STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL 2023









CHURCH OF SAINT MARY



Dear Parishioner,

I believe there is a profound Eucharistic element to stewardship: as Christ gave Himself up for us, so we are called to give ourselves to others. I cannot think of a simpler explanation of what it means to be a Christian steward. To focus on this Eucharistic element, the theme of our annual Stewardship Renewal is "Take, Bless, Break, Give."

This theme points directly to the mission we have chosen for our parish, which I want to present to you:

Saint Mary's Catholic Church of Melrose, Minnesota is a community of baptized Christians witnessing to the presence of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition. The heart of our believing community is the Church's sacramental and liturgical life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we gather regularly to celebrate the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We believe our mission is to praise God, build up God's kingdom on earth, and respond to God's call with personal commitment and action:

- by lives of prayer and service to one another;
- by formation of our young people at Saint Mary's School and religious education;
- by continuing formation of adults;
- by ministering to the special, individual needs of all of God's people;
- by responsible giving and stewardship of God's gifts;
- by attending to the material needs of the parish; and
- by reaching out to all with the Good News of Christ in friendship and hospitality.

As you consider our mission, how is our Eucharistic Lord calling you into a deeper relationship with Him? And how is He calling you to better use your gifts and resources within this faith community? Please take a few moments to express His call by filling out your Stewardship Commitment Card.

In Christ,

Fr. Marvin Enneking Pastor



The Eucharistic Cycle of Stewardship

As Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, we are called to give of ourselves. With grateful hearts, we receive God's gifts, prayerfully nurture them, and share them with others.



Stewardship at Saint Mary's Being Eucharistic People

At the last supper, Jesus gave us His Body and Blood, telling us, "Love one another as I have loved you." Then just a few hours later, He made the ultimate sacrifice of love on the cross. The invitation is clear: if Jesus laid down His life for us, we are called to give our lives to others. At Saint Mary's, we call this lifestyle *stewardship*.

This year, during our annual Stewardship Renewal, it is an opportunity to reflect deeply on the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church. We at Saint Mary's strive to live out being a Eucharistic People, which is reflected in our new stewardship theme: *Take, Bless, Break, Give.* As Christ gave Himself to us, so we give ourselves to others.

All families are asked to use their Commitment Card to make commitments of time, talent, and treasure, then bring the completed card to Mass on **October 28/29.**



Worshipping Christ in the Eucharist

As Catholics, the center of our prayer lives is the Eucharist. While we are all called to pray daily — on the way to work, with our family, before bedtime — the heart of our spirituality is receiving Jesus in Communion on the Lord's Day. This year we are placing special emphasis on attending Mass each Sunday, which is not only an obligation, but also a great privilege. On your Commitment Card are listed several other ways to put Jesus at the center of our lives through regular prayer.

Action Steps for Spiritual Growth:

- Make Mass your top priority on Sunday
- Spend time each day in personal prayer
- Make an extra effort to pray before the Blessed Sacrament







Being Christ to Others

Every week, Saint Mary's is buzzing with activity. There are groups that pray together, groups that minister to other parishioners, and groups that reach out to the community. Part of being an active member of our parish is to find your niche — the ministry where your personal talents can best be used. This is what St. Peter meant when he wrote, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

Action Steps to Increase Your Involvement:

- Re-commit yourself to your current parish ministries
- Choose one new ministry to join
- Plan to attend parish-wide events





Putting God First in Finances

When Jesus observed a poor widow giving a small contribution to the temple, He remarked to His apostles, "This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others." In this touching scene, we learn that our gifts should be *proportionate*: if your income is low, your gift will be small; for those who have more, more is expected. Moreover, we learn from this parable that Christ honors our *sacrifice*; He cherishes the sacrifice we make when we give from our substance rather than from our surplus.

