, they hold fund-raising activities to help support the needs of the parish.

Bereavement Ministry: This group meets once a month and is open to anyone who has experienced grief from the loss of a loved one, serious illness, job loss, or other tragedy.

Blessed Threads: A group of women who knit and crochet prayer shawls, hats for chemo patients, baby blankets, etc. This group meets monthly.

Cathedral Cleaners: Meets every two weeks to clean the church.

Collection Counters: Small groups that meet on Monday morning for about 2 hours to sort, count, and record the weekly offerings.

Parish Nurse Program: The purpose of this prevention-related outreach ministry is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our parish. It follows the example of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by promoting wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

Outreach: The focus of this group is to gather information about service organizations and projects. They identify and coordinate activities to help those in need. Outreach involvement includes, but is not limited to:

- **Lafayette Urban Ministry**
- **Food pantries:** Assist at local food pantries.
- **Caregiver Companion:** Outreach to the elderly and homebound.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Helping to build homes for those in need.
- **Women's Shelter**
- **Matrix Life Care Center:** Pregnancy resource center.
- **Homeless Vets**

PILLAR of SERVICE

- **Military:** Outreach to active military service personnel from our parish.
- **Haiti Outreach:** Ministry with our sister parish, St. Joseph, in Pendus, Haiti.

FOCUS: Liaison with missionary efforts on college campuses

Adopt-A-Spot/Gardeners - Parishioners who enjoy gardening help to maintain the “green spaces” on our parish campus. They trim, weed, pick up trash, and water plants as needed. Twice a year, in Spring and Fall, there is a cleanup of the landscape

Jubilee Christmas: Sponsored by Lafayette Urban Ministry and supported by our parish, this program provides an opportunity for parents in low-income situations to select gifts and clothing for their families for Christmas. The parish needs help in December with setting up this program.

Building Committee: This committee provides an oversight function for maintenance on the buildings and grounds that make up the St. Mary Campus.

St. Joseph’s Crew: Grounds and maintenance help. Periodic volunteer assistance is needed, particularly in the summertime.

High School Summer Mission: Local hands-on mission for High School students.

Sanctity of Life: Help to organize and promote Sanctity of Life initiatives of the parish and diocese.

Stewardship Committee: Members work to communicate, promote, and monitor our parish commitment to share our time, talent, and treasure that each of us have been given by God. The committee meets monthly.

Communications and Technology: This ministry aids in parish communication, development/maintenance of the parish website/social media sites, and monitors the technology needs of the parish.

- **Website**
- **Social Media**
- **Publications**

PILLAR of SERVICE

- **Computer graphics**
- **Audio/Video Recording:** Record various Masses and special events.
- **Technical assistance:** IT as well as A/V.

Parish data entry: Volunteers needed to assist with entering data on a computer.

Stuff Bulletins & mailings: Volunteers needed to assist with bulletin and envelope stuffing/distribution.

Phone calling support: Volunteers needed to assist with making phone calls – done from personal phone.

Babysitting: Organize and staff a babysitting service for parishioners and guests during parish functions.

Fruitful Harvest: Bi-annual committee needed to facilitate this Diocesan program.

Ecumenical Outreach: This committee identifies and executes ways to reach out to non-Catholic churches, as well as other religions, in the Greater Lafayette Area in a spirit of building friendship, dialogue, and mutual understanding as a way of representing the Catholic Faith in the community-at-large.

PILLAR of FORMATION

Siena Society: Jr./Sr. High School girls club.

Natural Family Planning: Teach and train engaged/married couples about NFP.

Baptismal Classes: Facilitate at Baptism Classes held 3rd Sunday of month on a rotating basis. Training will be provided.

Bible Study: Teach, organize, and promote, or run a small group within on-going Bible studies.

Young Adults: Help organize, recruit, and promote for the parish young Adult group (20's and 30's).

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: The RCIA is the rite provided by the Catholic Church for the faith formation and initiation of adult believers into the church. It is a process of inquiry and exploration into the Catholic Church, its doctrines, and traditions. Teachers, helpers, sponsors, and other volunteers are needed.

Breaking Open the Word: Gather with RCIA participants during the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass to “break open” the Readings of the day in a discussion format to help cultivate an understanding of the Scripture.

Inquiry: Gather with “seekers” once a week, usually on a Monday night, for a 5-week series of casual investigation of the Christian Faith.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children: RCIC is a program for children who have reached the age of seven and have not been baptized. A child must be enrolled in Catholic School or religious education class for at least one year before receiving any sacraments. Teachers, helpers, sponsors, and other volunteers are needed.

Pre-Cana: This is a one-day retreat for engaged couples that focuses on all aspects of marriage presented by a team of married couples.

Religious Education: Religious education is offered for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade who do not attend Catholic School. Classes meet from September through May at various times throughout the week. Teachers, helpers, and other volunteers are needed.

- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:** Montessori-styled religious education program for Preschool thru 3rd Grade

PILLAR of FORMATION

- **Confirmation Prep:** Classes offered for 8th/9th Grade students leading to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Vacation Bible School: A weeklong session during the summer for children in pre-school through fourth grade to celebrate Jesus' love for us in prayer and song. It is from 9:00 AM to noon each day and is a fun and rewarding week for all. Teachers, helpers, and other volunteers are needed.

CTEC: (Our parish youth ministry program - Catholic Teens Encountering Christ) In youth ministry, we promote the responsible participation of youth in the life, mission, and work of our parish community. It is also an opportunity for the students in junior high and high school to meet other Catholic youth as they share and grow in their faith. Social activities as well as spiritual and service projects are planned to meet the interests of the groups. Mentors, helpers, and other volunteers are needed.

Catholic Schools

- **Blue-Knight Auction:** This is an auction held in April that benefits the entire Lafayette Catholic School System. Its primary goal is to raise funds for tuition assistance but also helps fund many areas and needs for the schools. There are many, many ways to help.
- **SCRIP:** The SCRIP program is "shopping cart fundraising." Scrip is gift cards that are used just like cash at many national and local retailers. Through SCRIP, families generate revenue through purchases they would make anyway. All profits from the SCRIP program go toward the school facilities.