

Evangelization Etiquette:

A How-to Guide to Confidently Share the Good News

"In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15).

Scripture doesn't just call us to share our faith — it tells us how: with gentleness and reverence. The gospel can be true and still be poorly delivered. Etiquette is how we make sure the manner of our witness matches the grace of its message.

Week One: **Everyone Has a Conscience**

Everyone has a conscience. *Our consciences help us judge whether our actions are moral or immoral (CCC1778)* Still, this internal system of choosing right from wrong still needs to continually be formed in the faith.

When we speak to others. Our role is not to try and judge their hearts. God is the only one that can do that. We can only offer our own experiences of God's love. Because every person has a different level of formation, we just offer our own personal two fishes and five loaves and allow God to multiply it. Use your conscience to notice who might need a welcome or a prayer. God will do the heavy lifting.

Stay tuned next week for another evangelization etiquette tip. **Jean Lovell**

Brothers and Sisters

Blessings from your St. Mary’s Evangelization Ministry team

For many Catholics, the idea of evangelization can feel uncomfortable. We may imagine approaching strangers, debating religious beliefs, or trying to pressure someone into coming to church. But authentic Catholic evangelization is not about winning arguments or forcing faith upon another person. It is about allowing others to encounter Christ through the way we live, listen, speak, and love. The most convincing expression of faith is a life that quietly reflects it. When we treat people with patience, forgive them when it is difficult, care for those who are struggling, and remain hopeful during hardship, others notice! These actions do not require a sermon. They reveal that our faith influences who we are.

Sharing our faith can also begin with honest conversation. We do not need to have every theological answer or speak as though we have life completely figured out. We can simply explain what prayer, the Eucharist, Confession, or belonging to a parish means to us. A sincere statement such as, “My faith helped me through a difficult time,” can open a door without placing pressure on anyone. Listening is just as important as speaking. We all carry a unique story. Some may have been hurt by the Church, become discouraged, or gradually drifted away. Others may be searching for meaning but are unsure where to begin. Before offering advice, we should listen with compassion and without judgment. People are more likely to hear what we believe when they first feel that we genuinely care about them.

An invitation can also be a simple act of evangelization. We might invite someone to Mass, a parish meal, a Bible study, or a special event at St. Mary’s. The invitation should be offered freely and warmly, without making them feel guilty if they decline. Sometimes a seed is planted long before we see it grow! We should also remember that conversion is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit. We are called to be faithful witnesses—to speak truth with kindness, answer questions honestly, and remain available. Prayers can often reach places that our words cannot.

Evangelization becomes pushy when it focuses more on achieving a result than loving the person in front of us. Jesus never treated people as projects. He encountered them personally, listened to them, and invited them to follow Him. He respected their freedom, even when they walked away. Sharing our faith is less about having the perfect words and more about being a trustworthy presence. We can live joyfully, listen carefully, speak naturally, and invite gently. When faith is shared with humility and genuine love, it does not feel like pressure. It feels like a door opening.

May God bless you all, Robert Loza

The new Seminarian list of 14 men with addresses and birthdays are posted on the bulletin board near the Parish Hall Kitchen. Please pray for them, send them notes of support and birthday cards.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Fall Taster’s Luncheon on October 21! It’s never too early to invite all your friends and coworkers

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22-23, 2026

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenido a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman

tom.buckman@pastoral.org

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Diocese of Owensboro www.owensborodiocese.org



The deadline for Calendar submissions for the September Calendar Bulletin is 8/25/2026		
Saturday, August 22	5:00 PM	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time- For the Soul of Beth Crafton
Sunday, August 23	8:30 AM	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time- Intentions: For the Soul of Gage Marcum
Domingo 23 Agosto	6:00 PM	21 st Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario- Por los fieles de la parroquia
Monday, August 24	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Cindy Blouin
Tuesday, August 25	Noon	Intentions: For the Souls of Sally & Eugene Wolter
Wednesday, August 26	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Basil Trouten Sr.
Thursday, August 27	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Marta McMahan
Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM		
Friday, August 28	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Beatriz Hernandez
Saturday, August 29	5:00 PM	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time- For the Soul of Katie Murray
Sunday, August 30	8:30 AM	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time- Intentions: For the People of the Parish
Domingo 30 Agosto	6:00 PM	22 nd Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario- Por el alma de Rafael Molina
If you have Mass intentions, please contact Fr. Tom or Erin in the office.		
Mass Ministers: Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass. When/if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled Mass Ministry, please find a replacement Thank You, Fr. Tom		
Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement (270) 586-7425 or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1). The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all who have been sexually abused and especially those abused by a person working for the Church, paid or unpaid, either past or present. To report such abuse, please call the diocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (270-852-8380). The revised sexual abuse policy, which explains fully the diocese's efforts to address sexual abuse in the Church, can be found in the back of the church on the parish bulletin board and on the diocesan web site (https://owensborodiocese.org/safe).		
If you are sick, or know someone who is ill, we want to include them in our prayers. Please contact Erin in the parish office on 270-586-4515 or by email so our parish can pray for you and your caregivers. Please Remember in Your Prayers the Following Parishioners, Family and Friends: David Kelly, Regina Cozzy and Family, Cindy & John Janicek, Harry & Mae King, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan Please keep our deceased family and friends in your daily prayers: Calvin Oshefsky, Patrick Collins, Gracie Scott, Carol Sue Durbin, Charles Andrew Yanov, Jason W. Bracy, Mary Barnes, Conner Sheahan, Marie Watson, Debbie Head, Crystal Becker, Andrew & Michael Garrett, Angela Berry Maynard, Sarah Drake, Basil Trouten Sr., Hilda Trouten, Dorthy O'Bryan, Joseph Hagan, Susie Wyatt, Miriam Harbin, Roger Farley, Dr A.V. Wilwayco, Frank & Marie Farmer, Keith Obriskie, Gail Briley, Helen Garst, Lois Oshefsky, John Herrmann, Sharon Henderson, Sr Maretta Murphy IHM, Dr John Kelly, Ellie Mirgaux, Mike Glodoski, Rhonda Barrow and Rose Vogt.		