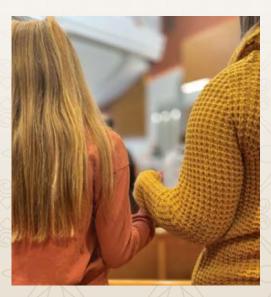
While the Church doesn't have any hard-and-fast rules for financial support, in Scripture we find that the Israelites were asked to give God 10 percent of their harvest. Thus, the tithe has become a standard for most Christian communities, including Saint Mary's. We ask that each family prayerfully consider apportioning its tithe as follows:

5% to Saint Mary's

1% to the diocese 4% to other charities

Action Steps for Financial Generosity:

- Strive to give 5% to Saint Mary's
- Commit to a specific gift each week or month
- Use your offertory envelopes or Direct Deposit



2023 Ministries

Liturgy

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar servers are the helping hands and feet for the presider during liturgies. *Contact: Pat Seanger,* 320-248-6630, pseanger@meltel.net

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word leaders gather young children who have not yet received First Communion and lead them in readings of Scripture, activities and prayer suited to their age during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Their ministry calls them to bring the Word of God alive to the youngest members of the gathered assembly. Many adult volunteers are needed for the success of this ministry.

Contact: Amanda Maus, 320-290-5860, amaus15@hotmail.com

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

Saint Mary's has a team of dedicated volunteers who keep the altar and sanctuary decorated according to the seasons of the church, with special emphasis on Advent, Christmas, Lent and

Easter. Volunteers of varied skills and talents are always needed.

Contacts: Lisa Brixius, 320-256-4207, liturgy@stmarysofmelrose.com; Pat Tomasek, 320-256-4625, pmtomasek@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS — GREETERS

The members of this ministry welcome parishioners and guests into the church at each Mass in order to create a welcoming environment, help attendees feel comfortable, and answer any questions guests may have. *Contact: Craig Maus*, 320-980-5271, *cmaus30@hotmail.com*

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS — USHERS

Ushers act as doorkeepers, greeting each person with a smile and/or handshake, and are available to answer visitor questions and extend extra help in seating those who need assistance. They also pass the collection baskets during the Offertory and distribute bulletins after Mass.

Contact: Craig Maus, 320-980-5271, cmaus30@hotmail.com

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture to the gathered assembly. Their ministry calls them to allow the Word of God to speak through them and to come alive in the hearts of all those who hear it, and to lead the assembly in praying the Prayers of the Faithful.

Contact: Linda Wenker, 320-249-1917, wenker@meltel.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee helps set the tone for our liturgies. Our goal is to be welcoming and inviting and to provide a respectful, prayerful and beautiful atmosphere in both sound and sight. We strive for worship that is lifegiving.

Contact: Lisa Brixius, 320-256-4207, liturgy@stmarysofmelrose.com



LITURGY TECHNOLOGY

This service benefits the entire community by providing everyone with the ability to participate more fully in the Mass, whether attending in person or viewing the Mass online. You will be taught how to run the soundboard, screens and cameras. If you like electronics, this is your ministry! *Contact: Troy Tomford,* 320-333-5315, ttomford1@gmail.com

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Ministers of Holy Communion are entrusted with a special responsibility of assisting the priest and deacon in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass. The function of this ministry is to ensure that the Eucharist is distributed under both forms of bread and wine in a reverent manner. To become a Eucharist Minister, one must participate in the appropriate training sessions and periodic enrichment sessions. *Contact: Ruth Traeger,* 320-492-4583, ruth56352@gmail.com

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

A group of dedicated parishioners bring Communion to those who cannot worship on Sundays due to illness or advanced age. Every week, in addition to Jesus in the Eucharist, they bring kind words and prayers to those who are homebound, hospitalized or in nursing homes. *Contact: Ruth Traeger,*

320-492-4583, ruth56352@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTERS

Music ministers share their musical gifts and talents with the parish as cantors, choir members, instrumentalists, and accompanists. Their ministry calls them to lead the gathered assembly in sung worship, and to create a prayerful musical environment that allows worshippers to draw closer to God. Music ministers may serve as:

Cantors: Lead and encourage singing of the assembly; proclaim the psalms in song

Children's Choir: Open to those in third through sixth grades; typically sings once per month during school year

