



# St. Mary Church Hyde Park

Cincinnati, Ohio

2853 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

Church Office 513) 321-1207  
School Office 513) 321-0703

## MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Mary Church, Hyde Park, is a Catholic community committed to: Gathering for worship of God, Spreading and living the teachings of Jesus Christ, and, Providing quality Christian education for all ages.*

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

Saturday: 4:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am  
Weekdays & Holy Days: Mass Schedule inside the bulletin

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm and by appointment.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Takes place on the first and third Sunday's of the month: 1:00 pm or quarterly during weekend liturgies. Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism is on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm in the Seton Center. Please let us know if/when you will attend. Mother, father, baby and godparents should attend however we recommend you consider attending before the birth of your baby.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Parishioners must contact the parish office at least one year in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

## PARISH STAFF

<b>Rev. Ken Schartz</b> Pastor	x5501
<b>Deacon Tim Helmick</b> <b>John Thamann</b> Deacon Emeritus	x5761
<b>Connie Erdmann</b> Parish Secretary	x5511
<b>Brian Geeding</b> Pastoral Associate	x5533
<b>Beth Mock</b> Communication/ Development Director	
<b>Angie Pfaller</b> Business Manager	x5502
<b>Marianne Rosemond</b> School Principal	
<b>Joseph Santangelo</b> Music Director	
<b>Margaret Shank</b> Pastoral Associate	x5521
<b>Laura Nickol</b> Volunteer Coordinator	x5510

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 -12; 1-5  
Closed Saturday & Sunday

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Noon Monday  
to Connie Erdmann



[www.smchp.com](http://www.smchp.com)

SCAN WITH YOUR QR READER



**Blood Moon**

The first time I had ever heard the term “blood moon” was on my way up to Leland, Michigan three summers ago. With about 45 minutes left until I arrived in Leland, I remember saying a prayer to the extent of “God, use me in whatever way you need me today.” Pretty soon after that prayer I saw a man hitch hiking not too far ahead and I knew in my heart that this was an invitation from God out of that prayer. Within a few minutes of chatting with this man, the conversation headed towards that of God. He talked about his conversion story when he was in his late twenties. He talked about where he thought the world was heading. He explained how he thought Christ’s second coming was imminent. This man also explained the story of when he came to believe that he was actually the prophet Elijah- sent to earth to pave the way for Christ’s return.

I was completely intrigued by this encounter. There was something in the way that “Elijah” spoke that stirred my heart. I even went to visit him a few days after dropping him off at his house because of that curiosity, despite the pushback from friends and family to do so. One big theme that he spoke about was the series of four “blood moons” that would be occurring in 2014-2015 and how he believed that there was a deep meaning to this rare occurrence. A blood moon occurs when there is a lunar eclipse that causes the moon to take on a reddish color. These four consecutive blood moons happen to all coincide with Jewish feast days. The only other times this has happened in the past, major world events have happened, usually surrounding Israel. Many people believe that the same will happen this time. Three of the four blood moons have occurred already, with the fourth set to happen on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Whether this peeks your interest or if you think it is just crazy talk, I think it is something good to be aware of and pray about. For years now it has made me contemplate the question, “Am I ready if Christ were to return today or is there something holding me back from the joy of seeing God face to face?”

**calendar**

Please visit [www.smchp.com](http://www.smchp.com) for the most current info.

- Tuesday**, September 1:  
**K of C Officers, Seton Ctr. Mtg. Rm., 7:30 p.m.**
- Thursday**, September 3:  
**Cub Scouts Round-Up, Cafeteria, 7 p.m.**
- Saturday**, September 5:  
**Wedding, Kathleen Lang/Robert Cave, 6 pm**, Deacon Tim Helmick
- Sunday**, September 6:  
**Rosary, Church, 8 p.m.**



