

St. Mary Parish
Our Lady of the Assumption
320 Middle Ave
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Fr. Charlie Diedrick

Pastor

Rev. Mr. Frank Humphrey III

Permanent Deacon

Sr. Mary Dorothy Tecca CSA

Parish Catechetical Leader

Mr. Michael Moore

Director of Music Ministries

Miss Sheila Mannix

Principal

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00; 9:30; 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Monday: 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday: 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule:

Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Day: 8:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.;
7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Anointing of the Sick:

Upon request

Baptism:

11 a.m. Mass on 2nd Sunday

12:30 p.m. on 2nd & 4th Sunday

Sponsor Certificates:

Available in Parish Office for registered parishioners who are Baptized, Confirmed, received Eucharist and actively practicing their faith.

Matrimony:

Arrangements must be made six months in advance with priest.

Hall Rental:

Available for wedding receptions and parties under 250 people. Contact parish office.

Celebrating Our Faith

As Catholics, everything we do in our day to day life flows from the experience of the Mass and then is brought back to Mass for offering, renewal and refreshment. The Eucharistic Liturgy is the source and summit of our entire week – of our lives. Below are listed the many ways parishioners actively celebrate their faith in a ministerial role at St. Mary Church. New volunteers are always welcome.

St. Mary Adult Choir is a group of volunteer singers who meet weekly during the course of the year from September through May. The primary goal of the choir is to aid the St. Mary community as we gather to worship, acting as song leaders and beautifying our liturgical celebrations by sharing its many years of experience in choral singing. Our choir enjoys a reputation for its technical expertise and yet never loses sight of its ministerial role to the people of St. Mary Church.

St. Mary Young People Choir is a group of elementary students from our parish who gather weekly, September through May, to minister to the St. Mary Parish community as song leaders at various liturgical celebrations. Made up of students from both the PSR Program and St. Mary School, the young people learn songs of faith in various musical styles and develop a sense of ministry.

Lectors are entrusted with proclaiming God's Word at Mass. These trained readers of the Scriptures boldly proclaim the living word to nourish us at the Table of the Word.

Eucharistic Ministers serve in two essential capacities: assisting in the distribution of Communion on Sundays and Holy Days and taking Communion to home-bound and infirm parishioners. A training session and workshop are required in order to develop an appreciation and understanding of the role of this ministry. Those who serve as Eucharistic Ministers do so at the invitation of the Pastor.

Mass Servers are students from our parish in the fifth grade through high school who assist our priest in celebrating Mass. They minister for all Sunday and Holy Day liturgies and weddings. Adult men and women servers minister funeral Masses.

Greeters Ministry is made up of a group of volunteers from the parish who greet and welcome people at our weekend liturgies.

Ushers assist in welcoming and seating of the congregation, facilitating the collection, presentation of the gifts and the Communion procession.

Sacristans weekly clean the sacred vessels used at Mass. They weekly wash and iron church linens.

Faith Formation

St. Mary Parish School

St. Mary School plays a vital part in the evangelization efforts of St. Mary Parish. The school serves the educational and spiritual needs of children from Preschool to grade 8. The school program provides hundreds of students a Christ-centered environment.

During these past months, eighty of our students in grades four through eight received honors for the first quarter. Three of our eighth graders received academic scholarships to Elyria Catholic High School for next year. Twelve of our students received straight A's this first quarter. The students strive for academic excellence and are working to their fullest potential.

The spiritual lives of our students are enhanced by their participation in Mass. They take an active role at Mass, serving as Lectors, Altar Servers, Choir, and participate in the offertory procession. Students attend Mass at least twice a month and also actively participate in prayer services.

Our students are also nurtured to serve the needs of others. During this past fall, students collected money for the Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County; collected hats, mittens, and gloves for the need of Elyria; food for the Hospitality Center and various other fund raisers.

St. Mary School has "Cougar Pride!" Students actively participate in a year round sports program.

Students have been busy giving of their time and talents at home, school, the parish, and the community. Through their service they share the Gospel message. St. Mary School prepares the students for their roles in our society, our Church, and for eternity.

