

# Legacy of Faith



St. Mary Catholic Church

726 218th Place, PO Box 144, Pella, IA 50219

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## St. Mary Catholic Church Mission Statement

We the people of St. Mary's Catholic Community, young and old, married and single, are bound together through Baptism, to be the living Jesus in our world today.

We are strengthened by and through the Liturgies of the Word and the Eucharist to be an open and genuinely caring community in service to the parish, and local and world communities.

Within the St. Mary's community we are supported and challenged to grow together and within ourselves, and to share our gifts as Jesus commands us to do.



Dear Parish Family,

In many of Jesus' stories about the Kingdom of God, he used images of agriculture to get across a point. Several weeks ago, from the Gospel of John, we heard: "For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work." (John 4: 35-38)

This scripture came to mind when I sat down to write this letter; and I think it speaks a profound truth. We are not beginning a **Legacy of Faith**, as much as we are continuing to build the legacy that we have inherited. In

our lives, we do not have one season of growth. We are constantly building on what has been. We owe a debt of gratitude to so many who have gone before us: the prophets, the early church fathers, the saints of old, and more recently, the generations who built up the Catholic faith here in Pella. Whether we look at the big picture or the more recent past, we truly have reaped what we have not sown. It is now our turn to sow seed generously and place our faith in God's love so that it may in turn produce 30 or 60 or 100 fold.

It is a noble enterprise to build on the past and invest in the present and future growth of a faith community. What the future holds for this family of faith will be a continued work of God's grace and our participation. Will you be a part of this faith story? This participation must begin with prayer.

The Psalmist, presumably King David wrote: "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build." We do not labor in vain if we participate in communion with Christ. I look forward to working with you on this **Legacy of Faith**. May Mary, our beloved patron intercede for us. And may God's blessings, the fruit of Mary's prayer, be ours and all future generations to come.



Fr. Jeffrey Wm. Belger

## St. Mary – A History of Growth

In 1843, William Welch and his large family migrated from Missouri to the Pella area. William's brother John had sent for literature on the Catholic faith, and through it William and most of his family were converted. It was not until four years later that the great Dutch settlement arrived in Pella.

To care for the spiritual needs of the Catholics in Pella, "circuit priests" from What Cheer, Oskaloosa, and other towns would visit two or three times a year to celebrate Mass and to administer the sacraments.



In 1860, the first church, located at the corner of West First Street and Independence, was built of walnut logs from trees found along the Des Moines River. The original church structure was 33 feet by 19 feet, with 14 ½ feet added in 1873 for a sacristy. The original St. Mary Catholic Church was dedicated in 1869.



By 1976, a church membership of 30 families and 150 Central College students made Sunday Masses a crowded event. A lack of available space also forced volunteers to teach CCD classes at Central College. Plans to build a new building were formulated and set into motion. A sizeable donation from the John and Margaret

Lautenbach estate, along with the generosity of many others allowed the project to proceed. Parishioners, themselves spent countless hours to complete much of the work on the new building. The new church building at 1203 Peace Street was dedicated on April 23, 1978.



By 1984, the congregation had grown to 145 families along with a large contingent of Central College students. Fr. Susic, the first resident pastor of St. Mary, said that prior to the building of the new church, many families had fallen away, but they returned when they began seeing new life in the parish. "There are more people coming now because they now have a place to come to," said Fr. Susic. He added that the building of the present church made people feel they were a part



of something permanent.

The current rectory at 1104 Peace Street was purchased in 1980, and the Green House, which housed some of the church's educational facilities, was bought in 1985.

In 1993, the Catholic Churches of Marion County (St. Mary of Pella, Sacred Heart of Melcher, and St. Anthony of Knoxville) were joined. Sharing a common pastor and parochial vicar, the three parishes also cooperated with Mass schedules, calendars, bulletins, faith formation, and fellowship events.

During the 1990's, an economic boom in Pella resulted in the parish growing to over 270 families and approximately 200 Catholic students from Central College.

Realizing the deficiencies of the current parish buildings, the faith community stepped forward and in January 2000, St. Mary's Building Committee was formed to establish a long-term vision for the parish and to develop the solutions required to make the vision a reality. St. Mary's parish family purchased 34 acres in 2001.