**masses**

- Tuesday, September 1**  
7:30 a.m. Lila Orourke-Bonnie Conley
- Wednesday, September 2**  
9:00 a.m. August Battoclette-Martha & Frank Battocletti
- Thursday, September 3**  
7:30 a.m. Ted Wenstrup-Rosemary Hollmeyer
- Friday, September 4**  
9:00 a.m. Janet Schafer-Murphy Family
- Saturday, September 5**  
9:00 a.m. Claire Harmeyer-Claire Bruemmer  
4:00 p.m. Pat Stricker-Family
- Sunday, September 6**  
8:00a.m. For the People of the Parish  
9:30a.m. Carol Herzog-Lantz Family  
11:30a.m. Elizabeth Menke-Jim & Beth Frey

**servers**

- Saturday, September 5**  
**9:00 a.m. NOT FILLED**  
4:00 p.m. Audrey, Ben & Corrine Capannari
- Sunday, September 6**  
8:00 a.m. Ian Hunt, Katie & Drew Mussman  
**9:30 a.m. NOT FILLED**  
11:30 a.m. Libby Ferre, Owen Murray, Clare Wilker

**readings**

**For Sunday: September 6:**

- Isaiah 35:4-7a*
- James 2:1-5*
- Mark 7:31-37*

*“Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”  
Matthew 5:9*

**Collection Sunday, August 23 ..... 15,134.65**  
**Projected weekly Collection ..... 19,388.00**  
**Collection under budget, Aug. 23 ..... 4,253.35**

Want to write fewer checks? Sign up for *Electronic Fund Transfer*. To enroll go to our website [www.smchp.com](http://www.smchp.com) and click on “Giving” found at the top of the main page. Any questions? **Call Angie Pfaller (321-1207 ext. 5502).**



*From the desk of Fr. Ken*

*I am delighted to announce Mrs. Katie Barton as the Director of Liturgy and Music at St. Mary Church effective September 2015. Katie comes to us as an accomplished Director of Music Ministry having served at Holy Spirit and St. Timothy Parishes in Kentucky over the past 20 years. She is an active member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and a member of their National Board for Director of Music Ministries. In her spare time...Katie is a lecturer of Music Education and Assistant Director of Choral Studies at NKU, and a published composer and arranger with GIA Publications.*

*St Mary is honored and blessed to have Katie bring her extraordinary gift of inspiring liturgical music through building choir and congregation participation. **Please join me in raising our voices and extending a warm welcome her first weekend of leading our congregation at all Masses, September 12 & 13.** In the following weeks and months, Katie will be reaching out to all parishioners and music ministers to form her music program at St. Mary.*




### Are you interested in helping one of our couples prepare for marriage? ...and in doing so enrich your marriage?

Engaged couples complete a pre-marriage inventory called **FOCCUS** (facilitating open couple communication, understanding and study). They then meet with a married couple who uses the summary to "facilitate (and model) communication" between them. This is not a major time commitment. You will host 2-3 couples per year, meeting with each 2-3 times in your home. If you are interested, there is a formation scheduled, beginning of November at St. Michael's parish in Sharonville. Please contact Margaret Shank, Connie Erdmann or Father Ken if you are interested. Do not let the cost be a deterrent -

**Foccus Training** This training will be held on Thursday Nov 5 and 12th, 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., at St. Michael Parish in Sharonville. Cost per couple: \$80.00. To register, please contact the Family Life Office by calling 513.421.3131x2621.

### Prayer Request Hotline

The Prayer Request Hotline is in service. The number is **533-5500 ext. 5770**. For anyone who is in need of prayer, or if you know someone who is in need of prayer, call and leave your prayer request on the message system. Questions, or if you would like to be a prayer partner, please call Marlene Berning (321-7911).



## sms school news

### FROM OUR SCHOOL OFFICE

We enjoy our first full week of school this week! On Wednesday evening, September 2, we welcome Parents for the PTO General Meeting at 7:00pm in the gym followed by Meet the Teacher Night for Kindergarten-Grade 5. This is a "not to miss" meeting to learn about the important role our PTO plays in our school. Immediately following the PTO meeting...it's off to Meet the Kindergarten-Grade 5 Teachers. On Thursday evening, September 3, our Jr. High Parents will go **back to school** and follow their child's daily schedule. Grade 6-8 parents should meet in the gym at 7:00pm for a brief Jr. High overview and to begin their schedule of classes.

