

Get Involved In a St. Mary's Ministry

"We all have the duty to do good." (Pope Francis)

Many of St. Mary's parish ministries and outreach programs are listed on the inside back page of the bulletin, and also on the parish website at stmarysonthehill.com. Here's a little more information.

Why not make 2019 the year you get more involved? If you have additional questions, please use the contact information in the bulletin, or call the Rectory on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at (716) 683-6445.

- **Altar Servers:** Boys and girls who have made their First Communion and who are in 4th grade or above are encouraged to become altar servers - assisting the priest at weekend and special Masses. Adult altar servers are needed to assist at funerals.
- **Altar Society:** Caring for linens used during Eucharistic liturgies.
- **Archiving:** Data entry, photograph imaging, and related tasks to support the on-going archiving of parish records.
- **Baptism Preparation:** Helping to prepare parents for their children's Baptism.
- **Bereavement:** Offering support to families who have suffered the loss of a loved one. This can range from funeral Mass planning to various gestures of assistance and compassion.
- **Catechists:** Sharing faith with students by teaching in our Faith Formation program for grades kindergarten through 10.
- **Cemetery:** Assisting in maintaining the grounds of St. Mary's Cemetery and ensuring a respectful experience for loved ones who visit. Fund-raising assistance to support the future legacy of the cemetery is also needed.
- **Circle of Friends:** A social gathering of persons with disabilities to share friendship and fellowship.
- **Coffee Hours:** Staffing and assisting with coffee hours following Sunday Masses during the summer months. Coffee hours, as well as occasional Saturday hot dog roasts, are held in the Pavilion outside Church.
- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Distributing the Eucharist at Mass and bringing the Sacrament to the homebound. Confirmed persons, including teens and young adults, can serve in this ministry.
- **Faith Formation Classroom Aides:** Assisting with Faith Formation classes for students in grades kindergarten through 10.
- **Food Baskets:** Collecting, assembling and distributing food baskets to the needy during the Easter and Christmas seasons.
- **Funeral Breakfasts:** Preparing and serving meals in the Parish Center for families following the funeral of a loved one.
- **HERD:** Men's Bible study group. Meets on Saturday mornings for winter/spring and fall sessions.
- **Junior Ladies of Charity:** Responding to the needs of the poor and the unfortunate whose lives have been disrupted due to the loss of a job or home, or who need other means of charitable assistance.
- **Ladies of Charity:** Lending time and talent to support charitable causes in our area and holding fund-raising activities to support these efforts. For young women in grades 6 through 12.



- **Lectors:** Proclaiming God's Word at weekend and special Masses. For adults and young people aged 14 and above.
- **Liturgical Environment:** Decorating the Church to reflect the liturgical seasons, and maintaining the plants in Church.
- **Liturgy:** Coordinating arrangements for liturgies and prayer experiences throughout the year, and promoting parish-wide liturgical functions for our community.
- **Marriage Preparation/Before Cana:** Assisting engaged couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage. For married couples of various ages. St. Mary's Before Cana program is held once a year in the spring, and fulfills Buffalo Diocese requirements for couples planning to be married in the Catholic Church.
- **Marriage Rehearsal:** Assisting with rehearsals before Nuptial wedding Masses.
- **Ministry of Praise:** Praying regularly for intentions, which members receive in a monthly letter from the parish.
- **Music:** Participating in St. Mary's Music Ministry by singing or playing an instrument at Masses and other celebrations throughout the year.
- **Office Support:** Assisting with mailings, the updating of parish records, and related office duties.
- **Prayer Shawls:** Making shawls and lap robes, with special prayers woven into each stitch. Completed shawls are blessed and distributed to those in need.
- **Prison Ministry:** Lending faith and support, and bringing the Gospel message to those who are incarcerated.
- **Social Justice:** Providing information and resources to further the mission of social justice in the parish, local community, and worldwide.
- **St. Mary's Elementary Alumni:** Interested persons are needed to help connect alumni with St. Mary's Elementary, as well as further the mission and growth of the school. Efforts are under way to establish a formal alumni association.
- **Respect Life:** Furthering the message of pro-life in the parish and community.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Responding to the needs of the poor and unfortunate, both materially and spiritually, with concern for the aged, lonely, disabled or homebound, and those in hospitals and nursing facilities.
- **Ushers and Greeters:** Serving the Church by greeting, seating, and assisting those with special needs. Ushers also take up offertory collections, organize the Presentation of the Gifts, and assist parishioners as needed. Opportunities for men, women and families.
- **WINGS:** Women's Bible study group. Meets on Saturday mornings for winter/spring and fall sessions.

Thank you for considering ministry work at St. Mary's!