Parish School of Religion Programs

Pre-School P. S. R. program was developed to help children ages 3, 4 & 5 grow in their awareness of the presence of God in their everyday lives. Classes are held on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. Mass beginning in September and continuing through the 1st Sunday of May. Basic Catholic doctrine is taught using religion programs approved by the Diocese of Cleveland. Approximately 20 minutes of the class is spent on the religion lesson with the remainder of the time devoted to projects, songs, and stories that relate to the topic of the lesson.

Throughout the year the children are introduced to structured prayer by participating in monthly prayer services. In November, we invited "Grand-Pals" [a grandparent or special someone] to join

us for class and take part in our Thanksgiving Celebration. February brings us 'Parents Sunday' where parents are invited to participate in class as well as a Prayer Celebration of Love. Our ultimate goal is to help young children nurture a strong and loving relationship with God, our Father, and be aware of His unconditional love for them.

St. Mary P.S.R. Program was developed for elementary aged children who are members of the St. Mary Parish but not attending the Parish Day School. The Program is designed to help children foster a deeper understanding of their faith and relationship with God. Classes are held on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. from September – April.

Throughout the year, a variety of prayer opportunities for the students in their classrooms and special prayer occasions for families are offered. We begin our program in September with a Family Prayer Service. Our 6th graders, along with the 6th graders of St. Mary Day School and their families participate in a Bible Prayer Service in October; We also celebrate Thanksgiving by having a Prayer Service which is attended by both students and their families. We are annually look forward to our Family Epiphany Prayer Service on or near January 6th and a Reconciliation Service later in the year during Lent. The year's program concludes with a Family Mass. These dates will be published in Parish Bulletins and on our Parish website throughout the year.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of welcoming adults into the Catholic Church.

Spiritual Development Commission seeks to promote and facilitate the spiritual growth and development of the parish.

Caring for Others

St. Vincent de Paul Society provides a direct outreach to the poor. It provides temporary assistance to parishioners and other individuals within the boundaries of the parish in need of financial help for utilities. The members are volunteers who follow the guidelines of the National Society of the SVDP.

Hot Meal Program provides a hot meal for the needy every Tuesday evening in the school cafeteria, except the first Tuesday of the month, from 5 – 6 p.m. A hot meal is also served by the parish at the Salvation Army on the second Sunday of the month. These meals are prepared and served by parish volunteers, who in 2007 celebrate 25 years and nearly 10,000 hot meals served to our area poor.

Elyria Hospitality Center is housed in the Pius X Building. The center is supported by parishioners' donations of food and clothing. Assistance is available on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Social Concerns Commission increases awareness of the social conditions of Lorain County. They seek to educate and promote activities that support the dignity of all people especially the disenfranchised.

Ministry to the Elderly includes a monthly luncheon for the elders in the community. Educational and social programs are also made available.

The Ministry of Praise connects our homebound to the parish family through their prayerful support. This spiritual ministry encourages members to offer their prayers, joys, sacrifices and sufferings to God for the needs of the parish and of the universal church. This ministry also encourages parishioners to join in daily prayer for the homebound. Members receive a monthly letter listing prayer requests.

Ministry to the Hospitalized includes regular visitation of EMH Regional Medical Center by the Pastor and the chaplains of the hospital. Parishioners also volunteer at the hospital in a variety of ways including being Eucharistic Ministers.

Organizations

Altar and Rosary Society
Brownies and Girl Scouts
Couples Club
Cub and Boy Scouts
Parent Teacher Unit

Secular Franciscans
Serra Club and Vocation Promotion
School Boosters / 200 Club
Sports Committee

Ways to contact parish staff to obtain more information about programs and organizations listed above:

Parish Office: 440.323.5539
School: 440.322.2808
Religious Education Office: 440.322.3054

Parish eMail: stmaryelyria@windstream.net
Parish Website: www.stmaryelyria.parishesonline.com
School Website: www.smselyria.parishesonline.com