

**Saint Mary Church  
Goldsboro, North Carolina  
PARISH PLAN 2014-2016**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Saint Mary is a diverse Catholic community, working together to:

- Celebrate the Presence of God in Word and Sacrament
- Grow and strengthen in faith through the Eucharist
- Share our gifts in service to others through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and Catholic Social Teaching.

We do this all in faithful union with our Holy Father and our Bishop.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Respond to God's call by Living, Growing and Sharing our Faith. St. Mary Parish has a longstanding commitment to Catholic Education as well as service to the local community through outreach to the Poor and disenfranchised. It must be our priority to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. We shall strive to reach out to the alienated, un-Churched and lapsed Catholics so that we might give good witness to the meaning of the Body of Christ. The call to be faithful stewards of the resources granted to us by God must frame all of our initiatives and actions. The following priorities are considered essential to giving faithful witness as a Parish:

- 1) Promote the life and dignity of the human person.
- 2) Focus on Catholic Education, Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice.
- 3) Emphasize effective stewardship and outreach to the poor and those in need.
- 4) Promote cultural diversity.
- 5) Foster vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.
- 6) Plan for the development of a Family Life Center to be built before the end of the decade.

**CORE VALUES**

We believe our community of faith must:

- Recognize the dignity, gifts and intrinsic value of all human life
- Actively participate in the sacramental life of the church
- Operate in an atmosphere of openness, integrity, and trust
- Work together to reach our parish community goals
- Prayerfully grow in faith to proclaim the Holy Gospel

## **FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE PARISH**

The financial environment of St. Mary Parish in Goldsboro has historically been characterized as conservative, strong, sound and stable, with recent trends pointing toward a more vibrant culture.

The Parish has seen continued growth over the past year and now totals approximately 800 registered families. Total offertories for the previous fiscal year exceeded \$400,000, which represented an approximate 7% increase over the previous fiscal year. Additionally, the Parish successfully completed several special improvements projects, including the installation of seat cushions for all church pews, three new stained glass windows, and additional parking spaces - all without incurring new debt or depleting existing cash reserves.

The parish continues to remain debt free and remains very liquid with adequate cash reserves. All parish facilities remain in adequate state of repair and functionality, although several maintenance and facility upgrade projects are being considered in the future, including lighting, plumbing, and the construction of a Family Life Center. Cost estimates for all projects are currently in the development and assessment stage.

Other financial accomplishments within the past year included increasing our teacher salaries to compare more favorably with diocesan standards. While the School's operational earnings remain sufficient to cover its expenses, and is maintaining good enrollment levels, the Parish will continue to aspire to increase its subsidy of the School to help maintain and enhance its environment of academic excellence. In the past year, a School Endowment was established to further this cause, which the Parish will continue to grow responsibly.

## **PRIORITIES AND GOALS**

### **Priority 1: Promote the life and dignity of the human person.**

Goal A: Develop and implement an outreach and advocacy plan to reduce poverty and mitigate its effects in our community.

Strategy:

1. Promote awareness and full use of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul through four (4) special collections per year, market and support monthly fund raising breakfasts and donations to the food pantry.
2. Develop an awareness campaign for Catholic Charities by making bulletin and pulpit announcements on their location and services and encouraging participating in their fund raising activities.

3. Expand collaborative relationships with church and civic organizations in answering the needs of the poor.
4. Increase awareness and encourage greater participation in volunteering at the Soup Kitchen.

Personnel involved: Representatives of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, Ladies Guild

Goal B: Protect and defend the sacredness of human life.

Strategy:

1. Strengthen and recruit participants for our Respect Life ministry.
2. Continue participation in diocese and national Right to Life marches.
3. Increase participation in Rosary for Life.
4. Support the annual Wayne County Pregnancy Center fund raiser as well as the baby bottle and diaper drives.
5. Strengthen and recruit visitors for our home-bound ministry and prepare new participants, particularly to the Legion of Mary.
6. Improve use of parish bulletin for the catechesis on numerous bioethics topics.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, John Marguglio, Kathy Hennessy, Legion of Mary

Goal C: Maintain a safe environment for children and build awareness of available safety programs.

Strategy:

1. Sponsor "*Prevent Child Abuse Month*" bilingual activities during April; promote awareness of child abuse issues through printed material and the parish website.
2. Continue campaign against bullying.
3. Ensure that one petition for weekend prayer of the faithful regularly focuses on the reconciliation, healing and growth of sexual abuse victims.
4. Support our parish Prison Ministry team by supplying needed literature and resources.

