

# **St. Mary's Catholic Church**

**Pierce City, Missouri**

**Parish Pastoral Plan – Edited 1/1/2025**



## **Vision**

We envision a parish community that is committed to Christ and his Church and is led by the Holy Spirit. A parish that engages with the local community and with one another to do the will of God here on earth. We envision a group of believers that continually encourage one another and share the love and peace of Christ in their daily lives.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to support and encourage each other as we strive for holiness, grow in our faith, and work to becoming the best versions of ourselves. To help all parishioners to better understand the ways of God, the sacraments, and the genius of the Catholic faith. To work together to share the Gospel, help others know the love of God, and to come to love our Lord Jesus.

Website: <https://stmaryspcmo.com>

Email: [st\\_marys@live.com](mailto:st_marys@live.com)

**Mass Schedule:**

Saturday Vigil- 4:00 pm

Sunday- 8:30 am

Monday- 8:15 Rosary and Communion Service

Wednesday- 8:15 am

Friday – 8:15 am

**Phone Numbers:**

St. Mary's Parish Rectory: 417-476-2827

St. Mary's School: 417-476-2824

School Cafeteria: 417-476-2180

## **Fellow St. Mary's Parishioners,**

Our parish pastoral council has been busy this past year. Several years ago, Bishop Rice formed new guidelines for all parish councils that transformed the structure and purpose of parish councils. The focus of parish councils is no longer church financials and maintenance of the church, its buildings, and church grounds. Instead, all councils are now to be focused on ongoing spiritual renewal of our parishes.

As part of our renewed focus on spiritual growth and formation, our parish pastoral council has formed new committees: **Youth Formation, Adult Formation, Outreach, and Liturgy/Prayer**. Each committee consists of 5-10 volunteers that meet every other month. The committees have formed goals to help grow our mission here at St. Mary's and lead the parish to ongoing spiritual renewal. You will find those goals encompassed here in the Parish Pastoral Plan. The following are current council members that are on each committee:

Youth Formation: Adam Boman, Mellanie Carder, Cari Caddell

Adult Formation: Jared Barchak, Ian Brottlund

Outreach: Chris Jasumback

Liturgy/Prayer: Linda Fenske, Mike Glouse

While the purpose and focus of the parish council is shifting, maintenance and financial issues will still require regular oversight. Fr. Matt and the Finance Committee will still focus on the financials of the parish. As we go forward, it is our hope to form a **"Maintenance Team"** which will work under Fr. Matt to maintain the church buildings and grounds. If you would be interested in being on this team, or have any questions about the new pastoral council, please reach out to Fr. Matt.

Now that the first draft of the Parish Pastoral Plan is developed, we will begin gathering feedback from the parish. We hope to encourage new participation in the ongoing activities of the parish and in the mass. Additionally, we want to encourage parishioners to become involved with the new initiatives that are identified in this plan. It is our hope that every individual in St. Mary's Parish will be able to contribute in their own way, according to their unique talents and gifts. Through our work together, God will continue to help us all grow in holiness and witness to the world around us.

We ask that you take the time to prayerfully consider your own faith life and your role within the parish. If you feel called to dive deeper into your faith and/or want to help the parish further in some manner but are unsure how, please reach out to the members of the parish pastoral council or Fr. Matt.

In Christ,

St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council

## **History of St. Mary's**

St. Mary's was established in 1871. In 1870, Catholic Irish, German and Polish workers on the Frisco railroad were the driving force in establishing Catholic parishes in and around Pierce City.

Before St. Mary's Parish was established, all Catholics in Lawrence, Barry and Newton counties worshipped at St. John's later renamed St. Patrick's, the first Catholic church in Pierce City established in 1871. As more Irish and German and Polish settlers came to the area, the Germans sought to form a parish of their own. Bishop John Hogan of Kansas City gave them permission to do so and in September 1883 the first St. Mary's church committee was elected and empowered to negotiate a deal with the Baptist congregation to purchase a tract of land just south of the Frisco railroad tracks in the Clear Creek Addition. Their first church was a remodeled and enlarged Protestant meeting house. When a fire destroyed the church building in 1892, it was replaced by a frame building on the same location. At that same time in 1892 the Polish immigrants at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's eventually formed a Catholic community in Bricefield (now Pulaskifield). The Irish and Germans remained in Pierce City.

In 1910, Father Sisbert Burkhand, O.S.B. became pastor of St. Mary's and during his pastorate the present spacious brick church was built at a cost of \$30,000. The Romanesque style St. Mary's was dedicated on March 11, 1913.

In 1941 the flood waters seriously damaged the church basement, convent, and rectory but a successful fund drive allowed for repair work fixing the basement, improving the heating system, the roof was repaired, new light fixtures were installed, the interior was painted and decorated and the cross on the steeple was gold-leafed.

The present rectory, school and parish hall were built in 1968. St. Mary's Catholic School was established in 1885 and moved to its current location in 1968. Since the establishment, it has had a long-standing tradition of serving families of the St. Mary's and surrounding parishes with a quality education for generations.

