



The Many Ministries of St. Mary's



One of the ways we are 'stewards' of God's gifts is by the way we involve ourselves in the life and ministry of the parish. Here is a list of the ministries at St. Mary's. Are you called to a ministry that's not being offered? We're always open to the call of the Holy Spirit!

MINISTRIES CONNECTED TO SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP – *lay members of our congregation have the opportunity for rich participation in our Sunday morning celebrations such as:*

Acolyte: serves with the priest during the celebration of the Eucharist.

Altar Guild: prepares the church and ensures that everything is ready for Sunday morning worship;-a vital, important 'behind-the-scenes' ministry

Chalice Bearer: serves the Blood of Christ to parishioners during the service.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: for children in primary grades - kids are dismissed from the 10am service after the opening prayer and are back in church in time for the sign of peace.

Collection counters: count and record donations and deposit them in night deposit at the bank.

Fellowship Hour Hosts: One parish member often refers to this as part of the "*communion*" we share on Sunday morning, and it's true! Fellowship hour hosts help create an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality after each service.

Greeters; welcome people to church, hand out bulletins, take the collection, present the gifts of bread and wine, and help clean up church after the service.

Intercessor; leads the Prayers of the People.

Nursery; Sunday morning during the 10am service

Reader; proclaims God's Word during worship.

Worship center: for children ages 4 to 7 - a way to engage God's word and respond to that word in a way that children can comprehend.

EVANGELISM/COMMUNICATION MINISTRY – *facilitating communication within the parish and encouraging growth in faith by welcoming the broader community to our parish. We always seek new and creative ways to welcome any and all who may be searching for a relationship with Christ and a church home. Activities include but are not limited to:*

Community expo type events.

Evangelism; Sharing our stories of faith, witnessing to others, inviting people to church.

Writing, photography, editing and oversight of all in-house parish communications like our parish newsletter, special mailings, and press releases

Website: www.stmarys-dousman.com

PRAYER MINISTRY – *applying the power of prayer in our daily lives.*

Prayer for healing and anointing - prayer support as we offer anointing for healing on Sunday mornings or at other times.

Prayer ministry - we ask God to watch over, bless, heal and guide all whose names are given to us.

Prayer shawl ministry - making a beautiful, tangible symbol of our love and care for those who are in need of healing.

Women's prayer ministry - offered periodically. A time to share a meal, reflect in our faith, and join together.

HUMAN CONCERNS AND OUTREACH - *focused on parish life with a greater awareness of the gospel call to remember that we meet Christ when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and visit those who are sick, in prison, or alienated in any way. We also strive for awareness of the essential character of peace and justice that is central to faith in Jesus Christ. Projects include but are not limited to*

- Advent and Lent Outreach Projects.
- Distribution of Christmas and Easter Collections
- Encouraging Outreach Awareness in our Youth Ministry
- Staying connected to Needs of God's People Locally, Nationally and Globally
- Disbursement of Endowment Funds of Outreach
- Supporting St. Marc's Parish, Jeannette, Haiti.
- Thanksgiving and Regular Food Collection for Kettle Moraine Food Pantry
- Participation in "The Gathering" meal service program.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY - *providing elected leadership, vision and decision-making for the congregation and counsel to the vicar*

Vestry members are elected during annual parish meetings held each January to annual, biannual or three year terms.

Meetings held most months and members may have other interim duties.

FINANCE AND BUDGET - providing advice & oversight to the Treasurer helping to ensure transparent accountability for the financial health of the parish.

STEWARDSHIP - *assisting parishioners in understanding the fundamental truth of our faith: All we are, all we have comes to us as a gift from God. What we do in our lives with our money, our time and our talent is the expression of our faith and the Gift we return to God.*

HOSPITALITY and COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS - *facilitating fellowship opportunities to our congregations and guests such as:*

- Pot luck meals
- Epiphany dinner - every January 6th.
- Newer members' dinner
- Men's ministry

FORMATION MINISTRIES – *supporting continuous Christian education within the parish and community.*

Adult formation: Bible Studies, Sunday morning "Table Talk", mornings of reflection, retreat day-long and overnight retreats, classes for those seeking formal membership in the Episcopal Church, and more. Contact Carol McConnell (262-965-4104).

Sunday school: primary grades meet at 9 AM for specific units during the year and engage in a variety of learning, service, and prayer related activities. Contact Liz Riedel (262-392-2438).

Seminarians; St. Mary's has been proud to welcome into our faith community seminarians and their families. We help in their formation as future priests by offering them leadership opportunities, feedback, and a place to call 'home' while they're studying at nearby Nashotah House.

Spiritual direction and pastoral counseling is available through our Vicar.

Youth group; for students in grade six and up. We gather several times monthly for time together to learn about our faith, serving others and growing together in Christ.

MUSIC MINISTRY – *led by our Music Director, parishioners celebrate musical worship such as:*

- Singing in a choir
- Cantor (leading the Psalm on Sunday morning)
- Playing an instrument to accompany the choir
- Hand bell choir