Parish Choir: Open to all adults; typically sings twice per month and for seasonal celebrations **Resurrection Choir:** Sings for

funerals at the request of the deceased's family

Instrumentalists: Encouraged to share their gifts and talents alone or with any of the above groups *Contact: Larry Sass, 320-256-4207, music@stmarysofmelrose.com*

SACRISTANS

Sacristans prepare and care for the various liturgical signs and symbols used during the sacraments — holy water, holy oils, incense, candles, and the gifts of bread and wine. Their ministry calls them to "prepare the feast and celebration" by seeing to the preparation and purification of Eucharistic vessels, as well as other liturgical tasks. *Contact: Pat Seanger,* 320-248-6630, pseanger@meltel.net



Building, Grounds and Maintenance

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE—APPOINTED

Members of the Building & Grounds committee oversee the upkeep and maintenance of the parish buildings and grounds. Meetings are scheduled as needed. *Contacts: Joe Roehrl*, 507-430-3229, jlroehrl@hotmail.com; Carl Worms, 320-248-5022, carl@wormsreadymix.com

CEMETERY COMMITTEE — APPOINTED

Members of the Cemetery Committee oversee the maintenance and care of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Cemeteries, manage the finances, and establish policies. Cemetery guidelines are available from the parish office. Meetings are scheduled quarterly. *Contact: Mark Mayers*, 320-248-7075

Darish Life

AFTER-MASS HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS

The Saint Mary's Parish After-Mass Hospitality Volunteers serve coffee and cookies after weekend Masses. A yearly schedule is set based on the number of times per month that hospitality will be hosted. The purpose is to foster fellowship with our community. *Contacts: Joan Loxtercamp,* 320-290-9701, jdloxy@gmail.com; Denise Kociemba, 320-249-6604, kociemba@meltel.net

ANNUAL PARISH CALENDAR RAFFLE COMMITTEE

This committee oversees the church's calendar raffle which begins at the beginning of each year and is an important part of the church's budget. The majority of their planning takes place in November and December.

Contact: Jenny Mayers, 320-248-1471, rmayers@charter.net

ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE COMMITTEE

This committee oversees the church's summer raffle which takes place as part of the Melrose Riverfest. Proceeds from this raffle are also an important part of the church's budget. *Contact: Rosie Athmann,*

320-292-0233, rathmann@meltel.net

BLESSED BAKERS

The Blessed Bakers is a group of bakers that, when called upon, are willing to bake for parish events such as After-Mass Hospitality or other occasions. Funerals are not included in this ministry. People are asked to furnish a few dozen cookies or pan of bars about three or four times a year. Together, we can make this world a little sweeter! *Contact: Carol Klaphake*, 320-256-3775, *cbklaphake@gmail.com*

CLEAN TEAM

Saint Mary's has six groups that clean our beautiful church. Each group is assigned two months out of the year to clean. Each group has a group leader and decides what day and time works best for the group. This is a meaningful opportunity to serve both God and fellow church goers.

Contact: Diane Budde, 320-429-0341, edbudde@meltel.net

FOOD SHELF MINISTRY

The Food Shelf Ministry provides food for the hungry of our community. *Contact: Denise Kociemba*, 320-249-6604, kociemba@meltel.net

FUNERAL LUNCHEON SERVERS

Men and women are needed to serve lunch for our funerals. This is a great opportunity to support our fellow parishioners in their time of need and to meet new people. *Contacts: Barb O'Brien,* 320-256-4422, obrien@meltel.net; Helen Van Drehle, 320-256-3101, dhvandrehle@meltel.net



HELPING HANDS

Saint Mary's has opportunities for people to help with maintenance of our grounds such as cutting lawn, watering trees, and outdoor lighting for Christmas. If you have time and would like to help a couple of hours, or have special talents you would like to share, we would be excited for you to join us. *Contact: Jane Salzl*, 320-256-3087,

fredsfarm@meltel.net

LEGION OF MARY

Saint Mary's Parish has an active Legion of Mary group, which is an international association of Catholic women and men. Active members make weekly visits to the sick, shut-ins and bereaved. Auxiliary members pray a Rosary and other Legion prayers daily. *Contact: Caroline Jacobs*, 320-256-3207, *caroline.jacobs71@outlook.com*

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE — APPOINTED

The mission of the Parish Life committee is to be the smiling faces and helping hands that bring people together. We will try to strengthen community a bond that connects us as the Body of Christ.

