ST. MARY PARISH

2020 GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

ST. MARY PARISH

1453 Old Shell Road, Mobile, AL 36604
(251) 432-8678 ~ Fax: (251) 432-1009
www.StMaryMobile.org

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate 150 Years of service to our parishioners and our community, we are thankful for you and your commitment to St. Mary Parish.

I hope you will enjoy our new directory with a listing of all registered parish families so that we may be further brought together in our faith and ministry. We are pleased to be able to offer both a print and an online directory, available through our website at www.stmarymobile.org.

Please note the listing of all of the parish committees of the Parish under the direction of the Parish Council. The committees include: Religious Education and Evangelization Committee; Family Life Committee; Spiritual Life and Liturgical Committee; Social Activities Committee; Community Outreach Committee; Building and Grounds Committee; Youth and Young Adults Committee; Development Committee; and the largest ministry educating our youth, St. Mary Catholic School. Underneath those committees are various sub-committees with opportunities for volunteerism both within our parish and in our greater community.

Also, please note the many advertisers who made this directory possible. Because of their generosity, this directory comes at no cost to the parish. Please remember them when you are in need of services or products that may be offered through them.

Thank you for your involvement and your continued dedication to St. Mary Parish. In existence since 1867, our parish strives to accomplish our parish mission:

"We, the people of St. Mary Parish, responding to God's call, come together to live a Catholic Christian Life. We invite others to welcome Christ into their lives and strive to build the kingdom of God. We seek to provide an environment for faith-filled worship, ongoing education, and dedicated service to each other and the community."

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. G. Warren Wall

Rev. Msgr. G. Warren Wall
Pastor

St. Mary Parish

Masses at St. Mary Catholic Church:
Saturdays: 7 A.M. & 5 P.M. (Vigil)
Sundays: 6, 9 & 11:30 A.M. and 6 P.M.
Mondays through Thursdays: 6 A.M. & 7:25 A.M.
Fridays: 6 & 7:25 A.M.; 8:10 A.M. Student Mass (School year only)
Holy Days: TBA

Morning Prayers: 15 minutes before Daily Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4 P.M. to 4:50 P.M. or by appointment.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: During the 9 A.M. Mass on Sundays, following the school calendar, children are invited to hear and respond to the Gospel story in their own words.

Eucharistic Adoration: Fridays only: 24 hours, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary Chapel

Religious Education:
CCD, Sundays 10:15 to 11:15 A.M., School Building
RCIA, Thursdays 7 P.M., SOM

Sacramental Preparation:
CCD: 10:15 A.M. Sundays, September through May, School Building
RCIA: Thursdays at 7 P.M., September through Easter, SOM
Baptismal Classes: by appointment
Marriage Preparation: by appointment
Confirmation Classes: TBA

General Information

Pastor .....Rev. Msgr. G. Warren Wall
sandiclark@aol.com
Parochial Vicar ..... Rev. Cecil Spotswood
Deacon .....Rev. Mr. Ernest Johnson
St. Mary Catholic School Principal ..... Debbie Ollis
dollis@stmarymobile.org
St. Mary Mom's Day Out Director ..... Alex Stroecker
momsdayout@stmarymobile.org
astroecker@stmarymobile.org

Church Office
Hours: 8 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. M-F
Phone: (251) 432-8678
Fax: (251) 432-1009
Mailing address: 106 Providence Street, Mobile, AL 36604
Email: lwallace@stmarymobile.org
Website: www.StMaryMobile.org

***St. Mary Catholic School Office* (PreK3 – 8th grade)**

Hours: 7 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Phone: (251) 433-9904
Fax: (251) 438-9069
Mailing address: 107 N. Lafayette Street, Mobile, AL 36604
Email: dollis@stmarymobile.org

St. Mary Mom's Day Out and Early Child Care

Phone: (251) 432-8678, ext. 6
Email: astroeker@stmarymobile.org
Fax: (251) 432-1009
Mailing address: 1413 Old Shell Road, Mobile AL 36604
Website: www.StMaryMobile.org

St. Mary Parish Standing Meetings and Programs

SUNDAY

Sunday Coffee: following 9 A.M. Mass, First Sunday, SOM
CCD Classes: Each Sunday 10:15 A.M., School Building
Altar Sodality: Fourth Sunday of the month
(meetings are after 9 A.M. Mass in September, November, January, March, & May is Sodality Breakfast), SOM
Cub Pack Meeting: 4:30 to 5:30 P.M., SOM
Edge: Each Sunday, 4 to 5:30 P.M., SOM
Life Teen: Each Sunday, 7 to 8:30 P.M., Seton Center/SOM (Dinner)