St. Mary's Old Fashioned Picnic was started as a fund raiser in June of 1987 and continues as a successful event with all parishioners taking part on the first Sunday in June. In 2005 the pavilion was built.

On May 4, 2003, a tornado all but destroyed the town. The church and school sustained minimal damage in comparison to the condition of the buildings on either side of the main road. St. Mary's church became a unifying presence as a shelter and a center of operation for FEMA and many other organizations working together to provide help for the tornado victims. Surrounding counties and cities as far away as Chicago helped the tornado victims in whatever way they could. After reconstruction and repairs were made to St. Mary's, the church was rededicated on March 17, 2004.

## **Current Programing and Events**

First Friday Adoration – First Friday of every month 1pm-7pm (Benediction @7pm)

St. Mary's Catholic School – Pre-school thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Parish School Religion (PSR) – Sunday after Mass throughout the school year (K-12 grade)

Adult Formation Class – Sunday after Mass throughout the school year

Fellowship Gatherings- After Sunday Mass various times of the year.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Frys – Fridays during lent

Lenten Stations of the Cross – Fridays during lent

Mercy Monday – community service project 2 times in the spring and 2 times in the fall

St. Mary's Picnic – First Sunday in June

## **Current Church Groups**

Parish Pastoral Council

Youth Formation, Adult Formation, Outreach, and Liturgy sub-committees of the Pastoral Council

Parish Council of Catholic Women

Knights of Columbus

Cemetery Committee

Parish Finance Committee

St. Mary's Home and School

St. Mary's School Board

## **Ways to contribute at Mass**

Choir

Ushers

Servers

Readers

Eucharistic Ministers

Read Announcements

## **Youth Formation Committee**

**Vision:** We envision well-formed young Catholics passionate about their faith, church, and relationship with Jesus, who are prepared to thrive as disciples of Christ in today's world.

**Mission:** Our mission is to educate, encourage, inspire, and guide our youth to greater commitment and identity as Catholics and provide them with opportunities to exercise their faith through parish participation, connection with other young Catholics, and outreach in the community.

**Goal 1:** Create and maintain an engaging youth group program that:

- a. Supports our youth leaders through subcommittees and parent involvement
  - i. Maintain subcommittee for food at youth gatherings
  - ii. Maintain subcommittee for Activities/Events
  - iii. Maintain subcommittee for communication/engagement
- b. Provides a space for the youth group to call its own in the church basement
- c. Attends the diocese youth conference every year
- d. Attends Steubenville at least every other year

**Goal 2:** Have our youth involved in parish activities.

- a. Expect all parish youth participate in serving the Parish Picnic dinner
- b. Expect 4-5 youth to serve at the parish senior citizens dinner each year
- c. Encourage all parish youth attend mass weekly
- d. Encourage all parish youth participation in Mercy Monday events
- e. Encourage all parish youth 7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades to participate in the youth mass to be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month

**Goal 3:** Have a confirmation class at St. Mary's every 3 years. Have at least 75% of candidates move into the youth group and maintain participation.

- a. Communicate this to parents and youth throughout the process
- b. Get youth input and ownership into events to increase participation
- c. The Age of Formation and Reception for the Sacrament of Confirmation, as determined by the Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, is for those students who are enrolled in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade.
- d. Confirmation is schedule at St. Mary's to occur in 2025, 2028, 2031, etc.

**Goal 4:** Engage our parishioners to be involved in events to inspire and mentor youth.

- a. Biennial survey/letter to invite parishioners to be part of the program
- b. Provide specific ways that parishioners can be involved in events

**Goal 5:** Work to create a deanery wide youth minister position.

- a. Engage with other parish pastoral councils to create a plan/timeline of how we will create and maintain this position
- b. Develop a fundraiser with other deanery parishes to pay annually for this position

### **Outreach Committee**

#### **Vision:**

Our goal is to live by faith not by sight. To always look for the good in people and help people to find the good in themselves and become better soldiers of Christ.

**Mission:** To go beyond the normal reach of just church to get our message out, to invite people within and out of church to be involved in activities and programs to express God's love to others. To encourage participation in mass and attending church regularly. See that the church is a welcoming place to learn and become closer to Christ. Giving to others through action or words is always the driving purpose of church and community.

**Goal 1:** Establish a monthly fellowship gathering once per month (both Saturday and Sunday Masses)

- a. Will normally take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of each month unless it needs to be moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month
- b. Cookies, coffee, and hot choc after 4:00 pm mass on Saturday
- c. Donuts and coffee after 8:30 mass every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun

**Goal 2:** Help those who are disabled or cannot drive to continue to be part of the parish community and receive the Eucharist each week

- a. Offering rides to and from church for ones that are unable to get there
- b. Maintain an accurate list and taking communion to the shut-ins or sick

**Goal 3:** Continually strive to make our mass and liturgy engaging to both parishioners and visitors to our church

- a. Announce the names of who the mass intention is for
- b. Announce birthdays and wedding anniversaries; list them in the bulletin
- c. Greeting parishioners and welcoming visitors at the church steps
- d. Invite our visitors to sign the guest book
- e. Offer welcoming packet to guests

**Goal 4:** Create a food pantry at St. Mary's Church for those in the community in need

- a. Invite other churches to be involved with this
- b. Sponsoring families in need of clothing, food, gifts or whatever needed

**Other Possible Future Events/Ideas:**

Movie night for adults and kids

Church sports activity (volleyball/basketball, pickleball)

Card night (Choir practice!)

