



Every month, look for opportunities to contribute and participate in the preparation of the sesquicentennial (150 years) anniversary of our St Mary parish and school. Bring your talent and energy to make 2015 a year of celebration of its history and a cornerstone of its future... for the next 150 years!

Introducing St Mary Sesquicentennial Calendar

A year of celebration and renewal

We need YOU!

Our church and school history

In 1863, the German-speaking Catholics in south Columbus began working toward a church of their own.

Two years later, **in 1865, the parish of St. Mary's was founded**, a temporary combination of a one-room church, one-room school and second floor rectory. The original schoolhouse, which stands behind the church, was erected in 1865 under the direction of Rev. Francis X. Specht, St. Mary's first pastor.

In 1866, construction began on St. Mary's, the third Catholic Church in Columbus

On November 29, 1868, Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans dedicated St. Mary's.

St. Mary's distinctive spire - soaring 197 feet into the Columbus sky - **was added in 1893.**

In 1987, church leaders initiated a major renovation to preserve the architecture and historical beauty of the church. On December 6, 1987, the community celebrated the restoration of St. Mary's in a dedication ceremony presided by the Most Reverend James A. Griffin, Bishop of Columbus

In 1994, the slate roof of the steeple was replaced. **In 1998**, air conditioning was added to the church, a gift of St. Mary alumnus Dr. & Mrs. W. W. O'Donnell. **In 2002**, the renovation of the Burkley Center provided office space, restroom facilities, meeting spaces, and an elevator to aid accessibility.

Why a year-long celebration

Celebrate the Parish and the School history **and rally** to support its future

Engage the parishioners, the school students, parents, teachers and alumni, the Diocese, the German village community, and the city of Columbus in the future of St Mary church and its school

Attract new parishioners and **stimulate donations** to sustain the parish and the school for the long term

What....

Energize around existing events:

St. Mary School Gala, Homecoming Festival, Women and Men's Catholic Conferences, Haus and Garden Tour, German Village Lights, Christmas

Special events: Solemn Masses, History Book, Rosary in the Park, Pilgrimage to Rome.

New initiatives: Community Services, Weekly Rosary, and Blessing of the Pets

Sesquicentennial Committee co-chairs

Chair:	Beth Vanderkooi	bethvanderkooi@gmail.com
Co Chairs:	Gretchen Bartholomew	gmb1007@gmail.com
	Isabelle Billet	ibillet@hotmail.com

To volunteer as a leader, please contact **BETH VANDERKOOI** – bethvanderkooi@gmail.com - (614)-203-1147 or **ANN ANDERSON** - ann@stmarygv.com - (614) 445-9668

To volunteer as an event committee member, please contact the event leader

Event	Purpose	Targeted Month	Leader	Leader contact
Parish Directory	Enable communication throughout the parish – get to know each other.	May 2014	Amanda Walker	awalker40@aol.com
Homecoming Festival	Engage all school alumni and teachers	August 2014	Chris Davis	chris@stmarygv.com
Opening Mass	Spiritually engage on this special year	January 2015	Amanda Walker	awalker40@aol.com
History Book and DVD	Celebrate the accomplishments of the past 150 years (school and Parish)	February 2015	Frank Wickham	mwickam@columbus.rr.com
Women Catholic Conference	Engage the women of the parish in spiritual life	February 2015	Mary O'Reilly	boreilly@columbus.rr.com
Men Catholic Conference	Engage the men of the parish in spiritual life	February 2015	Don Metnes	metnes@aol.com
Month of Priests	Thank former pastors of St Mary and pray for vocations	April 2015	NEED LEADER	
Rosary in the Park	Initiate a special devotion for Mary, the mother of our parish	May 2015	NEED LEADER	
Trip to Joliet	Honor the retired nuns of St. Mary	June 2015	Roseanne and Jim Hanson	rhanson@cducation.org
Haus & Garden Tour – Rectory Visit	Spread the message about our parish, its school and its mission to German village visitors	June /July 2015	NEED LEADER	
Homecoming Parade and Procession	Express our pride about St. Mary and its school and our confidence in its future	August 2015	NEED LEADER	
Start of School Special Mass	Cultivate our kids' ownership and love of their school with a view for the future	September 2015	NEED LEADER	
Pilgrimage to Rome	Thank the Lord for the Grace He is giving St Mary parishioners	September 2015	Gretchen Bartholomew Isabelle Billet	gmb1007@gmail.com ibillet@hotmail.com
Blessing of the Pets	Honor St Francis of Assisi and engage Pet lovers in the parish	October 2015	NEED LEADER	
Ohio Historic Churches Trip	Highlight the history of catholic churches in Ohio	October 2015	NEED LEADER	
Community Service	Give back to the community	November 2015	NEED LEADER	
Solemn Celebration Mass	Thank the Lord of the last 150 years and ask for His wisdom for the next 150	November 2015	NEED LEADER	
German Village Lights Concert	Communicate the Joy of Christmas to all	December 2015	NEED LEADER	
Christmas	Celebrate the Joy of Christmas as a rejuvenated community	December 2015	NEED LEADER	