MONDAY

Bible Study: Seasonal
St. Vincent De Paul: Second and Fourth Monday at 5 P.M., SOM

TUESDAY

Marriage Night: 6 to 8 P.M. Every other month during school year.
Men's Prayer Group: 6:30 A.M. weekly in St. Mary Rectory
Rosary: 1 P.M. weekly in St. Mary Chapel
Den Scouts Meeting: 4 P.M. First and Third Sunday of the Month, SOM

WEDNESDAY

Parish Council: Second Wednesday at 6 P.M., SOM
School Advisory: Third Wednesday at 5:30 P.M., School Library
Canticle Choir Practice: Each Wednesday at 7 P.M., Church
Bear Den Scouts: 2:45 P.M., Fourth Wednesday, SOM
Adult Choir practice (Richard Courtney) each Wednesday 5:30 P.M., SOM

THURSDAY

Finance Council: Third Thursday, 6:30 A.M., Rectory
RCIA Classes: Each Thursday at 7 P.M. (September to Easter), SOM
Knights of Columbus: Second Thursday at 6 P.M., SOM

*SOM=Sisters of Mercy Building

St. Mary Parish

St. Mary Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Mary Parish, responding to God's call, come together to live a Catholic Christian life. We invite others to welcome Christ into their lives and strive to build the kingdom of God. We seek to provide an environment for faith-filled worship, ongoing education, and dedicated service to each other and the community.

Ministries/Committees

Spiritual Life and Liturgical
Family Life
Religious Education and Evangelization
Buildings and Grounds
Youth and Young Adults
Stewardship
Social
Community Outreach
Knights of Columbus
Development
St. Mary Catholic School

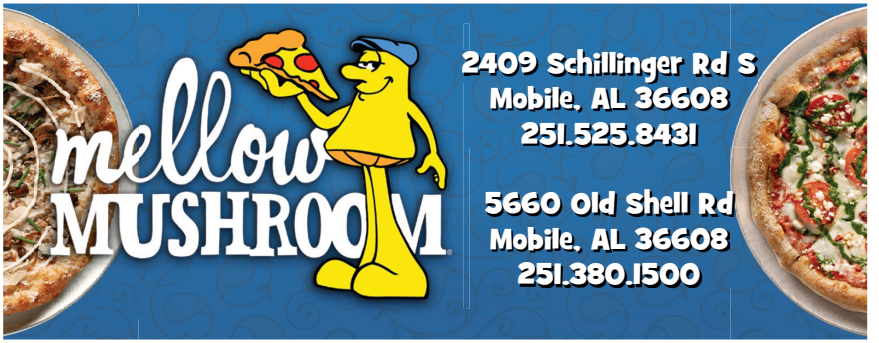
(Descriptions of each committee and the subcommittees that fall underneath each category with contacts for each are described in the following pages of this directory)

St. Mary Catholic School~ PreK-3 through grade 8

St. Mary Catholic School founded in 1867, is the oldest existing elementary school in Alabama. As the largest educational ministry of St. Mary Parish, the school partners with parents, focusing on development of the whole child. St. Mary Catholic School provides an environment where Jesus' message of love meets the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional needs of our children. This mission is manifested through MARY-Moral, Accomplished, Responsible, and a Yearning to Learn.

St. Mary Catholic Preschool serves 3 – 4-year olds with both half and full day options. The focus of our preschool curriculum is to prepare children socially, emotionally and academically for the many challenges that elementary school brings.

St. Mary Catholic School strives to be attuned to the needs of both students and parents. To this end, St. Mary offers before and after school care and provides a full-service cafeteria. St. Mary Catholic School makes no discrimination on the basis of religion, race, or national origin. St. Mary considers all non-parish and non-Catholic students on a space available basis. Priority of admission is St. Mary current student siblings, St. Mary Parishioners, Catholics, then non-Catholics. Screening interviews may be administered to new students. Contact Debbie Ollis, Principal at dollis@stmarymobile.org or (251) 433-9904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St. Mary Mom's Day Out and Early Child Care Program:
St. Mary's Mom's Day Out is a ministry of St. Mary Church. We are dedicated to early child care and development with the mission of providing a nurturing environment that meets the needs of our children. We believe that it is a blessing to care for the youngest children in our area and parish. We provide care for children ages 6 weeks – 36 months. We have 2 programs – Monday-Friday 8 A.M.-12 P.M. or 8 A.M.-4 P.M. Early Care and Extended Care options are also available.
Contact Alex Stroecker, MDO Director at (251) 432-8678, ext. 1

