

## Parish Organizations and Opportunities

A parish is made up of many individuals working together to build up the Body of Christ. The scope of opportunities to help includes everything from greeting to grounds keeping, from lecturing to locating alumni; from Baptismal team to bingo. If every member helped with one small task the workload would be lessened for all. This list is not all inclusive since additional ministries and opportunities occur and will be announced in the bulletin, at Masses and on this website.

Please read over the following list and consider how you can become involved. Anyone interested in participating in any of these ministries and organizations should contact the parish office and leave your name and contact information. The office will have the parishioner or parish staff member who is in charge of these ministries and organizations contact you.

<b>Ann Anderson, Parish Secretary</b>	<b>(614) 445-9668</b>	<a href="mailto:ann@stmarygv.com">ann@stmarygv.com</a>
<b>Linda Sisson, Parish Administrator</b>	<b>(614) 445-9668</b>	<a href="mailto:lsisson@cdeducation.org">lsisson@cdeducation.org</a>
<b>Kayla Walton, Principal</b>	<b>(614) 444-8994</b>	<a href="mailto:kw Walton@cdeducation.org">kw Walton@cdeducation.org</a>

**ALTAR SERVERS** - Altar servers assist at the altar during Mass and other sacramental celebrations such as weddings and funerals. This is a ministry open to youth fifth grade and older. Training is required prior to being scheduled for this ministry.

**ALUMNI PRESERVATION**- the Alumni Preservation Committee grew with the need to keep in touch with the former alumni. We have created an exhibit that includes many historical artifacts gathered and saved over the years related to the history of both the church and school. We are in need of volunteers with internet experience to search for missing alumni, and to keep our census updated. Contact Bill Lenkey or Ed Quickert for additional information or to volunteer.

**ATHLETIC COMMITTEE** - The athletic committee works to provide uniforms and equipment for athletes in numerous sporting events, recruit and name coaches for all teams, and support St. Mary parish/school athletics. This committee sponsors the St. Mary Invitational Basketball Tournament held each year in March. The Athletic committee also staffs volleyball and basketball games held in St. Mary gym. Contact Joe Plageman for additional information or to volunteer.

**CHOIR** (9:00 a.m.) - As a group we strive to provide leadership that will encourage full participation of the assembly in sung worship. Rehearsals are held September thru May from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and warm up is at 8:15 a.m. Sunday mornings. New members as well as seasonal participants for Christmas and Easter are always welcome. Contact William Antoniak for further information or to volunteer. Phone: (614) 580-0973 or e-Mail: [billatstmarymusic@gmail.com](mailto:billatstmarymusic@gmail.com)

**CHOIR** (11:30 a.m.) - This group is made up of teens and adults that offer a contemporary praise and worship service by using singers, and instrumentalists i.e. guitars, flute, cello, and piano. New members are always welcome. It is not necessary to read music to join the choir. Seasonal participants for Christmas and Easter services are welcome. Contact Amanda Walker for further information or to volunteer. Phone: (614) 325-1758 e-Mail: [awalker40@aol.com](mailto:awalker40@aol.com)

**CHOIR (HANDBELL)** - Bell-ringers participate at special liturgies during the year. Bell-ringers are not required to read music. Participants must be in the 3rd grade or older. Practices are scheduled in advance of each liturgy. Contact Amanda Walker for further information or to volunteer.

**COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS** - The Sunday morning coffee and doughnuts, following the 9:00 Mass is hosted by parishioners in the school gym. Responsibilities include: doughnut pick up, coffee preparation, serve, and clean-up. Currently teams are on a rotating schedule. Contact Marge Smigelski for further information or to volunteer.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST** - Men and women involved in this ministry assist the presider in distributing the Body and Blood of Christ. New Extraordinary ministers need to be trained and prepared for this ministry. This ministry is open to men and women eighth grade and older. Ministers are scheduled on a rotating basis; the schedule is distributed and is also available on the parish website, [www.stmarygv.com](http://www.stmarygv.com). Contact Deacon Minner for further information or to volunteer. E-Mail: [rjminmner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjminmner@sbcglobal.net)

**HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** - The purpose of this organization is to be a support to the parish and school in its mission to educate our young people. Through our fundraising activities such as the Halloween Fun Party, Chili and Carols, Christmas tree sale, Spring flower sale and future endeavors we are able to provide financial assistance. Contact school office for further information.

