



The goal of the Parish is to become a holy people, and Stewardship is the way of Christ. It is a *way of life*, not a program. When we enter into a relationship with God, *we feel like we belong*. When people want to get close to God, they want to get close to each other. Belongingness leads to ownership which leads us to responsibility. When the responsibility of each parishioner grows, a “new” parish emerges. Stewardship is the GRATEFUL RESPONSE of a Christian DISCIPLE who RECOGNIZES and RECEIVES God’s gifts and SHARES these gifts in love of God and neighbor.

The most important gift we can receive is our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the best gift because we would not get to heaven without Him. We can never thank Christ enough for coming among us. This is the basis for a stewardship way of life:

- God has already done it.
- All that we’re doing is thanking Him.
- We are servants. Christ was a servant, too.
- We need to pray for one another and help bring others to Christ.
- Stewardship gives us opportunities to do things for one another.

This year’s Stewardship Renewal theme, *All Are Welcome*, focuses on an important aspect of stewardship: HOSPITALITY. By welcoming each other, both people we know and those who we do not know, we give glory to God. Romans 15:7 tells us, *“Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.”*

Fr. Peter, our pastor says, *“We challenge one another to think about hospitality when we meet people, and then to take a step further to get to know them. From that point we can offer them our ministries, our prayer groups, and our friendship.”*

You are invited to recognize your giftedness! We hope to inform, inspire, and invite you to become involved in one ministry. *“Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.”* Corinthians 4: 7-15

This is our foundation. Once we choose to become a disciple of Christ, stewardship is not an option. We press on to bring God’s love to creation, vocation and church. The Spirit shows us the way. Stewardship is a part of that journey.



# The 4 Pillars of Parish Stewardship

## HOSPITALITY



*All are Welcome*

### HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES:

- Arts & Environment
- Baptismal Coordinator
- Dinner Dance
- Ever So Young Seniors
- Filipino Community
- Funeral Coordinator
- Funeral Luncheons/Hospitality
- Greeters
- Polish Community
- Summerfest
- Ushers
- Visitation Teams
- Wedding Coordinator

## PRAYER



*A heart-to-heart with God*

### PRAYER MINISTRIES:

- Charismatic Prayer
- Eucharistic Adoration
- First Friday Hour of Reparation
- Hour of Power
- Prayer Network
- Vocations Hour

## FORMATION



*Ongoing Conversion*

### FORMATION MINISTRIES:

- Altar Servers
- Baptismal Preparation
- Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts
- Catholics Returning Home
- Communion Ministers
- Confirmation Preparation
- Culture of Life
- Faith Sharing Groups Men/Women
- Financial Peace University
- Finding God Together
- Gather
- Girl Scouts
- Joyful Stewards
- Lectors
- Light of the World
- Men's Kairos - Prison
- Marriage Encounter
- Music Groups
- Parish Bible Study
- Polish Altar Servers
- Polish Lectors
- Polish Youth Ministry
- RCIA
- That Man is You!
- Totus Tuus
- Vacation Bible School
- Vocations Chalice
- Youth & Young Adult

## SERVICE



*Love in Action*

### SERVICE MINISTRIES:

- Adopt a Plot
- Creative Arts & Web
- Easter Church Cleaning
- Finance Council
- Grief Support
- Homeless Outreach
- Knights of Columbus
- Liturgical Publications
- Liturgy Commission
- Mail Team
- Meals on Wheels
- Parish Health
- Prayer Shawls
- Resale Shop
- Rosary Makers
- Sacristan/Martha's
- Shamrock Shave
- Social Outreach
- St. Vincent de Paul



UPDATED: October 2019

To share ministry updates, contact the Parish Ministry Coordinator at [stmmsteward@gmail.com](mailto:stmmsteward@gmail.com)



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*“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” ~Matthew 25:35*

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“Everything that we have and all that we are is gift from a loving God. What we do with that gift - it’s a response! So how exactly do we live gratefully? By becoming aware that every moment is a ‘given moment,’ as we say, it’s a gift. You haven’t earned it or brought it about. And you have no way of assuring there will be another moment given to you. As such, we should consider each moment as precious and a great opportunity. If you didn’t have this present moment you wouldn’t have any opportunity to do or experience anything.” *Brother David Steindle-Rast*

## ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

Define and create the church environment based on the liturgical season. *No training required.*

*Monthly commitment or based on seasonal needs.*

## BAPTISMAL COORDINATOR

A joyful, supportive ministry which assists young families on the day of Baptism. No meetings are required, just a little extra time when you attend Holy Mass to welcome our baptismal families before and after the Mass. Remind yourself of your own baptism vows and celebrate the beautiful sacrament of baptism with the newest and most precious members of our parish. *Training is provided.*

*Protecting God’s Children certification is required.*

## DINNER DANCE

Our mission: *To serve our parish family at a critical time. In doing so, we will all be blessed.* To find out more... Attend meetings, ask questions, follow church bulletin updates, and contact us to find out more.

## EVER SO YOUNG SENIORS

A parish senior group who meet monthly at the Ministry Center. Bingo, senior events, fellowship, and fun are all major parts of our growing senior community at St. Margaret Mary.

## FILIPINO COMMUNITY

This community is made up of people who speak the many Filipino languages. They gather together monthly for fellowship.

## FUNERAL COORDINATOR

*God’s calling to help others during a very difficult time of their lives...a rewarding experience.* The funeral coordinator assists the priest during a Catholic funeral mass by performing a variety of tasks that include setting up the church, preparing the altar, lighting incense, reviewing the funeral sheet, (provided by the church office) set up the readings, communicate with the altar servers, and fulfill Eucharistic Minister duties. You will meet with the family of the deceased when they arrive at church to discuss the readings, determine who will bring up the gifts, set up tables/chairs, easels for pictures, and offer your comfort and support throughout the Mass. *Training will be provided for the Funeral Ministry.*

## FUNERAL LUNCHEONS / HOSPITALITY

### GREETERS

Every parishioner is called offer a friendly, welcoming face that says, “All are welcome!” This ministry stands at the door to welcome people upon arriving at church. *Minimal commitment. Informal training provided.*

### POLISH COMMUNITY

This community speaks the Polish language and celebrates the Polish culture. There are two Sunday Masses, Holy Days, and other celebration Masses in the Polish Language. We are part of the larger community, but cherish maintaining Polish traditions. We have devotions throughout the year in the Polish language, and social activities such as dances and after Mass gatherings.

### SUMMERFEST

An annual event for the entire parish which brings a large financial contribution. It also shows the vibrancy, cooperation, and unification of our parish.

### USHERS

An usher is one of the first touch points of hospitality and welcome. They are called on to provide support prior to, during, and after the celebration of the Liturgy. They ensure the comfort and safety of the assembly, and assist in keeping order during liturgical events. Ushers serve at the Mass of their preference.

### VISITATION TEAMS

Three types of opportunities are available for bringing the Holy Eucharist, prayers, and support to those unable to attend Sunday Mass i.e. parishioners confined to their home and parishioners in Sherman Hospital, as well as conducting a Sunday Communion service for residents of three local senior living facilities onsite. *Training and shadowing are provided. Commitment can be weekly, biweekly, or monthly based on needs.*

### WEDDING COORDINATOR

Lead wedding rehearsals, set up furniture and environment, coordinate the movements and actions of the wedding couple and attendants on the wedding day. Very rewarding! *Training is required and provided. The commitment includes the rehearsal and day of wedding.*



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*“Prayer is as necessary to our souls as food is to our bodies.”*  
*~Characteristics of a Christian Steward*

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RECOGNIZE – we all have gifts – all that is good comes from God. We need to discern and help each other recognize our giftedness. Prayer and the sacraments dispose a soul to receive God's abundant graces, which are necessary to grow in holiness.

## **CHARISMATIC PRAYER**

### ***In Spirit and Truth Prayer Group***

Open to all. We proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and foster a personal relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We experience the grace of Pentecost through the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit to build up of the Body of Christ.

*“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” ~John 4:24*

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Eucharistic Adoration is a form of prayer which brings us into the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lord offers us special graces as we spend quiet time with him. Adoration is silent and peaceful prayer with Jesus who is visible, exposed and truly present in the Host within the monstrance.

