

# St. Maria Goretti Pastoral Plan Update!

Since the approval of our Pastoral Plan in April 2016, much work has already been accomplished! The Pastoral Council is committed to providing regular updates to the parish throughout the implementation of the Pastoral Plan. Each update will highlight a particular priority and provide brief updates on various initiatives. We hope you find these updates helpful, hopeful, and exciting!

## Parish Vision

“Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.”  
Romans 15:7

## Parish Priorities

Facilities Plan for the Future  
Effective Parish Ministries  
Strengthening & Deepening our Faith

## Foundational Ongoing Goals and Initiatives

Welcoming all People  
Creating a Community through the Sacraments  
Appreciating, Strengthening and Sharing our Gifts  
Serving Others

## November 2016 Update

### Priority Update:

**Strengthening & Deepening our Faith:** Empower all parishioners to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and draw them into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the parish.

Task 1: Introduce Confirmation Candidates to the various opportunities for ministry.

- A ministry fair was held after all masses in the month of October to introduce all family members to the ministry opportunities at SMG.

Task 2: Provide leadership and evangelization opportunities for teens within the Family Faith Formation Process.

- High School teens have provided leadership/evangelization for small group discussion at Encounter Bible Study.
- Jr. High and High School teens provided leadership/evangelization for the Sacramental Scavenger Hunt in September.

Task 3: Implement a plan for Service Day with each ministry.

- A letter was sent to all SMG ministry leaders in October asking them to allow our Confirmandi to spend time with their parish ministries as part of their preparation for full initiation into the church.

Task 4: Develop a calendar of experiences for young people that includes prayer & worship, service, leadership, catechesis, community life and evangelization.

- The 2016/2017 calendar for young people includes the following:
  - 5 opportunities for Prayer & Worship in addition to Sunday Mass; 4 opportunities for Service; 3 opportunities of Evangelization; 3 opportunities for Catechesis; 5 opportunities for Leadership for youth over age 11
  - In addition, young people are encouraged to participate in community life in many ways including the Giving Tree, Manna on Main St., PREP and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd aids, St. Vincent DePaul Collection, CYO sports, Children's / Youth Choir / Bell Choir, Altar Servers, Mass with Blessing for New Drivers, Mass with Blessing for all Graduates, etc.

(Continued on reverse)

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Task 5: Develop a yearly calendar of seasonal Family Faith Formation opportunities

- A meeting was held with parent/guardian volunteers and a goal was set to have at least 2 opportunities per year.
- The 2016/2017 calendar for Family Faith Formation includes:
  - Lent Experience - Walk Through Holy Week 2016
  - Fall Experience – Sacramental Scavenger Hunt 2016
  - Advent Experience – Baby Jesus Birthday Christmas 2016
  - In addition, Eucharistic Adoration in September was designed for family participation and Vacation Bible School is an opportunity for parents / guardians to volunteer as children participate.

## Initiatives Update:

### Develop youth orientated Mass

- A working committee has been formed and a first meeting was held on 11/2/16. It was decided that we should do the following:
  - Work with existing music ministries that are already in place, especially the Children’s Choir and the Youth Bell Choir to develop these youth oriented Masses.
  - Acquire the services of someone for 2 masses per year to offer music at mass that is a reflection of what the teen population would experience at events such as the Franciscan University of Steubenville HS conferences or the Catholic Heart Workcamp. Ensure that these events are scheduled when the young adult community is home from college to maximize participation.
  - Create a yearly schedule with the goal of one mass each month from September through May that includes youth participation as lectors, gift bearers, greeters and music.

### Expand Hospitality/Greeters Ministry

- Hospitality Ministry had a table in the Narthex during the Ministry Month. During this event, several new families and individuals have volunteered their time to this ministry.
- Developed a draft plan for establishment of new Usher Ministry and circulated to Pastor and Pastoral Minister.

### Offer Family PREP on Sunday

- Sunday PREP Program has begun this fall. Classes are provided for both parents and children every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Parents help their children with homework on the off weeks which enables them to be more involved with the religious education process. Classes do not meet during Mass times and therefore do not conflict with the families going to Mass.

### Highlight the vocation of marriage

- Pre Cana team met on 9/23 to discuss formation of new “Marriage Matters Ministry”. Angela McClellan will support this ministry. Members of the old Pre Cana team will meet on 11/11 to discuss mission statement, goals, etc. of this new ministry.

### Strengthen parish’s marriage prep program emphasizing the beauty and communal purpose of the sacrament

- Pre Cana team met for three hours on 9/23 and reviewed strengths, weaknesses and options going forward.
- The decision was made for Parish to adopt Diocese marriage prep program, Joy Filled Marriage. Couples will be referred to Diocese website to find time and location to fit their schedule.
- SMG Pre Cana team will be disbanded and replaced with “Marriage Matters” ministry. Start new marriage ministry, prep meeting on 11/11.

### Improve methods and uniformity of communicating parish's mission and services

- New website design completed and information being updated as needed.
- A parish app has been introduced and is available on both apple and android smart phones.
- Constant Contact has been implemented and is being used for emails to parish and PREP families.