Cornhole Tournaments

Babysitting for date nights

Holiday dinners (fellowship)

Trash pick-up

Flock notes (email chain with info on church activities)

Pizza night for kids

Children masses for ALL kids (school & church kids)

Talent show

Join with other churches for activities

Updating website with all activities and upcoming events



## Adult Formation Committee

**Mission:** To embrace every opportunity to share the Gospel, all aspects of our Catholic faith, and the love of Jesus, by contributing our time and skills to build a strong and vibrant community of believers.

**Goal 1:** Continue Adult Formation meetings after Sunday Mass.

- a. Promote the Adult Formation meetings to all parishioners
- b. Acquire a bigger screen for presentations
- c. Start “My Father’s Father” series on 2-21-24

**Goal 2:** Increasing involvement and volunteers for church

- a. Recruit volunteers to make announcements at each mass
- b. Extraordinary ministers – increasing volunteer list
  - i. Father to approve volunteer list and complete training
- c. Readers – increasing volunteer list –
  - i. Father to train, read from lectionary not missal, pre-read
- d. Ushers – re-vitalizing ushers to greet, assist, and pass out bulletins after church

**Goal 3:** Increasing attendance in 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration – 1pm-7pm

**Goal 4:** In our biennial parish survey, ask parishioner opinions on developing adult events

- a. What day of week and time would be preferred?
- b. What speakers would they like to hear?

**Other ideas and long term goals:**

- Bible studies, possibly Bible in a Year
- Catechism studies, possibly Catechism in a Year
- Offer RCIA classes at St. Mary’s
- Bring speakers here for presentations
- Sponsor groups to conferences
- Encourage our parishioners to welcome others outside our church to experience the love of Jesus *inside* our church

## Liturgy/Prayer Committee

**Vision:** We intend for our prayer life and Mass participation to transform how we communicate, work, live, and love. For our St. Mary's Parish to encounter Jesus so that we grow in love, faith, unity, and membership for generations to come.

**Mission:** Our mission is for everyone attending Mass to understand, believe, and participate. To experience being at the foot of the cross with Jesus at every Mass. To cultivate and deepen our prayer life by not only petitioning for our needs, but also raising our hearts and minds to God in thanksgiving, adoration, and to seek forgiveness.

**Goal 1:** For our weekend Mass to be the number one priority of our week by making the Holy Eucharist the primary concern of our life. To involve all age groups in Mass making it the best experience of our week.

- a. For our pastor to have a training session with all the servers, ushers, readers and Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist. For all involved to be mindful of the sacredness of the Mass.
- b. To have a youth Mass for all parish children. For those participating be servers, readers, choir members, offertory gift bearers and ushers. For their family members be Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist and assist as needed.
- c. For our parish to use the time to meditate when our pastor is purifying the holy vessels. It should be a time of reverence and prayer.
- d. For parishioners to stay until Mass is completed and Mass is not over until the closing hymn is sung.
  - i. Post a notice in the bulletin once a month as a reminder.
- e. Reach out to parishioners when we notice they are no longer attending Mass by texting, a phone call or a card.
  - i. Work with the Outreach Committee by including information about parish activities.

**Goal 2:** To get more people involved in prayer, especially the younger generation.

- b. Have the Wednesday Prayer Service at 2:00 p.m. posted in the bulletin inviting all parishioners to participate and ask for additional volunteers to be a prayer leader.
- c. The rosary will be prayed after the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass on specified times during the year with special intentions. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.
- d. Encourage more parishioners to be involved with the solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament held on the first Friday of each month.
- e. For the ones who cannot attend a prayer or rosary service, we encourage everyone to pray at home, while driving to work or activities.

### **Other ideas/future events**

- Have the organist, guitarist, and choir involved in selecting the missal/song book we use.
- Have the bishop's prayer intention each month published in the bulletin.
- To have a St. Mary's group involved in the Community Christmas service at the Congregational Church. Our pastor participates in this service.
- See if there is an interest to have a choir for Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass, even if there is not musical accompaniment.
- To have a Welcome Back Weekend with the assistance of the Outreach Committee.
- In the summer, to assist the DRE with a bible story/prayer session. Invite all area children K-6 to participate.
- To have a list of parishioners who would be willing to assist at Funeral Masses for the families that do not have relatives or friends to assist at Mass. This would include servers, readers, Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist and a designated person to toll the bells (if bells are in working order). Also have a list to say the rosary at visitation if our pastor is not available for the rosary.
- On the Feast of the Holy Family, list the events/accomplishments during the year in the bulletin. This would include baptisms, First Communion Class, Confirmation Class, graduates of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school, RCIA Class, new parishioners, marriages, and deaths.