

Pastoral Ministry Opportunity

If you dream it, it will happen. If you have faith, the possibilities are endless. If you invest your energy, it will return to you a hundred-fold.

St. Mary Parish is a community that calls for the best in its leaders and empowers them to use their gifts and talents to the fullest. Likewise, the Pastoral staff of St. Mary Parish calls forth the passion of the parishioners in their active participation in ministry. Together, we serve the mission and ministry of the parish as we reach out to others in need.

St. Mary is an “intentional” parish. Many of our members pass by five or six other parishes to come to our downtown location. Is it because we live out our philosophy that “all are welcome?” Is it because of the diversity of the parishioners? Is it because we are passionate about our liturgy, our hospitality and our outreach ministries? Or is it because we are a Eucharistic people living the values of Vatican II? The reasons are as varied as our members. Yet these are the core values that bind us to one another.

Collaborating with St. Mary Parishioners, its Parish Pastoral Council and its staff in setting the strategic direction of this parish is an extraordinary opportunity. In addition, the opportunity to work with a supportive, empowering pastor creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and creative energy. While each staff member has his/her area of responsibility, we support one another in developing the programs and service we provide for our parish community.

Whether it is in the day-to-day administration of the parish, creating new programs, discernment of parish leadership, practicing good stewardship with our parish resources or the joy of being with our parishioners, the diversity of this position is both challenging and rewarding.

St. Mary Parish

St. Mary Catholic Church is a vibrant Catholic Parish serving 430 families from not only Evansville, Indiana, but also southern Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. Our liturgy is truly “the source and summit” of our lives (Really, it is!). Our strategic plan focuses on four major areas: Worship, Outreach to the Poor, Christian Formation and Parish Life. We have an empowered Parish Pastoral Council who works closely with our Parish staff.

At the top of our bulletin you will see “All are Welcome!” This is truly our philosophy of life. We strive to welcome all who come to our doors. Our active

members participate in our weekend liturgies, serve others through a variety of parish ministries and tithe to support the mission and ministries of St. Mary Parish.

Our liturgies are at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Paul Schutz, our Director of Worship, directs a full choir, children's choir, octet, symphonia (church orchestra), and contemporary ensemble. In addition to the music, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, MCs and servers provide ample opportunity for the laity to engage in liturgical ministries.

L.I.F.E (Living in Faith Everyday) is a parish-wide Christian formation program held once a month on Wednesday nights from 5:00 to 7:30. This year over 130 adults and 40 children are participating in a program, entitled "Faith Prayed." In this program, we explore various prayer experiences and learn how they have developed in our tradition. RCIA and sacramental preparation, Bible study and a Merton study series are also important parts of our Christian formation program.

We celebrate our lives together through many parish events. Whether it is a reception after an Advent program or a harvest meal, we come together to share meals and laughter with our parish family. While we have many single members and married couples, we also welcome wholeheartedly our families, with 184 youngsters under the age of 5, who are a bundle of joy for all of us. Truly, we are blessed with wisdom, vitality and youth.

Our outreach ministries to the poor are truly a blessing. We are a stewardship parish. Because our parishioners tithe to the parish, we are able to tithe as a parish to those in need. Ten-cents of every dollar given in our collections is given to the poor. We provide a food pantry serving approximately 275 families per month, we staff a soup kitchen two Saturdays per month serving approximately 275-350 each Saturday, we have a strong St. Vincent de Paul Chapter with 40 members serving the downtown area, we participate in Habitat, and we are members of CAJE (*Congregations acting for Justice and Empowerment*).

St. Mary is a "Stewardship Parish." Yes, it is hard to believe that there are parishes that do no fundraising, but we are one. Because of the commitment of our parishioners (80% tithe) we have just completed a \$2.5 million dollar restoration project to our church and parish center. We have begun endowments to support our ministries. We are transparent with our finances. Every six-months, we report our financial information to the parish. Together, we hold sacred the resources entrusted to us.

More information about our programs, parishioners and staff members is found on this website.

Requirements for the Pastoral Associate/Administrator's Position

The new Pastoral Associate-Administrator will be asked to build upon the foundation built by our parish community and the vision of the Parish Pastoral Council as outlined in our strategic plan. A high priority is placed on continuing to build a strong vibrant community. Our vision is to "Become a model parish for the 21st century, led by lay ministers, diverse in the broadest sense, outreach driven, justice oriented, in which all parishioners challenge themselves to walk more closely with God."

We seek an individual who is committed to these ideals and is excited by the opportunities of this ministry.

The attributes of the ideal candidate include:

- a strong faith life; a practicing Catholic who is engaged in his/her parish community;
- demonstrated leadership in multiple settings with various groups;
- ability to develop relationships with parishioners, with Parish Pastoral Council and leaders in various ministries, as well as with peers in diocese;
- a strong, parishioner-centered orientation;
- ability to articulate a clear and innovative vision of excellence in Pastoral ministry;
- administrative experience at the level of not-for-profit management including budget management; or a record of distinction in parish ministry;
- excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Application Process

Review of applications will begin October 15, 2008, and continue until the position is filled. Candidates should send a letter of application, a vitae, and names and addresses of at least three references. Please address applications to:

Chair, Search Committee
St. Mary Catholic Church
613 Cherry Street
Evansville, Indiana 47713