The first campaign began in June 2002 and was known as Faith Alive. This campaign created excitement and reality of a new building.



2002-2005 Faith Alive – Building Our Future Stewardship Campaign. **\$1,030,167**

Three years later, Forward by Faith, the second campaign was introduced.



2005-2008 Forward by Faith – Building Momentum Stewardship Campaign. **\$716,096**

With the funds collected and pledged, it was determined that construction could begin. The ground breaking for the current St. Mary's building was April 21, 2008.

As was done with the last move, the faith community spent countless hours at the new site, painting walls and staining windows as well as assembling the pews and chairs. The efforts of all made it possible to celebrate with the dedication Mass on July 19, 2009.



2008-2011 Building Faith Stewardship Campaign  
*(as of March 31, 2011)* **\$899,091**

Misc Income, Gains, etc. **\$390,292**

Balance (Debt & Interest) **\$1,900,000**

This leads us into the Legacy of Faith Stewardship Campaign. As this balance is due in 5 years, the goal is to pay off the debt by that time.

Legacy of Faith (2011-2016) **\$2,000,000**

The goal includes funds from all sources and includes interest paid during that time.

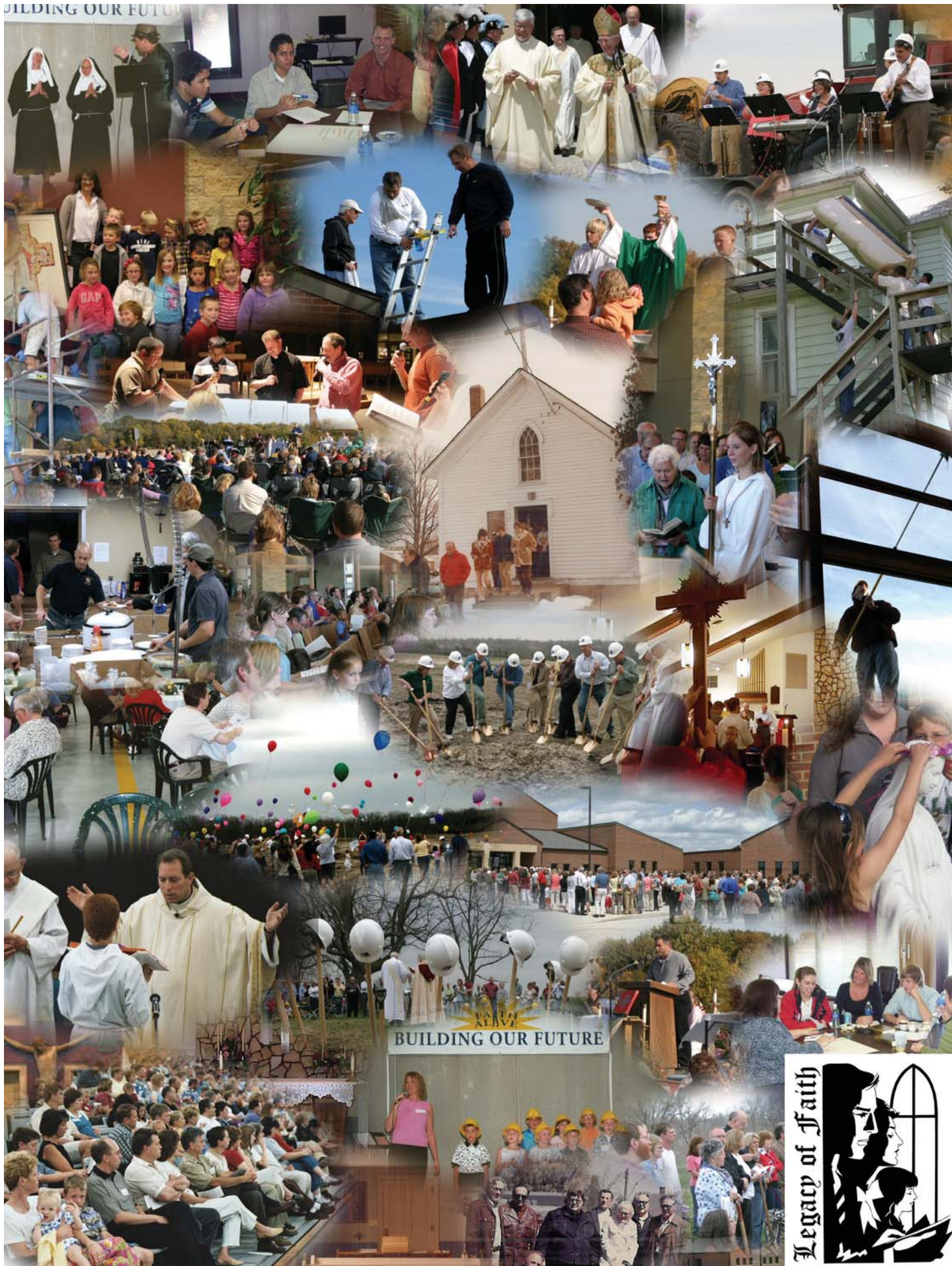
For our parish family this is about more than just a church building. Like those before us who worked to lead us to where we are today, how will we as a parish family leave a **Legacy of Faith?**