## **FIRST FRIDAY HOUR OF REPARATION**

On the first Friday of every month, an hour of reparation and devotion is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## **HOUR OF POWER**

All parishioners and ministry coordinators are invited and encouraged to gather for intercessory prayer for our friars, parish staff and every ministry at St. Margaret Mary. This peaceful prayer hour is offered 4 times per year, and includes Adoration and music.

## **PRAYER NETWORK**

The Prayer Network is a community of parishioners who pray for the concerns and needs of those in St. Margaret Mary parish. Prayer requests are sent by email to Rosemary, and she emails the prayer requests to the members as they are needed. “I have very much enjoyed working in this ministry as I feel it brings the community together when they share the burden of each other's lives in a spiritual manner.” Rosemary

## **VOCATIONS HOUR**

Each month parishioners are encouraged to pray together in the chapel for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



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*“Being a disciple is not just something else to do, alongside many other things suitable for Christians, it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion.”  
~USCCB Stewardship a Disciple's Response - Pastoral Letter on Stewardship*

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SHARE – “For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” The Joy of the Gospel.

## ALTAR SERVERS

Serve at Mass and other liturgical celebrations. *Boys and girls, 5th Grade or older. Monthly meetings and training are provided.*

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

### BOY SCOUTS/CUB SCOUTS

The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

## CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

We are a ministry of love and compassion through which team members experience God’s love in a unique way by witnessing the Holy Spirit working through themselves, other team members and those returning to the Church. Little can compare to joining in the feelings of the father of the prodigal son *“... let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.”* ~Luke 15: 23-24

## COMMUNION MINISTERS

The Extraordinary minister assists the priest and deacon with distribution of Holy Communion— the Body and Blood of our Lord.

*Must be at least 16-years-of-age and have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. Training will be provided.*

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation preparation at St. Margaret Mary is a one-year, eight-session process that begins in September and ends with Confirmation in the spring. In the Diocese of Rockford, teens may be confirmed as early as 9th grade. If you are over 18 and out of high school, and would like to be confirmed in the Catholic Church, please contact the parish office about confirmation preparation for adults.

## CULTURE OF LIFE

We have a three-fold mission: (1) education about the sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death, (2) financial support for crisis pregnancy centers, (3) social action to promote the worth and dignity of each human life. Annual opportunities assist with fostering the pro-life message: Mother’s Day flower sale, Father’s Day gifts, pro-life booth at the McHenry County fair, legislative alerts and contacts, and baby bottle return. The Life-Chain is on the first Sunday in October.

## FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Various men’s and women’s faith sharing groups gather weekly. The format varies with each group, which may focus on: the Mass readings of the week and God moments, a book study, or a bible study. There is a group for everyone! Together we grow in our Catholic faith on the road to holiness.

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

This life-changing class taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video, and coordinated at St. Margaret Mary, will help you achieve your financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and live like never before so you can give like never before.



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## FORMATION MINISTRIES(continued)

### FINDING GOD TOGETHER

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Parents, grandparents or guardians are given the special task to introduce the children to Jesus and teach them His ways. Sometimes there are circumstances in life that prevent us from introducing God to our children at an early age. Don’t worry! Jesus is here for you. This program helps the children to know God and to grow closer to Jesus through His words, examples, and prayers. This class is geared towards children in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade who seek the sacrament of Baptism and/or First Holy Communion. A parent is required to accompany their child and attend the parent program.

### GATHER

The Family Faith Formation program is for all students who do not attend Catholic school. All students’ grades Pre-school through High School. Must participate with at least one parent. Catholic school families are welcome to participate.

### GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to do something amazing. *Our Mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.*

### JOYFUL STEWARDS

The goal of *Stewardship as a Way of Life* is to become a holy people. To this end, our meetings, prayer and ministry work stem from a heart of gratitude to God, especially for the gift of salvation, and we can’t thank Him enough. Our works include: regular communication with all parish ministry coordinators, the Hour of Power, Movie and Pizza with the Friars, Faith On Fire, weekly bulletin articles on stewardship, and domestic pilgrimages. We also manage the annual parish renewal, and support the Bishop’s Diocesan Appeal. Come and join us on the journey!

### LECTORS

*“The hearts of the faithful who gather on the Lord’s Day are nourished both by his Word and by the bread of eternal life,”*  
Pope Francis.