Personnel Involved: Lynn Magoon and Carole Sears, Kathy Hennessy, Joe Underwood

## **Priority 2: Focus on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice.**

Goal A: Develop evangelization plan to reach and involve inactive Catholics and the un-churched.

Strategy:

1. Make and display welcome home banners and host a welcome home dinner.
2. Support efforts of Landings program which helps connect or reconnect the small community with the larger church community in a safe confidential manner.
3. Conduct four (4) week sessions on church teachings on relevant topics such as Theology of the Body and Bioethics.
4. Have new parishioner receptions at least twice a year.

Personnel Involved: Pastor

Goal B: Develop and coordinate liturgical formation and catechesis for parish liturgical ministers.

Strategy:

1. Provide quarterly training workshops for ministerial groups.
2. Conduct special Triduum and Holy Day training for involved ministries.

Personnel Involved: Carole Sears and Deacon Webster James

Goal C: Develop and provide greater post-baptismal mystagogia for the newly initiated and for all in the parish to enrich sacramental life.

Strategy:

1. Conduct trainings which delve deeper into the mysteries or truths of our faith through our RCIA and faith formation programs.
2. Continue Whole Community events.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, Deacon Webster James, Anne Hamm

### **Priority 3: Promote Cultural Diversity.**

Goal A: Include diverse cultures in the life and leadership of our parish.

Strategy:

1. Recruit and prepare a culturally diverse group of catechists and aides for Faith Formation and Total Youth Ministry (TYM) programs.
2. Identify and recruit a culturally diverse Pastoral Advisory Council and Finance Council.
- 3: Foster the growth and awareness of the young adults group, Crossroads.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, Deacon Webster James, and Parish Advisory Council Members

Goal B: Support parish's culturally diverse celebrations.

Strategy:

1. Participate and attend the African American Ministry and Evangelization (AAMEN) ministry's Cultural Explosion in November.
2. Participate and attend Hispanic Heritage celebration in October.

Personnel Involved: Parish Advisory Council

### **Priority 4: Promote Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life.**

Goal A: Plan and implement a Vocation Awareness Program with liturgical prayer components. Work with the parish vocation liaison person on various initiatives in the deanery, the parish, the school and Faith Formation classes.

Strategy:

1. Support the office of vocations by accepting a seminarian during the summer.
2. Continue sponsorship of seminarians through the RSVP program.
3. Visits to faith formation classes to encourage the youth to listen to the call of Christ.
4. Ensure that one petition for weekend prayer of the faithful focus on the specific vocations to priesthood and religious life.

5. Implement Chalice Program to encourage prayer for vocations.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, Carole Sears, KOC

**Priority 5: Implement the National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage and Support of Family Life.**

Goal A: Support engaged couples in preparation of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Strategy:

1. Conduct three ( 3) Fully Engaged marriage preparation events.
2. Counsel engaged couples on Fully Engaged results.

Personnel Involved: Kevin Bacon, Pastor, Deacon Webster James, and Counseling Couples

Goal B: Support married couples in living the Sacrament of Marriage.

Strategy:

1. Provide information to parishioners on marriage enrichment opportunities such as Marriage Encounter through bulletin inserts and pulpit announcements.
2. Encourage membership in Couples for Christ; a movement intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life.

Personnel Involved: Office Staff and Couples for Christ members

**Priority 6: Practice the effective stewardship of resources.**

Goal A: Establish a Stewardship Committee.

Strategy:

1. Select subcommittee from Parish Advisory Council.
2. Pastor may nominate members of stewardship committee.

Personnel Involved: Pastor

Goal B: Build strong Stewardship Concept within our parish.

Strategy:

1. Establish a Saint Mary School alumni association.
2. Encourage greater use of SCRIP program.
3. Develop an annual Parish Stewardship Report.
4. Acknowledge and celebrate the stewardship achievements of groups and individuals in the parish by hosting a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.
5. Develop a Newcomers Welcome Committee and have regular welcome events.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, Lynn Magoon, Parish Advisory Council, Karen Daniels, Carla Berger

**Priority 7: Plan for the effective management of growth.**

Goal A: Continue preventative maintenance on current facilities.

Strategy:

1. Recruit campus landscaping volunteers as needed.
2. Complete parking lot expansion project.
3. Make roof repairs and plumbing repairs as needed.
- 4: Make electrical and technology updates as needed.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, Harold Jones, Finance Council

Goal B: Explore new construction of parish Family Life Center.

Strategy:

1. Conduct self- study.
2. Formalize Family Life Center Plan.
3. Foster awareness of and cultivate the School Endowment.

Personnel Involved: Pastor, Parish Advisory Council, Parish Members