We are called to glorify God through service to others. We believe that God calls each one of us throughout the world to a special place in His Kingdom. Through His Sacred Sacrifice we are created to be a bridge to Him by our own sacrifice and service. We can build that bridge through outreach to the Catholic Church, our community and hope to touch the world with the Light of Christ through us.



BUILDING OUR FUTURE



FAITH ALIVE Campaign  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE



## **Spiritual and Service Ministries:**

**Church Life:** To assist in making the parish a community in which persons can come to know one another; to share their lives and concerns; and to find support for their faith through good communications among all groups in the parish and to provide effective publicity for parish events.

To initiate and support growth of mutual understanding and common action among the different Faiths and maintain active programs of reaching out to non-practicing Catholics and the unchurched.

**Faith Formation:** To develop for every age group in the parish a religious education program of high quality that transmits the teachings and customs of the Church. To have good programs of catechesis for individuals and their families who are about to celebrate the sacraments.

**Family Life:** To provide a variety of programs that support and encourage the growth of family life, especially in the areas of communications, the sharing of self, and the spirituality of the family. These programs should also reach out to singles, single parent families, widowed, separated, and divorced persons.

**Liturgy:** To plan the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Sunday Mass, with great care, so that they are occasions for communal prayer that nourish and uplift the assembly.

To teach people how to pray, including the nature of prayer and the steps in its growth and to nourish the faith of parishioners in retreats, days of recollection, devotions, and other programs of spiritual enrichment.

**Social Action:** To educate the parish about the teachings of the Church on social justice, and about the ways that working for social justice forms an essential part of being a Christian. To investigate and coordinate the parish response to problems of social justice on the local, national, and global levels, especially to the needs of the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and the imprisoned.

**Stewardship:** To assist the parish in bringing forth the following eight visible signs of stewardship: prayer; public commitment by parish leaders; an active Stewardship Commission; annual time,

talent, treasure renewals; hospitality program; year-round spiritual formation and educational activities and a stewardship based financial plan; and weekly offertory tithing.

**Administration:** To maintain an accurate profile of the parish, especially in the areas of population, economy, changing neighborhoods, and industrial growth or decline. To educate the parish about financial priorities and needs and to stimulate greater financial responsibility by the members of the parish. To provide necessary information for the maintenance and the replacement of the physical building and plant.

**Activities** - There are many activities going on currently within the parish community of St. Mary.

### **Liturgical Ministries:**

**Greeters** - greet people as they gather for Mass

**Lectors** - are specially trained and commissioned to Proclaim God's word at Mass

**Ushers** - help seat people entering for Mass

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** - are specially trained and commissioned to distribute Holy Communion at Mass and/or to the sick

**Servers** - are boys and girls who assist the priest at Mass

**Music** - assists with the singing of the assembly, including Musicians, Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Women's Choir, and Men's Choir

### **Religious Education:**

Kindergarten through 6th Grade on Wednesdays

Middle School and High School on Sundays

Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays

**RCIA** - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process through which adults are catechized and welcomed in the church. RCIA consists of inquiry sessions, scripture study, prayer and study of the church's doctrine and liturgy.