Lectors support an important part of the celebration of the liturgy, the Word of God. This ministry is for individuals who pray the holy Scripture, and wish to share by proclamation the fruits of their prayer and reflection. Proclaimers may choose the Mass they prefer to attend, and are scheduled accordingly. (May be once a month or every other month). Training and materials are provided.

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD (LOTW)

Involvement begins with attending a LOTW onsite weekend retreat. Participation can then continue in small groups by sharing faith, doing works, and possibly assisting with the next LOTW retreat.

### MEN’S KAIROS - PRISON

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The largest pro-marriage organization in the world which promotes weekend experiences for couples who want to make their good marriage even better. *“My beloved is mine, and I am his.” Song of Solomon 2:16*

### MUSIC GROUPS

Singers and instrumentalists of all ages and skill levels welcome. Singers are not required to read music but must be able to carry a tune. Short audition required for musicians and singers. Weekly rehearsals and masses from September through June. Commitment increases during Christmas and Easter Seasons. Cantors must also participate in Adult Choir.

- Adult Choir
- Cantors
- Funeral Choir (As Needed)
- Youth Choir (6-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Children’s Choir (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)



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## FORMATION MINISTRIES(continued)

### PARISH BIBLE STUDY

### POLISH ALTAR SERVERS

### POLISH LECTORS

### POLISH YOUTH MINISTRY

### RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). A program to welcome adults who wish to explore the Catholic faith. Those who choose may prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. This program is for those who have not been raised in the Catholic faith, including the unbaptized, baptized Protestant, or baptized Catholic.

### THAT MAN IS YOU! (TMIY)

An interactive, multimedia men’s leadership program focused on the development of men in the modern world. It combines the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of authentic men capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society. That Man is You welcomes large numbers of men of all ages, including younger men still actively parenting, and then transforming their spiritual lives.

### TOTUS TUUS

Totus tuus was Saint John Paul II's apostolic motto. It is a Latin phrase meaning "totally yours" and expressed his personal consecration to Mary. The program is held in the summer. Seminarians and college young adults offer programs centering on the Theology of the Body, and our Catholic faith principles. It is especially geared to youth 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is for kids with prior preschool experience, age 3 to children who completed 5th grade during the past school year. Runs from 9:00 AM to noon one week in June. For more information, contact the Religious Education office.

### VOCATIONS CHALICE

Parishioners keep the Vocations Chalice in their home for one week and offer special prayers. The ministry provides suggested prayers.

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT

We are the middle, high school, and young adult community at St. Margaret Mary. In this era of new evangelization, we bring Christ to young people and reveal the truth, goodness, and beauty of the church. Please visit our web site at [www.smmym.org](http://www.smmym.org).



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*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as food stewards of God’s varied grace.” ~1Peter 4:10*

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Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gift and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. *Catholic Diocese of Wichita*

## **ADOPT A PLOT**

If you enjoy gardening, then the “Adopt a Flower Bed” is for you! Your handiwork helps to beautify the parish grounds from spring to fall. There are no meetings, only a commitment to care for one of the flower beds around the church buildings or in the parking lot. All flowers, shrubs, plants, trees, and weeds bless the Lord! And you will be blessed in caring for them and helping to make our parish grounds beautiful.

## **CREATIVE ARTS & WEB**

*Evangelization through a newer medium...* Basic computer skills (web, software program usage) and a desire to make a positive impact in Christ’s Church is all that’s required. We are seeking all who will improve and/or help maintain our ever-growing site. If you have those skills, we could use your help.

## **EASTER CHURCH CLEANING**

Clean and beautify the Church in preparation for the Easter Triduum.

## **FINANCE COUNCIL**

This talented group oversees the parish budget and financial reporting and works in tandem with our Pastor and Business Manager.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

You are not alone. People who are grieving often find that nobody understands what their loss feels like. They find that friends and family (with good intentions), often want them to get past their grief, and get on with their life. It helps to share about your loss. We provide a safe place where people who are grieving can come, listen, and share their stories.

## **HOMELESS OUTREACH**

Two monthly teams’ shop, cook, deliver, and serve breakfast for the area Homeless in Elgin, once a month, on different Mondays, alongside other ecumenical groups. *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” Matthew 25:35*

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus was established in 1882 so that Catholic men could support the Catholic Church, provide financial support to protect their families, and engage in works of charity to benefit the less fortunate. From helping children in need to providing wheelchairs for the physically disabled to support for the intellectually handicapped. We help stock food banks, and offer top-rate, affordable life insurance to its members. The Knights are at the service of our local communities, and the needy around the world.