Youth Religious Education (CCD):
Program required for all Catholic students in grades K-8 not attending Catholic School. Recruits and trains teachers, develops curriculum, selects textbooks and teaching aids for programs for K-12th grade parishioners not attending a Catholic School. These children, along with their parents, are also prepared to receive the appropriate sacraments. Catechists are needed to prepare the children for receiving sacraments and for instruction on the Catholic faith. Each Sunday at 10:15 A.M. For more information, contact Steve Dolan, CCD Coordinator Parish Catechetical Director at sdolan@stmarymobile.org or (251) 432-8678, ext. 1

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):
Provides religious instruction for adults wishing to learn more about the Catholic Church and/or to be accepted into the Church as new members. All parishioners are invited to attend. Held each Thursday evening at 7 P.M. from September through Easter. For more information, contact Father Wall at (251) 432-8678, ext. 1

Youth Ministry/Confirmation Preparation
Edge: Provides opportunities for social and spiritual activities for parishioners in grades 6 through 8. Meets each Sunday from 4 to 5:30 P.M. in the school gym. Contact Melanie Karolenko

Life Teen: Provides opportunities for spiritual activities for parishioners in grades 9 through 12. Meets each Sunday from 7 to 8:30 P.M. in the Seton Center. Confirmation classes for juniors in high school are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 P.M. in the Seton Center. For more information on all youth ministry programs, contact Drew Donovan, Youth Ministry Director at ddonovan@stmarymobile.org or (251) 432-8678, ext. 7

CYO Sports Program

Youth sports program for all St. Mary parishioners and St. Mary Catholic School students in grades 2 through 8. Recruits and organizes players and coaches for teams of football, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, cross country and basketball.

Students in 7th and 8th grade may also try out for McGill-Toolen sports teams including golf, tennis, track, baseball, basketball and volleyball, soccer, swimming, track and cross-country. Registration takes place in summer and fall with dates TBA. Fees are associated with each sport. For more information contact Emili Hansen at emilihansen@robertsbrothers.com or (251) 648-6488

Facility Rental

Our buildings, including St. Mary Catholic Church and the Sisters of Mercy Building are available for weddings, after rehearsal dinners, bridal showers, baby showers, anniversary parties, birthday parties, retirement parties, pre-wedding gatherings, meetings and more! For more information on rates and availability, contact Laurel Wallace at lwallace@stmarymobile.org, (251) 432-8678, ext. 4 or visit us online at www.StMaryMobile.org

Communications

Sunday Bulletin Submission Deadline:

Noon Fridays prior to subsequent weekend (one week before publication) Submit to Emily Montague at emontague@stmarymobile.org

Weekly E-newsletter: If you would like to sign up for weekly email newsletters from St. Mary Parish, please email mrnaman@stmarymobile.org

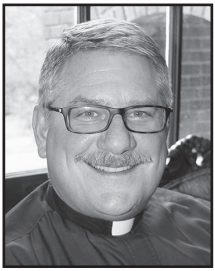
Website Resources: Visit our website at www.StMaryMobile.org for more information on St. Mary Parish and St. Mary Catholic School. Forms are available for online giving, volunteering, parish registration, facility rental and more.

Through our website you can also: Like Us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter!

St. Mary Parish Staff

Pastoral Staff

Msgr. G. Warren Wall
Pastor
sandiclark@aol.com
(251) 432-8678, ext. 1



Rev. Cecil Spotswood
Parochial Vicar/Associate Pastor
(251) 432-8678, ext. 2

Deacon Ernest Johnson
Permanent Deacon
(251) 432-8678, ext. 1

Mark Thompson
Deacon Training Program
mthompson@atn.org

Religious Education Staff

Drew Donovan
Youth Ministry Director
ddonovan@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 7

Steve Dolan
CCD Coord. Parish Catechetical Director
sdolan@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 1

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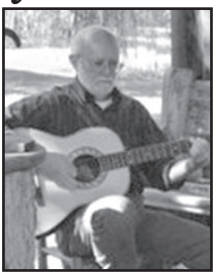
Music Ministry

Richard Courtney
Organist/Music Coordinator
Sunday 9 A.M., Saturday 5 P.M.
(251) 432-8678, ext. 1