Please join us on Friday, September 4, at 9:00am for our first All School Mass of the 2015-2016 school year!

### **A Huge Thank you! To all the volunteers who made the Festival a success!**

*Pete and Heather Kopf- 2015 Chairs*

**Be Green!** Wondering what to do with your FunFest yard sign now that the festival is over? Be green and also help St. Mary reduce expenses for next year's festival by returning the wire frame so that it can be reused. Bring the wire frame with you to Mass next weekend and leave it at the marked drop-off spot on the Rectory driveway. (Unfortunately, the plastic sign is not reusable.)

**Winner of the Grand Raffle Prize of \$10,000**  
Nick Corder

**Thank you** for your prayerful participation in **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl** this past Lent. Your support amount of \$1,375.68 will help insure the success of CRS Rice Bowl again this year.

Thank you for caring about our brothers and sisters!  
*Catholic Social Action Office*



## St. Mary Church

### THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to the 340 families who have pledged and/or donated to the Campaign.

For those of you who wish to make a pledge: Go to [www.smchp.com](http://www.smchp.com) and click on the Letter of Intent for Centennial Campaign found towards the bottom of the page.

You can also set up your e-giving for the Campaign by clicking on the Centennial Campaign link found on the front page of our website. If you prefer the parish set up your e-giving, please contact Angie Pfaller 513-321-1207 ext. 5502.



## Catholic 101

My Protestant friends say that their church goes by the Bible Alone, but that the Catholic Church has added a lot of man-made traditions to the Word of God...Is that true?"

No, it is not true. Protestants have as their sole rule of faith the written Word of God, which we find in Sacred Scripture. The Catholic Church has as its sole rule of faith, the entire Word of God, as it is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. All of the Word of God was at one time passed on orally... Sacred Tradition. Eventually, some of Sacred Tradition was written down... this became Sacred Scripture, which is written tradition. However, Scripture itself tells us that not all of the things that Jesus said and did were written down. And listen to what Paul says about "tradition": 2 Thes 2:15, "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter." Traditions! Traditions taught by word of mouth, in other words, oral tradition, and traditions taught by letter. Traditions which they are being told to "stand firm and hold to". Sacred Scripture and

1 Cor 11:2, "I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you." The Corinthians are being commended by Paul because they maintain the traditions that he passed on to them. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

2 Tim 2:2: "and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." What we have here in 2 Timothy is an instance, in Scripture, of Paul commanding the passing on of oral tradition.

1 Thes 2:13, "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the Word of God, which is at work in you believers." So, they received as the Word of God that which they heard, not simply that which they read in Scripture.

In other words, the Bible clearly supports the Catholic Church's teaching that the Word of God is contained in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

[Catholicscomehome.org](http://Catholicscomehome.org)

*Do you have questions you want answered? Send your questions to [connieerdmann555@hotmail.com](mailto:connieerdmann555@hotmail.com) or call the parish office (321-1207). You may even drop them in the collection basket.*

*Mass With Healing Service-Wed., Sept. 2nd  
Bishop Joe Binzer, main celebrant*

**Gathering Music at 7:15 and Mass will begin at 7:30 p.m at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, 5222 North Bend Rd.** After Mass those who wish will be blessed and prayed with for physical, spiritual, emotional or relational healing. You can receive prayer for yourself or any of your loved ones. Come and be with Bishop Joe Binzer for this special healing event. For more info. Contact Lighthouse Renewal Center (471-5483).