Mission Statement

We, the people of St Mary Catholic Church, are a welcoming Catholic community called to live our faith by celebrating Mass, Sacraments, and Prayers; proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ; seeking life-long faith and formation; sharing our time; talents and reaching out in compassionate service to others.

Please join us at the end of Mass today to bless the renovated statue of Mary and landing on the front of the old church.

What is Acts 2:42? Have you seen the various announcements/flyers and heard people talking about the small group meetings called **Acts 2:42**? This is the fourth year of the small group meetings at St Mary for all adults from ages 18 to (we won't mention their age). One group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1PM and the second group meets at 6:30 PM on the second Monday of each month. The meetings begin in September 2026 and end in May 2027. If the Spirit moves you to obtain further details, please contact Duane Wolter at 954-591-1400 or at dwolter@att.net. We would all love to have you join us



Congratulations to Kenneth and Teresa Garrett, recipients of the 2026 Sophia Awards. Reception to honor them after the 8:30 am Mass on August 16th

The Dominican Sisters of Nashville will return on September 10 for Family Retreat on Prayer, 9 am- 12. More info to follow. Please mark your calendar!

OCIA classes begin on September 3 at 6:00 pm and continue weekly thereafter until Easter. OCIA is for Christians seeking to convert to Catholicism; for Baptized Catholics age 8 and up who seek full communion through Eucharist and or Confirmation; unbaptized individuals 8 and up. Contact Fr. Tom Buckman to register/ more information.

The Parish Mission will be held on October 26-28 presented by the Fathers of Mercy. Please save the date.

As of 8/18/26								
Budget Needs 2025-26		Weekly	\$	4,038	Budget YTD Needs		\$	27,661
Received last week			\$	3,530	Received YTD		\$	26,946
Difference			\$	140			\$	(-714)
On Going Projects		Last Week	\$	63	YTD		\$	362
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
23 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 AM Mass Sophia Award Reception 6:00 PM Misa	24 8:00 AM Mass 6:00 PM Parish Council Mtg	25 10:30-2PM SVDP Noon Mass	26 6:00 PM Mass 6:30 PM Religious Ed	27 8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM- 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration	28 8:00 AM Mass	29 3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass		
Mass Attendance— 08/15 5:00 PM- 47 08/16 8:30 AM-95 08/16 6:00 PM-90								
Please pray for our military: Jack Jeffers, Army, Ft Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.; Eric Rafferty, Air Force, England; Korbin Bray, US Navy, Japan; Capt. Ryan Berry, USMC California; Jonathan Thompson, Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Ariel Molina Jr, Marines, Pensacola, FL. Please call the office to add a name								
Prayer For Our Men and Women in Military Service: O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion to the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded in justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen								

Office Hours at St Mary: Erin is in the office on Tuesday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00) and Thursday from 9-4PM Fr Tom's office hours are by appointment. Please call the office or the rectory to make an appointment.
Parish Council: Chair- Ninoska Moratin, Vice Chair- Julius Foncha, Secretary- Tibor Laký, Jose Angel Noguez, Robin Clark, and Haley Danehy
Building and Grounds Committee: Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera
Administration & Finance Committee Meets 3 rd Thursday @ 5:00 PM Chairman- Duane Wolter, John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm
Ladies Guild: President-Sheila Jeffers, Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney
Religious Education Committee: DRE- Robin Clark, Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, Kateri Edwards and Ninoska Moratin.
Music Director- Joshua Wagner stmaryccmusic@gmail.com Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter
Worship/Liturgy Committee: Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
Evangelization and Outreach Ministry: Fr. Tom Buckman, Duane Wolter (Chair), Eli Gantt, Colleen Rafferty, Jean Lovell and Robert Loza
Librarian- Kathleen Kaapcke
Archivist- Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm

Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See *Code of Canon Law*, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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