Allen Reimer
Director of Canticle Music Ministry,
(251) 660-0010

Mary Catherine Sylvester
Music Ministry
Sunday 6 P.M.
marycsylvester@gmail.com
(251) 432-8678 ext. 1

Suzanne Pardue
Music Coordinator
Email: suzannepardue@hotmail.com
(251) 432-8678, ext. 1

Administrative Staff

Sandi Clark
Parish Office Administrator
Email: sandiclark@aol.com
(251) 432-8678, ext. 1

Mildred Grove Dixon
Volunteer Coordinator
Email: mdixon@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 5

Emily Montague
Parish Bulletin
emontague@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 3

Marcelle Rathle Naman
Director of Development
mrnaman@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 3

Alli Donovan
Wedding Coordinator
adonovan@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 4

Laurel Wallace
Pastoral Assistant
lwallace@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 4

Anna Summersell
Accounts Receivable
asummersell@stmarymoblie.org
(251) 432-8678

Lynn Anderson
Accounts Payable
landerson@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678

Administrative Staff

Kim Husting
Development Assistant
khusting@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678

Maintenance

Maintenance
David Delmas
Maintenance Coordinator
ddelmas@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678

Youth Sacristans

Christopher Bryan

Caleb Thompson

Sarah Wallace

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St. Mary Parish Mom's Day Out and Early Child Care Center Administrative Staff

Alex Stroeker
MDO and Early Child Care Director
astroecker@stmarymobile.org
(251) 432-8678, ext. 6

St. Mary Catholic School Administration

Debbie Ollis
St. Mary School Principal
dollis@stmarymobile.org
(251) 433-9904

Jennifer Heisler
St. Mary School Assist. Principal
jheisler@stmarymobile.org
(251) 433-9904

Parish Leadership

For a complete listing of the Parish Council,

St. Mary Catholic School Advisory Committee and the St. Mary Parish Finance Council, please visit our website at www.StMaryMobile.org

St. Mary Parish Ministries, Committees, and Volunteer Opportunities

Please see the following listing of volunteer opportunities for St. Mary Parish with a complete description of each committee and sub-committee on the following pages. All volunteer committees report to the Parish Council nominated and elected by the parish each spring.

For questions, please contact St. Mary Parish Volunteer Coordinator: Millie Dixon, 432-8678, ext. 5 or mdixon@stmarymobile.org. Volunteers can contact the parish office or sign up to volunteer online at www.StMaryMobile.org.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

- Gardening Committee
- Maintenance Committee
- Master Plan Committee

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- Angel Tree Committee
- Our Sister's Closet
- Respect Life Committee
- St. Vincent De Paul

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Alumni Relations
- Annual Fund Drive
- Parish Archives/Museum Committee
- Publications
- Recruitment/Membership
- Special Events
- Stewardship/Strategic Planning

FAMILY LIFE

- Bereavement Committee
- Just Fun Club
- Knights of Columbus
- Crawfish & Bluegrass Extravaganza
- Steve Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament
- Women of St. Mary
- Marriage Night
- Mom's Day Out
- Vino and Values

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- Lighting Up Midtown Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
- Parish Picnic/Potluck
- Parish Socials Committee
- Sunday Coffee and Doughnuts
- Trunk or Treat

SPIRITUAL LIFE & LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

- Adult Choir
- Altar Servers
- Altar Sodality
- Bible Studies
- Canticle Choir
- Children's Liturgy
- Eucharistic Adoration Chapel
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Gift Bearers
- Lectors
- Prayer Groups
- Rosary Group
- Sunday Evening Life Teen Music Group
- Ushers/Greeters

ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Advisory Board
Casino Night
Fall Festival
Field Trips
PTO

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Adult Enrichment Program/Faith Formation
Lent and Advent Programs
Parish Missions
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Sacramental Preparation Programs
Youth Religious Education (CCD)
Vacation Bible School

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS COMMITTEE

Booster Club (CYO Sports Program)
Edge
Life Teen
Scouts
Young Adults

Below is a listing describing all current committees and sub-committees of the Parish. All volunteer committees report to the Parish Council. Parish Council elections are held each spring. Nominations are made available to all parishioners. If you would like to volunteer for a committee or position, please contact Millie Dixon at (251) 432-8678 ext. 5 or mdixon@stmarymobile.org

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Evaluates and makes arrangements for general facility upkeep and repairs of the campus buildings and grounds to include works of gardening, electrical, carpentry, plumbing, roofing, painting, etc. This committee oversees all parish maintenance personnel and coordinates bidding with outside contractors if needed.