## Nine Months with Christ in the Womb

**Jesus now has a sense of balance inside his mother. He can even tell whether he is upside or right-side up, but he still spends the majority of his time right-side up. Jesus of the womb, Hear our prayers!**

*Dear Jesus of the Womb,  
Most fragile child of Mary's protection, we look to you as the youngest image of perfect innocence. We lift up our prayers to you who will save each of our souls. Just as you entered humanity through this most gentle and helpless state, now help us to find your presence in the faces of all the gentle and helpless persons of the earth. Bless us with eyes that see you and ears that hear you: in the presence of the poor and the outcast, the hungry and the homeless, the condemned and the war-torn, the elderly and the unborn. May we discover you every day as at Christmas and offer you our gifts every day as at Epiphany. This we ask of You and the Father, with your Holy Spirit, and in union with Mary your tender home, Amen.*

From March 25<sup>th</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, we will be participating in Respect Life Prayer , NINE MONTHS WITH CHRIST IN THE WOMB.

## Prayer for the Beginning of the School Year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen --  
[prayerresource.blogspot.com](http://prayerresource.blogspot.com)

## Parishioners called to Military Service

If you know of a parishioner who is called into, or presently serving in, our country's military forces **please notify the parish secretary at (321-1207)**. We want to keep these men and women in our prayers. In serving honorably, they contribute to the good of the nation and the preservation of peace (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2310). Please keep the following in your prayers: **Craig Blessing, Tony DeFilippo, Louis Hamilton, Jr., Jake Keefe, Dom Lanzillotta, Ewan MacDougall, Michael O'Connor, Andrew Quatkemeyer, Amy Rohs, Todd Seurkamp, Todd Smyth.**

military service

# St. Mary Events

## St. Mary Parish Fall Golf Classic

*Presented by: CBTS*

**When: Friday, Sept. 11th at 1 p.m.**, shotgun start

**Where:** California Golf Course

**Format:** SCRAMBLE! Rules provided prior to start

**Cost:** \$125 per person. Includes cart, golf, prizes, beverages, and both lunch at the start and dinner at the golf course following the event.

Sign up today. All are welcome!! Credit card payments accepted online at

<http://smsa.assn.la/>

Registration questions? Email [SMhpGolf@gmail.com](mailto:SMhpGolf@gmail.com) or contact Jack

Ankenbauer, Matt Berlage, Tim Gillenkirk, Philip Kiley or Mike Taylor.

## Little Cougars Fall Soccer Registration is Open!

Are you looking for a way to get your child involved in athletics here at St. Mary? Little Cougars is a great way for you and your child to stay active, become involved and make new friends! Registration is open to all Fall 2015/2016 St. Mary Parish kindergarteners. The season

will be held each Wednesday starting on September 16<sup>th</sup> - October 14<sup>th</sup>, from 5-6pm at Otto Armleder Park. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Molly Bruegge at [m\\_eagan@msn.com](mailto:m_eagan@msn.com) or Tom Lieser at [thomas.lieser@ubs.com](mailto:thomas.lieser@ubs.com) To sign up please visit:

[www.stmarysoccer.assn.la](http://www.stmarysoccer.assn.la)



## Join Cub Scout Pack 146!

1st thru 5th Grade boys

Thursday, September 3, at 7 pm in SMS Cafeteria  
(This meeting is for Parents and boys)



- Camping!
- Service!
- Pinewood Derby!
- Fun!

**IF YOU SIGN UP YOUR SON AT THE MEETING = GET A T-SHIRT AND**

**SCOUT HANDBOOK! (Cash or check accepted) For**

**more information Contact:**

**Nate Stroup, Cubmaster, at 731-2042 or**

[thestrroups@fuse.net](mailto:thestrroups@fuse.net)

**Website:** [www.smsscouts.co.nf](http://www.smsscouts.co.nf)

## World Day of Prayer for Creation, September 1, 2015

Pope Francis has instituted a new day of prayer and celebration for the Church entitled the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation," to be celebrated on September 1 each year.

The day of prayer is in keeping with the theme of the Holy Father's newest environmental encyclical "Laudato Si." It is also seen as a sign of unity with the Orthodox Church, which established September 1 as a day to celebrate creation in 1989. [The Pope] expressed hope that the day could highlight the need for all Christians to work together toward common goals.