**HOMECOMING FESTIVAL** - This is the largest single event conducted by the parish to support the community and generate funds. This two-day celebration requires many hands to set up and tear-down, as well as to staff the many games, food tents and other activities. Contact Chris Davis for further information or to volunteer. (614)445-9668 or e-Mail: [chris@stmarygv.com](mailto:chris@stmarygv.com)

**GALA** – This is the second largest fund raising event conducted by the parish to support the school and generate funds. This event requires volunteers to plan the event, solicit sponsors and items for the silent auction, marketing/publicity, set up the venue for dinner and silent auction, sell tickets and staff the reception desk as well as the silent auction check out desk. Contact school office for additional information or to volunteer.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 5429** - The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal service organization which involves itself in church, community, council, and family and youth activities. The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 on the principle of unity, charity, and fraternalism. It is the largest Catholic men's organization in the world with over 1.5 million members in 13 countries. Involvement in the Knights of Columbus requires participation in at least one meeting per month, service to a committee and/or holding a leadership position in the organization. Contact the Grand Knight for more information. (Also see "**The Monthly K of C Herald**" on this web page for the name of the current officers and additional information)

**LECTORS** - These ministers enhance the celebration of the Liturgy by proclamation of the word of God. This ministry is open to men and women eighth grade and older who are comfortable proclaiming God's Word to an assembly and have a clear speaking voice. Contact Deacon Minner for additional information and to volunteer.

**MARRIAGE TEAM** - Members of this team assist engaged couples who are planning for marriage in identifying and highlighting issues in their relationship as well as preparing for their wedding liturgy. Team member responsibilities include participating in Pre-Cana retreats held at the church three times each year, and administering and analyzing the results of the FOCCUS instrument with individual couples. Contact Mary Kelly for additional information and to volunteer.

**PRESCHOOL** – Offers a Catholic based education with a DAP (Developmentally Appropriate Practices) curriculum. We pride ourselves with offering varying experiences with your child, including the collaboration with St. Mary elementary school and their resources. We offer full-time and part-time classes for children ages 3-5. Beginning in the summer of 2006 for those interested, we will offer a summer program for year round education and childcare. Contact school office for additional information.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS** - This is the process by which non-Catholic adults who are interested in becoming Catholic can begin or continue their faith journey and become familiar with the Catholic faith. This is also an opportunity for Catholics to learn more about their faith. Those desiring to become Catholic are responsible to get their own sponsor (16 year of age, active Catholic). Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday from August-Easter, with a few sessions following. There is no obligation to become Catholic and all are encouraged to learn more of what Catholics believe. Contact Michael or Maureen Keebaugh for additional information. (614) 323-6715 or [mikekeebaugh@att.net](mailto:mikekeebaugh@att.net) evenings and weekends.

**SACRISTAN** - Sacristans maintain the worship space and prepare the sacred vessels, vestments, and other necessary items for each weekend liturgy. Contact Deacon Minner for additional information and to volunteer.

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** - This lay oriented organization assists the poor and needy of our area through a variety of services. Funds for this ministry are accepted through special collections. The primary focus is immediate need in emergency situations. Meetings are held once a month. Contact Frank Wickham for additional information.

**SCHOOL** - St. Mary School and aftercare programs are dedicated to providing a well-rounded, Catholic education. It is in this environment, dedicated to the Blessed Mother, of which facilitates our children's development as students and as productive members of the community. Volunteers are needed for tutoring, fundraising, assisting in the media center and many other programs during the school year. Contact the school office for additional information.

**USHERS/GREETERS** - Along with ushers, greeters are the first smiling faces worshipers see upon entering the church. They set a welcoming tone for the arriving Catholic family. Greeters are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of mass. They welcome parishioners and visitors with a smile and are available to answer questions and provide seating. Greeters are scheduled once a month. Ushers provide assistance with greeting, seating, collections, and bulletin distribution. Contact Leo Thurn for additional information and to volunteer.

**VOCATIONS/BULLETIN BOARDS** - This committee keeps a well-stocked Vocations Information Board in the gathering area of the church filled with brochures from many orders for both women and men. Many contacts are made with religious communities to visit the school to encourage vocations among the students. Classes are encouraged to adopt a seminarian or sister from the Diocese of Columbus and to communicate with them via letters and visits. Parishioners are asked to pray for vocations through articles or inserts appearing in the bulletin. Prayer cards can be also be found on the Vocations Board for the taking. Homebound parishioners receive a packet asking for their assistance in praying for vocations. Contact Lori Mitchell for additional information and to volunteer.

**YOUNG AT HEART** - The purpose of this organization is to meet the needs of older adults for friendship through social contact with their peers and to help them remain self-sufficient and active members of the community. The group works to be well informed on matters of personal and community welfare. The group was started at St. Leo parish in 1974 for adults 50 and over. Besides monthly meetings, some with speakers and entertainment, at least two times a year members deliver clothing and household items to St. Francis Mission in Mac Arthur Ohio. Contact the president of this organization for additional information.

**WEBSITE** - The web page is a constantly changing and updated as needed with information about all of the parish activities and events. Parishioners are invited to visit the website often at [www.stmarygv.com](http://www.stmarygv.com). For ideas, suggestions, comments and submissions, contact John Rees, webmaster, via email at: [jerees@att.net](mailto:jerees@att.net).

NOTE: Additional information regarding the organizations listed on this web page may be obtained by visiting their web page on this parish web site or the school web site. Use the link on this parish web site to access the school web site. To stay informed about what is happening in the parish and school; visit the two web sites frequently.

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