Sub-Committees include:

Gardening Committee: Maintenance of parish grounds and outdoor shrine to include seasonal planting and spruce-up.

Maintenance Committee: Evaluates and makes arrangements for general facility upkeep and repairs of the campus buildings and grounds to include works of electrical, carpentry, plumbing, roofing, painting, etc. This committee oversees all parish maintenance personnel and coordinates bidding with outside contractors if needed.

Master Plan Committee for Buildings and Grounds: Committee seeking opportunities for adjoining properties for sale, and future building and renovation projects to meet the growing needs of St. Mary Parish.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Provides outreach into the parish and local community serving the poor, sick, elderly, and homebound.

Sub-committees include:

Angel Tree Committee: Works with Catholic Social Services to coordinate Angel Tree and gift drop-off and delivery during Christmas (in conjunction with a parish Christmas Breakfast with Santa).

Our Sister's Closet: Located off campus at Dumas Wesley. Provides professional clothing and programs in professional development to low-income, homeless and abused women to increase their employment potential and contribute to their economic independence. Clothing is also provided to sheltered women needing clothing for domestic court. The closet provides service at no charge by referral only. Volunteers are needed to donate clothing, to help price and sort clothing for sales and to help with Annual Purse With Purpose fundraising event. Contact Terri Kearns, Director at (251) 423-2001

Respect Life Committee: Organizes pro-life activities within the parish and promotes right-to-life issues.

St. Vincent De Paul: Assists parishioners and members of our community in spiritual and financial need.

DEVELOPMENT

Serving the church and the school, this office oversees communication, public relations, strategic planning, special events, fundraising and recruitment. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Alumni Relations: Volunteers needed to plan annual alumni reception and other events throughout the year, form an alumni association, and invite alumni to be involved in St. Mary School.

Annual Fund Drive: This annual appeal for St. Mary Catholic School invites donations for improvements in school programs, facilities, and endowment growth. Volunteers are needed to chair the different divisions including major gifts, parents, alumni, grandparents, businesses, parents of alumni, leadership, and friends. The appeal begins each fall and ends on June 30th.

Parish Archives/Museum Committee: Volunteers are needed for establishing a permanent archives collection. With a rich history beginning in 1867, there are several photographs, documents, and artifacts in need of preservation. Involves research, cataloguing, and organizing.

Publications: Publications include the parish annual report, The Onlooker parish newsletter, school and church brochures, ads, and other various publications throughout the year. Experience in graphic design is needed in this area.

Recruitment/Membership: Events for both the church and school for the recruitment of potential families. Year-round volunteers needed as parent ambassadors. Volunteers are also needed to establish a welcoming committee for new parishioners.

Special Events: All special events with the purpose of recruitment, publicity, and fundraising.

Stewardship/Strategic Planning: This commission coordinates parish stewardship activities to promote the annual parish tithing drive and the annual time and talent appeal. Parish tithing serves as the operational income for the parish. Volunteers are needed for talent recruitment and follow-up, as speakers for stewardship appeals, and as committee members for the annual parish census and stewardship drive held in October and November.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

This committee offers educational, spiritual and social programs for all members of the family and at different stages in life. Includes married couples with or without children, single adults, divorced, widowed, elderly and the bereaved.

Sub-committees include:

Bereavement Committee: Committee which provides meals to families who have suffered the loss of a family member.

50 Plus Club: For parishioners age 50 and above. The goal is to encourage parishioners in this age group to make a united effort to participate in social and spiritual activities

Knights of Columbus: Men's service group composed of parishioners who plan service projects and fundraisers to benefit the church, the school, and community organizations. The Knights of Columbus is a worldwide organization of Catholic men who are dedicated to serving others, promoting vocations, and spiritual growth. This group sponsors two fundraising events each year to include *The Crawfish and Bluegrass Extravaganza in April and *The Steve Thompson Memorial Golf Tournament in the fall.

Women of St. Mary

*Circle Sign Up

The Women of St. Mary provides opportunities for prayer- service – support- guidance-friendship and social activities for all women. The smaller circles unite ladies with common interest. We are all Catholic women who have joined together for the good of our families, striving every day to be the best mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, grandmothers and aunts. With the help of our Mother Mary in heaven, we strive every day to lead our families and all of those influenced by us to heaven. By joining together, we can gain from our relationships with each other. We will learn, support, guide, pray and share with each other, which will make us better women for our community and family! Woman of all ages will find a core group to feel a part of and draw support, knowledge and friendship. In the end, bonding our parish community together as we build up the body of Christ in our troubled world.