...Pope Francis reiterated in his institution of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation that the care of the environment needs to be a priority for Christians because of their care for the human person. "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience," he said.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation is meant to be celebrated "with the participation of the entire People of God: priests, men and women religious and the lay faithful," Pope Francis said, and should "become a significant occasion for prayer, reflection, conversion and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles."

-- [catholicnewsagency.com](http://catholicnewsagency.com)

## Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

The Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Group will begin reading *Laudato Si'*, the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis On Care for Our Common Home. Beginning August 26 and continuing for six weeks, come join this lively discussion of the teaching of the Holy Father. Men of the parish meet in the Seton Center around 7:15 a.m. and end by 8:15 a.m. — a great way to start your day!

## "Welcome to Our Newest Parishioners"

Samantha Ducheny  
Eric/Jill Gaughan  
Paul/Laura Geers  
Kim/Derek Grove  
William/Andrea King  
Victor Nicholas  
Caitlin Smith  
Katherine Steiner  
Stephen Yeager  
Ronald Zmuda

## Weekly Marriage Tip

"Your life is more than your work and your work is more than your job." (From the song by the same name by Charlie King.) Is your job getting in the way of your family relationships? Both are important, but another song puts it, "Time is Love." -- USCCB



# Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30, 2015

## Rejoice in God's Law

By Dianne Bergant, CSA

**M**any of us have a negative attitude toward the law. We find it restrictive, confining, a threat to our sense of personal freedom and independence. This attitude is far from the way ancient Israel perceived their Law. Deuteronomy insists that if they observe the Law, the neighboring nations will be edified: "This great nation is truly a wise and discerning people" (4:6). To the Israelites, the Law (the Torah) was a guide that showed them how they were to live out their covenant commitment to God in peace and justice. Psalm 19 captures this essence when it says, "The law of the LORD is perfect,

refreshing the soul...The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart" (v. 8-9). Because Jesus often stood in opposition to the religious leaders of his day, we might forget that he was really an observant Jew. His criticism was not of the Law itself but of the ways it was sometimes interpreted by others. Jesus makes it clear that he did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, to show us how we are to value it and abide by it.

Scripture underscores the importance of teaching God's laws to others, presumably the next generation. During this time of year, when children and catechumens are beginning new instruction in the faith, it is a good time for each of us to reexamine our attitude toward the laws of God and the Church that guide our lives. †

### Sunday Readings

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8**

Moses introduces the commandments.

**James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27**

"Every perfect gift is from above."

**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Evils come from within.

## A Word From Pope Francis

When we speak of the visible reality of the Church, we shouldn't just think of [leaders] and the consecrated



people. The visible reality of the Church is made up of the many baptized brothers and sisters in the world who believe, hope, and love. Many times we hear: "The Church doesn't do this, the Church does not do something else." ...Tell me, who is the Church?...The Church is...us! All baptized persons are the Church, Jesus' Church. Made up of: all those who follow the Lord Jesus and who, in his name, come close to the least and the suffering, seeking to offer...relief, comfort, and peace: those who do what the Lord commanded of us are the Church. We understand also, that the visible reality of the Church is not measurable...How can we know all the good that is done? So many works of love, so much fidelity in families, so much effort to educate children, to transmit the faith, so much suffering among the sick who offer their suffering up to the Lord...This cannot be measured and it is very great! How can we know the marvels that, through us, Christ work(s) in every person? Even the visible reality of the Church is beyond our control...It is a mysterious reality because it comes from God.

General Audience, October 29, 2014

# Rights vs. Entitlements

Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

A faded sign in the window of a small storefront near my home declares, “We offer a hand up, not a handout!” A Salvation Army social-service center offers food vouchers; a stone’s throw away, the Catholic Worker offers a free clinic. Churches and church organizations have been in the charity business for centuries, so it’s hard to imagine a faith community of any denomination void of an outreach or assistance program. We expect it—and for the most part, we’re proud of it.