Contact: Jean Hellermann, 320-333-3486, jean@meltel.net

PRAYER LINE

The prayer line is a network of parishioners who pray for intentions requested by fellow parishioners. The prayer requests can be anything from burdens one is trying to overcome to healing of a sickness. This is an effective way to intercede for important prayer intentions. New intercessors are always welcomed. All prayer requests are kept confidential. *Contacts: Jean Ritter,* 320-256-3878; *Pat Seanger, 320-256-7353*

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

Members of this group meet weekly to engage in spiritual conversation using various resources in order to understand and deepen their faith. *Contact: Liz Pohlmann,* 518-256-5718, *lizpohlmann618@gmail.com*

ST. MARY'S CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN

St. Mary's Christian Mothers/ Women Society brings together women of the parish to share ideas on family life and spirituality and to support one another in prayer. The organization began in 1913 and meets on the third Tuesday of October, January, February and April. The Christian Mothers/ Women are involved in parish activities, such as the sixthgrade reception and sponsor gifts for the Confirmation and First Communion classes. Contact: Caroline Jacobs, 320-256-3207. caroline.jacobs71@outlook.com

ST. MARY'S MISSION SOCIETY

St. Mary's Mission Society provides an opportunity to gather for prayer as well as organize parish activities such as Spring and Fall Bingo. We sponsor a once-a-year collection and that money, along with money raised, is donated annually to mission minded endeavors, both near and far. All members of our parish are members of the Mission Society. We meet October through April in the parish conference room on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact: Jane Salzl. 320-256-3087. fredsfarm@meltel.net

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Members of this group will extend a welcoming hand of hospitality to newly registered members of our parish. This committee may expand its focus to other needs of our parishioners.

Contacts: Ralph & Linda VanBeck, 320-290-4835, lindavanbeck51@gmail.com

School

BOARD OF EDUCATION — ELECTED

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing. coordinating and operating the programs of education for St. Mary's School. It creates better understanding and support of Catholic education by determining goals for the school in cooperation with the parish personnel. Contact: Cory Ellering, 320-260-5505, coryellering@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE $- \Delta PPOINTED$

Members of the Endowment Committee oversee the St. Mary's Education Endowment Fund. Regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October.

Contact: Gary Meyer, 320-292-1574, gkmeyer5@charter.net

ST. MARY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

St. Mary School is committed to instructional excellence. The school serves students from Pre-K through sixth grade, offering basic academic programs, religious education, school liturgies and a sacraments program. In addition, the school offers computer, art, music, library and physical education classes. There are numerous opportunities for parish members to volunteer to help out at our school.

Contact: Mrs. Autumn Nelson — Principal, 320-256-4257, anelson@smsmn.org

Administrative/ Service

FINANCE COUNCIL — APPOINTED

The Finance Council assists the pastor with the responsible oversight of our parish's temporal goods. They review and approve the annual parish budget and advise the pastor in financial matters. Contact: Doug Welle, 320-290-6302. dmtwelle@meltel.net

PARISH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL — ELECTED

The Parish Leadership Council, formally the Parish Council, is the primary leadership body of the parish, working with the pastor and the Finance Council in overseeing all parish activities. Its members include the pastor, parochial vicar, trustees, seven elected parishioners and members of the Finance Council. All parish committees report to the Parish Leadership Council.

Contact: Harvey Middendorf, 320-557-5059, hlm1975@arvig.net

SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY — APPOINTED

The primary function of this group is to keep the parishioners informed of all activities and events via social media. The committee is responsible for receiving information from the various ministries and publishing it on the One in Faith social media platforms.