Coordinator: Jennifer Martorana

jenmartorana@hotmail.com 334-430-3137

Sign up for circles or create your own through our website at www.StMaryMobile.org

***Moms of Littles Circle**

The circle meets bi monthly usually during the evening or on the weekend. Meetings are comprised of a variety of gatherings for Moms and their little ones, including, play dates, group activities and meet ups.

***Moms of High School Age Children Circle**

***Hospitality Circle**

Our goal is to continue the "welcoming" process of parishioners, new and old. Mentoring new families- bringing dinner to those who have had a baby, sickness or death. Visit new parishioners, assist and support parish as needed.

***The Jewels Circle**

For Seniors, offers spiritual and social activities including opportunities for spiritual growth and charity, cooking, gardening, crafts, fitness, Bunco, outings etc. Minimal costs for some activities. Form lasting friendships.

***Wine and Dinner Circle**

Meets monthly for dinner, drinks and great conversation. One member "hosts the month," they can either pick a restaurant, make the reservations and communicate to the circle, or they can choose to host at their home and all bring an item to share.

***Friday Morning Rosary**

This circle usually meets on Friday mornings following the school Mass.

***Walking with Purpose Circle**
Catholic Bible study program that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We offer personal study and small group discussion that link our everyday challenges and struggles with the solutions given. Times and location TBD.

***OUTREACH Circle for Community/Parish/Environment/School**
This circle could organize community service outside or inside the parish…examples are but not limited to-hosting a work day at the Carmelite monastery to assisting the parish events when needed or volunteering at LSOP.

***Young Adult Circle**

***Teacher Circle**
This circle meets once a month in the evening or on the weekend. Activities will include, but not limited to sharing best practices, tips, technology and possibly a book study of group choice.

***Book Club Circle**
Meets 3rd Tuesday. Women of all ages, meets to read and discuss books to delve deeper into our Catholic faith and to help us find out what it means to be and to grow as a Catholic woman. Biographies, autobiographies, theology and faith based, all Catholic centered.

***Rosary Walk**
This circle will meet in the afternoons for walks while reciting the rosary.

***Altar/Church Helping Hands**
This circle will assist the Altar Solidarity with projects as needed for the upkeep of the church. Decorating the church for Easter and Christmas especially is when they need extra hands!

Marriage Night: Monthly social event for married couples including a speaker and dinner. Reservations required.

Mom's Day Out: Located in the Seton Center, this program is for children up to the age of 3. The traditional Mom's Day Out is from 8 A.M.-12 P.M. and an aftercare program runs from 12 P.M.-4 P.M. St. Mary's Mom's Day Out also offers an early drop off starting at 7:15 A.M. and a late pick up ending at 5:30 P.M.

Vino and Values: A fun evening held in November for women of all ages offering a motivational and usually nationally recognized speaker, wine and heavy appetizers, door prizes and more.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Provides social opportunities throughout the year for parishioners of all ages.

Sub-committees include:

Lighting Up Midtown Annual Christmas Tree Lighting: Community event held each December on or around the Feast of The Immaculate Conception. Includes food trucks, snow machine, hot chocolate, Santa's mailbox, and more. Tree Lighting assistance provided by the Lafayette Street Fire Station Team. Follows annual Christmas performance by the school children.

Parish Picnic/Parish Potluck: Social event following Mass involving games, covered dish dinner, and entertainment for parishioners of all ages.

Parish Socials Committee: Plans events that will enhance social involvement of all parishioners (special events to include St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Thanksgiving Feast, Wine and Cheese Socials, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.).

Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat: Fun and safe trick or treating event for children held in the St. Mary Catholic School parking lot on weekday before Halloween. Parents reserve a spot for their car, decorate their trunks, and pass out treats to trick or treaters. Fun for the entire family!

Sunday Coffee and Doughnuts: Volunteers needed to organize weekly coffee and doughnut socials following the weekend Masses.

SPIRITUAL LIFE & LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

Coordinates the participation of parishioners in parish liturgical activities.

Sub-Committees include:

Adult Choir: Voices needed to sing in the choir at weekly A.M. Sunday Masses and special services throughout the year. Cantors needed for 5 P.M. Saturday Vigil Masses.

Altar Servers: Children in grades four and above needed to assist the priests with all Masses. Training provided.

Altar Sodality: Prepares church sanctuary for liturgies and oversees cleaning and decoration of church for Christmas and Easter. Meets fourth Sunday of the month following 9 A.M. Mass, September through May.