For decades, expectations for our churches have spilled over into expectations for our government. Early in United States history, the colonies imported the British Poor Laws that ensured people would have food, clothing, and shelter. Throughout the 1800s, social programs like the Civil War Pension Program of 1862 helped struggling families. After the Great Depression, social-welfare programs came into their own as structured agencies—it seemed to make sense. Our nation’s greatness was predicated on how well we cared for our most vulnerable people. The idea bolstered the Great Society programs of the 1960s and early 1970s. We expected our government to care—and for the most part, we were proud of it.

The 1976 presidential campaign coined the pejorative phrase “welfare queen,” and an unfortunate recurring trend began—the vilification of people



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What is in my heart?
- With what gifts and talents has God blessed me?

who receive public assistance. The nation’s mindset shifted; no longer did Americans expect the government to take care of people in need. In fact, many came to view the government and its social programs as a great enabler of undeserving masses of freeloaders duping society and beating the system.

The current national battle over entitlements has continued the war on the poor. Civil debate has deteriorated into political spins, stigmatizing, and

name-calling. Nutrition programs, Head Start, veterans’ pensions, unemployment assistance, low-income energy and housing assistance, food stamps, and Medicaid give people the basics to survive and thrive. Doesn’t everyone have the right to a standard of living conducive to good health and well-being? What about the right to security in the event of uncontrollable circumstances like unemployment or disability? The right to a decent standard of living becomes a casualty in the battle over entitlements.

In any economy, the poor suffer most. As Jesus said, “The poor you will always have with you” (Matthew 26:11). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops supports policies that protect human life and dignity. But this work is not for churches or governments alone; it’s for all of us, and we must work together. We must strengthen families, encourage and reward productive labor, and avoid placing unnecessary burdens on people and families struggling to live in dignity. And we should not do this work begrudgingly; we should be proud of it.



Lord, you come from the heart of the Trinity. Give me a pure heart, that I may reflect your goodness and love.

*Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 31–  
September 5

Mon.	Weekday: <i>1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 / Luke 4:16–30</i>	Thu.	St. Gregory the Great: <i>Colossians 1:9–14 / Luke 5:1–11</i>
Tue.	Weekday: <i>1 Thessalonians 5:1–6, 9–11 / Luke 4:31–37</i>	Fri.	Weekday: <i>Colossians 1:15–20 / Luke 5:33–39</i>
Wed.	Weekday: <i>Colossians 1:1–8 / Luke 4:38–44</i>	Sat.	Weekday: <i>Colossians 1:21–23 / Luke 6:1–5</i>





## **PREP 2015-2016 Online Registration Open!**

(Parish Religious Education Program)

Please go to [www.smchp.com](http://www.smchp.com) to register!

Welcome back to a fast approaching school year. We hope that God blessed you with relaxing summer days!

### **Important Dates**

1. **Fellowship- September 20<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 mass-** Please join us as we will honor all of the PREP and school teachers as it is Catechetical Sunday.
2. **First day of the 2015-2016 PREP year is Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **PREP classes are available for:**

**Children ages 3 1/2- 5** (Pre-school through Kindergarten...pre-schoolers must be potty trained) and will meet from **9:30-10:30AM**.

**Grades 1-7** (Confirmation class) and will meet after 9:30 Mass, from **10:30-11:45AM**.

**Grade 8-** There will be different service events and small group formation throughout the year.

**Registration** and PREP fee payment is online...easy and convenient!

**Please register early.** First day of class is **Sunday, October 4.**

**A completed Medical Form is required for all PREP students.** Please complete this **Medical Form** when registering. ***Please print out your completed form, sign, and submit to the parish office prior to the first day of class. 2853 Erie Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45208***





***Food for All: Be Multiplied*** is an Archdiocesan, collaborative effort to faithfully respond to hunger in our local neighborhoods. Inspired by Pope Francis' call to action to end hunger by 2025 and in conjunction with his visit to Philadelphia in September; Food for All: Be Multiplied will be our collective Archdiocesan "Spiritual Bouquet" for Pope Francis.

