

## **JOIN US...GET INVOLVED**

Father Dan and the Saint Mary's Parish Council would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



### **SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS**

Are you a new parishioner, or have you been away and are now rejoining us? Do you have a talent you would like to share? Start the New Year off right by volunteering your time and talents. Listed below are the ministries we offer here at St. Mary's.

### **CHRISTIAN WORSHIP COMMISSION**

The Worship Commission is made up of the various Ministries listed below: Liturgical, Music, Art & Environment. If you have a talent for one, please contact Lucy Lawrence at 219-285-0350.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY**

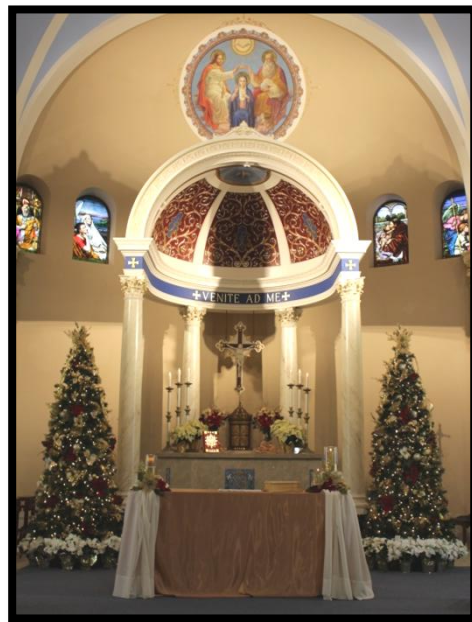
St. Mary's is a growing community. We preserve our history and historical buildings and are ready for growth by being vigilant in the maintenance/repair of our Church. Also, we are conscious of saving money. This ministry takes care of renting the Parish Hall, cleaning the buildings, and tending to the gardens and yards. If you would like more information about getting involved or renting the hall, please call Pat Brown at 815-435-2438.

### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Participate in the Liturgy! Be a Minister! Get involved! Are you a friendly outgoing person? Do you like to read aloud? These questions can all be answered by participating in the liturgy as ministers. Greeters and Ushers are the first impression people have of St. Mary's as they attend Mass. Profess the Word of God by being a lector. Eucharistic Ministers serve during Communion. Students may be altar servers (they must be at least 4<sup>th</sup> graders and have received First Communion). Contact Ryan Loy, Pastoral Associate at 815-486-7144.

### **ART & ENVIRONMENT**

The St. Mary's Art & Environment Committee is responsible for the beautification of St. Mary's Church. As the liturgical seasons change, the committee decorates God's house with flowers, greenery, etc. Please join us by contacting Kathy Wagner at 815-953-6294.



### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Our Music Ministry is directed by Ryan Crawford. He plays the organ and keeps the choir singing harmoniously. Under his guidance and expertise this Ministry has evolved from simply providing music for Masses to a top notch program. For more information on the Music Ministries, please call Ryan Crawford at 574-870-0881.

## **PARISH COUNCIL & RESTORATION COMMITTEE**

The Parish Council is made up of parishioners who work as a consultative body to assist the pastor in promoting parish activities to enhance the fellowship and life of the Gospel among the people of St. Mary's. It is the place where people dream about the future of the parish, where new possibilities are sought and new visions are proclaimed. We look forward to and invite all new parishioners to be an active player in this vibrant parish. The Restoration Committee has been a major part of the parish for the last 20 years in restoring our beautiful church. They help to decide what needs to be restored and see the projects through to completion.

## **RCIA**

Are you interested or do you know of someone who would like to learn about becoming Catholic? St. Mary's will start walking a faith journey with those individuals wanting to become Catholic. Starting in late summer and running through to the Easter Vigil we educate Christians of all denominations in all of the areas of our traditions and our beliefs as Catholics. Please contact Lucy Lawrence at 219-285-0350.

## **PASTORAL CARE/ HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES**

St. Mary's is building a network of volunteers to visit and provide the Eucharist to the homebound and those in nursing homes.

If you can volunteer your time, please contact the Rectory at 815-435-2432.



## **CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

St. Mary's Religious Education Program is committed to helping parents raise their children in the Catholic Faith. We offer children in Preschool through 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grades a curriculum in accordance to the Diocese of Joliet. Classes are held usually every other Sunday afternoon from 3:00p.m. to 4:15p.m. We have a wonderful group of teachers along with our DRE. While teaching our students the basics of our Catholic faith, our catechists also prepare the students to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. For further information on our Religious Education Program, please contact Ryan Loy/Director of Religious Education at 815-486-7144.



## **CCW-COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women acts to support, empower, and educate Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. They do many things throughout the year to involve and assist families in our parish. In the past they have organized a bowling trip for Religious Education families, an Easter egg hunt, movie night, Halloween party, a Valentine's dinner, food baskets for families in need during the holidays, and made bereavement wreaths for families who lost a loved one in the last year, and serve funeral dinners for church member's families. For more information, contact Janet Loy at 815-486-7462.