Bible Studies, Rosary, and Prayer Groups: Includes Scripture Studies, Grandmothers Prayer Team, Men's Prayer Group, Rosary Group, Young Mother's Prayer Group, etc.

Canticle Choir: Musicians and voices needed for weekly 11:30 A.M. Masses and special services throughout the year.

Children's Liturgy: Held each Sunday during the 9 A.M. Mass during the liturgy readings and homily. The children, ages 4-8, are led to the Chapel to listen to the readings in a more understandable way. Volunteers read to the children and afterward help them do an activity related to the reading.

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel: Volunteers are needed to commit to spending one hour or more with the Lord on Fridays with the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to visit and pray whether being able to commit weekly or not.

Eucharistic Ministers: Appointed by the Pastor and approved by the Archbishop, these lay ministers assist the priests at Mass with the distribution of Communion.

Gift Bearers: Volunteers/families needed to serve as and schedule parishioners to present the gifts at the weekly Masses

Lectors: Volunteers to read the daily readings at all Masses.

Sunday Evening Life Teen Music Group: Musicians and voices needed for weekly 6 P.M. Sunday Mass and special services throughout the year.

Ushers/Greeters: Volunteers needed to greet attendants as they come in Mass, assist with collections at Mass, seat parishioners, and hand out bulletins as attendants leave Mass.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Mary School, the largest educational ministry of the parish, educates elementary school aged children, in grades preschool (K3 & K4) through eighth. Volunteers are needed for School Board, the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), tutors, substitute teachers, parent ambassadors, and assistance with events and programs throughout the year. Parishioners are encouraged to become active with the school.

St. Mary Catholic School Advisory Board: Elected members advisory to the Principal of St. Mary Catholic School concerning current and long-range needs for St. Mary Catholic School. Elections are held each year for a three-year term.

Casino Night: This annual fundraising event for St. Mary Catholic School boasts a silent and live auction, entertainment, food, and cash door prizes. Volunteers are needed in all areas of the event. This adult event takes place on the first Saturday in May each year.

Fall Festival and Truck or Treat: Event featuring games, family fun run, food booths, and more. Held in November.

Field Trips: Drivers needed to transport children to field trips. Must be certified through Archdiocesan Child Protection Program and have proper insurance.

PTO: St. Mary's Parent Teacher Organization~exists to provide service to the school. The PTO helps with school receptions, open house, social events, fundraisers and more. Membership is open to all parents and legal guardians of students attending St. Mary School.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Coordinates parish efforts to develop and implement religious education programs for all ages.

Sub-committees include:

Adult Enrichment Program/Faith Formation: Personal enrichment programs for educational, mental, and physical enrichment. Develops religious education programs for adult parishioners.

Lent and Advent Programs: Educational and faith enrichment programs for adults, children, and families during these church liturgical seasons.

Parish Missions: Parish event held usually during Lent to include a guest speaker and a week of liturgical, educational, and social activities surrounding a theme.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Provides religious instruction for adults wishing to learn more about the Catholic Church and/or to be accepted into the Church as new members. All parishioners are invited to attend. Held each Thursday evening at 7 P.M. from September through Easter.

Sacramental Preparation Programs: Preparation classes for baptism, first reconciliation, first communion, confirmation and marriage.

Youth Religious Education (CCD): Program required for all Catholic students in grades K-8 not attending Catholic School. Recruits and trains teachers, develops curriculum, selects textbooks and teaching aids for programs for K-12th grade parishioners not attending a Catholic School. These children, along with their parents, are also prepared to receive the appropriate sacraments. Catechists are needed to prepare the children for receiving sacraments and for instruction on the Catholic faith. Each Sunday at 10:15 A.M.

Vacation Bible School: Provides spiritual and social opportunities for the parish children for one week during summer vacation. Instructors needed for art, religion, music, and other activities.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS COMMITTEE

Organizes and directs social and spiritual programs for the youth of St. Mary Parish.

Sub-Committees include:

Booster Club (CYO Sports Program): Youth sports program for all St. Mary parishioners and St. Mary Catholic School students in grades 2 through 8. Recruits and organizes players and coaches for teams of football, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, cross country and basketball.

Students in 7th and 8th grade may also try out for McGill-Toolen sports teams including golf, tennis, track, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, swimming, track and cross-country. Registration takes place in summer and fall with dates TBA. Fees are associated with each sport.

Edge: Provides opportunities for social and spiritual activities for parishioners in grades 6 through 8. Meets each Sunday.