## **LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS**

*Parish Bulletins:* Are you are interested in an opportunity to advertise your business or promote your company’s special offers in a trusted resource parish family may utilize every day? Your participation is a generous gift to our parish. You may contact Michelle Arden at 312-953-0881.

## **LITURGY COMMISSION**

## **MAIL TEAM**

## **MEALS ON WHEELS**

Do you have 1-2 hours to spare, to deliver a “dish of happiness” to individuals in our community in need of a meal? Deliveries take from 1 to 1 1/2 hours during the day, Monday thru Friday, starting at 10:30 a.m. Our parish delivers meals in January, September and May and we are looking for additional drivers. “*Many hands make for light work,*” to provide a meal. For years, St. Margaret Mary parishioners have come together to assist the Meals On Wheels program, in delivering meals to senior citizens in the Algonquin area. Delivering meals is a very rewarding experience and is recommended for anyone who wants to be part of a unique volunteer opportunity

## **PARISH HEALTH**

This team is comprised various health professionals. We offer blood pressure screenings and health education after the Masses once a month in the Nazareth Room. We assist with any medical emergencies that occur during Mass or other gatherings. We also monitor the AED in the Church to ensure that it is in working order. We also sponsor a CPR refresher course for parish staff and ushers. We welcome any new members.





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## SERVICE MINISTRIES(continued)

### PRAYER SHAWLS

We knit, crochet, and create hand crafts together to provide a hand-made shawl to those in need of healing, comfort or to celebrate a joyous occasion. Made with prayer and given with compassion or joy, prayer shawls are a gift of love, friendship and caring. Based on compassion and caring for others as well as the love of fiber arts. We meet Wednesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:00 in the lower level of the Activity Room at Eastgate Manor. The 3rd Monday of the month from 7:00-8:30 PM in Room 6 of the Ministry Center.

### RESALE SHOP

We accept clean, gently used (no rips, tears, broken zippers, or missing buttons, please) infant through adult clothing. The Resale Shop is open Tuesday – Friday, 10 AM–3 PM; Saturdays 10 AM–1 PM; and the 2nd Sunday of the month 10AM–1 PM.

### ROSARY MAKERS

The rosary makers meet in the Ministry Center. If you have a disability, and would like to participate, we will assist you. The rosaries are given to hospitals, charities, our church and school. You may work at your own pace and order as many inexpensive packages of beads as you need.

### SACRISTANS / MARTHA’S

Behind-the-scenes, the Sacristans prepare the church and altar for weekend and holy day Masses  
The Martha’s help keep the church clean. Wash and iron altar and Communion linens. *Training is provided. Weekly or less often commitment based on number of available ministers. Approximately twice-a-month commitment.*

### SHAMROCK SHAVE

In the last eight years, the St. Margaret Mary Shamrock Shave, through the generous support of our shavee pledges, raised over \$300,000 for needy families in our community and those suffering from cancer. Donations are given to worthy causes each year.

### SOCIAL OUTREACH

Parish family volunteers who provide assistance to those needing help within the surrounding community. This includes providing school supplies for children, organizing the parish Christmas Giving Tree which provides gifts to the elderly, for families and single mothers that are experiencing financial hardships as well as providing clothing various homeless shelters. In the spirit of Jesus’s love and compassion all peoples are assisted without reservation.

### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent DePaul leads women and men to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person, in-home service to those who are in need in the Algonquin and LITH area.

Its members, called Vincentians, reflect the whole family of God. Prayer, reflection, and mutually supportive gatherings nourish us.

The society collaborates with other social and charitable organizations. We make no distinction in those we serve because in them, Vincentians see the Face of Christ in every Friend in Need.

For more information, please visit our web site at:  
[saintmargaretmary.org/stewardship](http://saintmargaretmary.org/stewardship)

or contact the Parish Ministry Coordinator:  
Connie McDonough at [stmmsteward@gmail.com](mailto:stmmsteward@gmail.com)



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**A Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Rockford**



**UPDATED: October 2019**