- **St. Mary Church** has pledged **2000** food items to be collected over the next year.
- **St. Mary School** has pledged **5000** food items to be collected over the next year.
- All food items will benefit our local St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

How do you contribute to help fulfill these pledges?

- **At Church** - The second Sunday of every month take a SVDP food bag after Mass. Return your food items the third Sunday of the month to the vestibule of church.
- **At School** - Student Council will organize several food drives throughout the school year to stock the pantry at holiday times or replenish as needed. Friendly grade level competition will generate lots of excitement! Look for more information in the near future.

Also...you are invited to participate in an Archdiocesan-wide ***Food for All*** effort.....



## **DEFEAT HUNGER Obstacle Run and Food Drive**

Saturday, September 5

8:00am- 2:00 pm

Summit Park, Blue Ash Ohio

Adult and kids' course, family friendly pricing, after party for all ages, Kiss 107FM

Register and more info: [www.catholiccincinnati.org/foodforall/](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/foodforall/) or [www.stirintoflame.com](http://www.stirintoflame.com)



# Called to Witness

## St. Mary Church Planning 2015

**What:** *Called to Witness* is a parish-wide planning process to affirm both who we are as a Catholic parish and what we are called to be. The plan that will be developed will reflect everyone's best and most reasoned efforts in building consensus about where the parish is heading, and how it should best achieve its mission along the way.

**Why:** The best time for a parish to tackle planning is when there is no urgent need to resolve a crisis. St. Mary Church is blessed to find itself in 'a good place' and we will use *Called to Witness* as a means of identifying what has changed since the 2011 Long Range Plan, and develop our shared vision and goals for the future of St. Mary Parish.

**How:** *Called to Witness* planning is accomplished by engaging all parishioners and building on the work and wisdom of prior planning initiatives. "Listening" sessions will be held with parishioners and *Called to Witness* team leaders. **All parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate.** We want to hear from you! *Contact Margaret Shank at 321-1207 ext.5521 or [mshank@smshp.com](mailto:mshank@smshp.com) to get involved.*

**When:**

- September-October 2015, the Called to Witness Leadership Team will meet with individual parishioners and groups of parishioners to ask questions about your St. Mary Parish experience and LISTEN to your feedback.
- November 2015-March 2016, all the feedback will be analyzed and developed into our *Called to Witness* Plan with the help of Starboard Strategy, a Catholic Parish consulting firm.

**Participate in Called to Witness!**

Contact [mshank@smshp.com](mailto:mshank@smshp.com) or 321-1207 ext. 5521

The symbol for Called to Witness incorporates a triangle, circle and heart to signify the virtues of faith, hope, and love. At the center of these is the St. Mary rose, an icon used to brand all parish communications. **This symbol declares that in undertaking strategic planning, each parishioner is 'called to witness' the parish's strengths, its values, its ideals and its challenges in serving Christ and in serving its members.** This witnessing will help the parish determine 'where it shall be' and 'what it must be' to become the best version of itself.

**Ways to Build Your Relationship with Jesus**

- \*Attend Mass every Sunday and give God your undivided attention. ...
- \*Make an honest examination of conscience and go to confession.
- \*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - It requires my focus. It requires me to slow down and be present ... to receive & listen.
- \*Pray thru Scripture or special prayers like the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- \* Make a retreat or find a Spiritual Director.
- \* Memorize the Beatitudes, or Psalm 23.
- \* Discover spiritual classics like *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales, *Story of a Soul* by St. Therese of Lisieux, *Confessions* by St. Augustine, or *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis.
- \* Do one charitable deed for the needy anonymously. Perform the works of mercy within your ability.
- \* Practice self-denial. Fast on Fridays from meat, coffee, television, the Internet, or something similar.

-- Christopher New Notes

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