Life Teen: Provides opportunities for spiritual activities for parishioners in grades 9 through 12. Meets each Sunday.

Scouts: Provides opportunities for parish youth to participate in boy and girl scout troops, promoting personal development, teamwork, leadership, and socialization. Scout leaders needed. Meeting times vary for each group.

Young Adults: Group for high school graduates and above providing social and faith enrichment opportunities.

History of St. Mary Catholic Church

In March, 1867, as Mobile was recovering from the Civil War, Bishop John Quinlan recognized the need for a parish in the "outlying western section of Mobile." He appointed the Father David O'Meara (1867-1877) to establish the parish. Initially, the infirmary of the Old Catholic Boys' Home on Lafayette Street was used as a chapel. The original white frame St. Mary's Church, on land donated on the corner of Lafayette Street and Spring Hill Shell Road, was dedicated on November 29, 1868.

In 1871, a parish school was begun, staffed by volunteer lay teachers until the Sisters of Mercy arrived from Ireland. The hall at the rear of the sacristy was converted into two classrooms. Seven pupils enrolled in the first class: five Zimlichs and two Keegans. The school continued to grow. By 1910, the brick school and convent were built at a cost of $20,000.

One poem of Father Abram Ryan, the famous poet-priest, and St. Mary's pastor (1877-1882) was a tribute to St. Mary's. Father Thomas Eaton (1907-1929) oversaw many changes and tremendous growth. In 1914, St. Catherine of Siena Church in Crichton was formed in west Mobile from St. Mary's territory. In 1920, another portion of St. Mary's became St. Joan of Arc Parish.

Construction of the present church began in 1926 with John J. Carey as supervising architect. St. Mary's Church was dedicated on February 5, 1928. The old church was converted to a parish hall.

Msgr. John O'Donoghue (1929-1962) paid off the construction debt in 1945. On May 4, 1948, ground was broken for the present fourteen classroom – gymnasium school building. The building, costing $250,000, was dedicated in 1949.

Msgr. Thomas Cullen (1962-1972) renovated the sanctuary after Vatican Council II. He was succeeded by Msgr. Daniel Harnett (1972-1982), Father John Aherne (1982-1993) and Msgr. Kenneth Klepac (1993-1997). Msgr. Klepac established the first development program for a parish in the Archdiocese of Mobile to unite the church and school as a parish and to involve people in the mission and vision of the parish's future.

During the pastorate of Msgr. Peter Cunningham (1999-2011), St. Mary Parish launched in 2000. The "Celebrating the Past....Building the Future" Campaign raising $1.4 million for renovations including: St. Mary's historic church organ and choir loft, a completely upgraded electrical system and improved lighting, and a new church roof. St. Mary Catholic School gained a new state of the art science lab, a completely renovated kitchen with new equipment, and a new administrative suite and reception area. The shining glory of the capital campaign was the restoration of the Sisters of Mercy 1909 Building.

The building was in great disrepair as its use dwindled after the new school was built in 1949. The campaign allowed for the bottom floor to become the new preschool for three- and four-year-old students. The second floor was renovated to include three glorious reception rooms and administrative offices for the parish. The renovated buildings were blessed by Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb on November 16, 2003.

As the parish continued to grow, so did St. Mary Catholic School as it moved quickly from one classroom per grade to two. The parish realized it faced a pivotal point in its history. Without additional classrooms, families would be turned away. With great leadership by the parish council, the school board, and a development advisory board, the parish decided to renovate the top floor of the Sisters of Mercy Building as the new home for St. Mary's Middle School.

The renovations, completed in 2006, brought the school back full circle to its glory days. Currently, St. Mary Catholic School has an enrollment of more than 500 students from three-year-old preschool through eighth grade.

In the fall of 2009, St. Mary Parish launched the "Our Faith, Our Hope, Our Future" Capital Campaign. This campaign, with a goal of $1.8 million, will provide funds to restore our historic church including restoration of the precious stained-glass windows, kneelers and church ceiling, and the installation of a new sound, HVAC and fire alarm system. The campaign will also pay down the $700,000 debt incurred in campus improvements to the school buildings. The campaign officially closed in 2015.

In February, 2011, Msgr. G. Warren Wall was named St. Mary's pastor. Msgr. Wall continued the projects of the campaign. The Church Bell Tower and Cross were added as projects to the church restorations. The completion of the projects for the church taken place in Fall of 2014 with a dedication of the restored church taken place on December 7, 2014.