Contact: Denise Kociemba, 320-249-6604, kociemba@meltel.net

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE — APPOINTED

The Stewardship Committee is a group of parishioners who believe in and engage in a life of stewardship and, under the direction of the pastor, work to promote stewardship as a way of life for the parish. Committee members engage in continued education and have various responsibilities for ongoing stewardship activities. *Contact: Terri Ellering,* 320-293-6246, tcring99@gmail.com



Formation

BAPTISM PREPARATION MINISTRY

A dedicated group of deacons prepare parents and godparents to understand and appreciate the responsibilities that come with the Sacrament of Baptism. They stress the duty of the parents in the ongoing faith formation of the child. *Contacts: Deacon Ernie Kociemba, 320-248-5124, kociemba@meltel.net; Deacon Jesús Hernandez, 320-267-6028; Deacon Jorge Carillo, 320-339-3372*

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

The family faith formation program for our four-parish cluster (St. Andrew's. St. John's, St. Michael's, and Saint Mary's) is for students in 1st through 11th grades and their parents/ guardians. Most faith formation sessions (including Confirmation classes) take place on Wednesday evenings, with the exception of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist classes, which are on Saturday mornings. There are many ways to help with the Faith Formation ministry! Teachers and teachers' helpers are always welcome, at any age level, either for one particular night/topic, or for a whole school year. We also appreciate help with onceper-year faith formation liturgies (like the All Saints/All Souls liturgy or Stations of the Cross) and various service projects (like roadside clean-up and Food Shelf collections). Lastly, parishioners can help with providing food/ snacks for the faith formation students, especially those who need to come straight from their after-school activities to Wednesday night faith formation. Contacts: Rita Meyer – Faith Formation Administrative Assistant, faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com; Juliann Heller – Interim Director of Faith Formation. faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or text on the Remind App.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRY

Couples planning to celebrate marriage enter into a time of

marriage preparation 12 months after setting a wedding date. Sponsor couples are trained to help engaged couples in the marriage preparation process using the Fully Engaged curriculum to evaluate their relationship and preparations for marriage.

Contacts: Deacon Ernie Kociemba, 320-248-5124, kociemba@meltel.net Deacon Jesús Hernandez, 320-267-6028; Deacon Jorge Carillo, 320-339-3372

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the educational process whereby adults who wish to become Catholic learn about the faith, build their relationships with God, and prepare to enter the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil Mass. Catholics who simply want to learn more about the Catholic faith are welcome to attend. We are in need of catechists, helpers and sponsors to facilitate conversation in the RCIA candidates' preparation.

Contacts: Deacon Ernie Kociemba, 320-248-5124, kociemba@meltel.net Deacon Jesús Hernandez, 320-267-6028; Deacon Jorge Carillo, 320-339-3372

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

The Social Concerns Ministry strives to assist the parish community to understand and act on Catholic Social Teaching. This is achieved by identifying, supporting and training leaders who will organize people and activities around four specific complementary ministries: direct service, legislative advocacy, global solidarity, and community organizing. Concerned volunteers with various skills are always welcomed.

Contacts: Deacon Ernie Kociemba, 320-248-5124, kociemba@meltel.net; Deacon Jesús Hernandez, 320-267-6028; Deacon Jorge Carillo, 320-339-3372

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry provides a fun and positive environment for youth in grades 7-12 to grow in their faith through worship, fellowship and service projects.

Contact: Cindy Hemmesch, 320-293-4670, carcenea@live.com



"The day before he suffered, he took bread in his sacred hands and looking up to heaven, to you, his almighty Father, he gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body, which will be given up for you."

— Eucharistic Prayer I

Please keep until Fall 2024



In the end, stewardship is about following Jesus, not just with our hearts and minds, but with concrete actions. Yet, it's difficult to give God any percentage of our time, talent, or treasure if we do not first give Him 100 percent of our hearts. For this reason, our Stewardship Renewal is a time for *conversion* above all else. It is a time to make God our top priority, and then express this conversion through written commitments.



Please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on **October 28/29**, mail it using the envelope provided, or fill it out online: www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys. Completing your card is an important part of being an active member of Saint Mary.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

755 Kraft Drive SE | Melrose, MN 56352 (320) 256-4207 | www.oneinfaith.org/stmarys