**UNION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is held in June. St. Mary's participates in the planning and leading of the community's ecumenical bible school.

**THEOLOGY OF THE BODY**

High School Youth Council

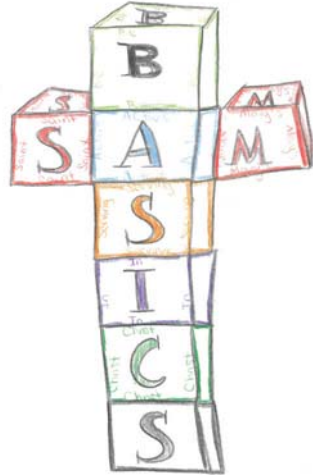
## Youth Rallies

NCYC – National Catholic Youth Conference  
DCYC – Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference  
BASICS – Be Active In Christ: St. Marys

Military Care packages  
girls lock-in  
boys lock-in

# BASICS

Be Active Serving In Christ • St. Marys



## Fundraising

Tulip Time stand  
Spring into Auction

## Religious Life

WATCH retreat  
Baptism  
Eucharist – Mass  
Reconciliation  
Confirmation  
Marriage  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Holy hour for vocations  
Stations of the Cross

## Charitable Events

CRS (Catholic Relief Services)  
Operation Rice Bowl  
Operation Overwatch

## Knights of Columbus

Squires  
Fish Fry  
Chili feed  
Spelling Bee  
Free throw contest  
Drug & Alcohol awareness poster contest  
Steak Fry

## Outreach:

Girl Scouts	Boy Scouts
Cub Scouts	4-H
Venture Crew	Blood Drive

## Church Life Activities

Welcoming team – welcoming new people to the parish  
Welcoming of Central college students each Fall  
Fellowship dinners for the parish throughout the year  
Helping hands – Preparing meals to take to

families in need  
Coffee Time after Sunday Mass  
Coordinating the Church circles  
Outreach to uninvolved Catholics  
Wild Game Dinner  
Prayer Chain  
Bible Studies  
Grow Groups  
Maintenance - Mow grass, etc.

## Social Action Activities

Blood Drives – provide volunteers for the canteen  
Angel Tree – provide Christmas gifts to families and organizations in need  
Garage Sale – raise money for charities outside our church  
Food Pantry – collect food for distribution to families in need through food bank at Peace Lutheran  
CROP Walk – raise money to help fight hunger  
Meals on Wheels - schedule volunteer for two-week period in summer to deliver meals to the homebound  
Catholics in Action – Mission trips

## Possible Future Activities:

Habitat for Humanity - form a group from our church to help with a build on a Saturday  
Alternative Christmas Sale - offer parishioners choices for shopping through organizations that promote helping others - Fair Trade, Heifer Project, etc.

Mission Trips - offer opportunities for parishioners to travel and help with projects to assist others

Catholic Worker House – homeless shelter in Des Moines





Legacy of Faith



# Legacy of Faith Stewardship Campaign

We need to work hard and continue our generosity. The **Legacy of Faith** Stewardship Campaign can allow us to reach that final step. In addition, it will afford us an opportunity to respond by faith to the challenge and opportunity before us. It will allow God to work in our lives as we seek to do His will.

## ***Not Equal Gifts but Equal Sacrifice***

The simple and profound theme that underscored previous campaigns and **Legacy of Faith** comes from the Bible's teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. No gift impresses God in terms of dollar amounts, but as extensions of the love and obedience with which they are given and proportion of resources from which they come. God, in other words, looks upon the heart of the giver.

## ***Schedule of Events***

### ***Spread the Word! (May 14 – May 20, 2011)***

The purpose of this phase is to share information regarding the campaign, to answer questions, and to encourage each individual to commit to prayer. You will be encouraged to pick up information packets at Mass the weekend of May 21-22. This is a time for learning about our **Legacy of Faith** Stewardship Campaign.

### ***Inspiration Phase (May 21 – June 4, 2011)***

This will be a time of intensive communication to our parish in the form of both factual and scriptural teachings. We want you to be informed in order to personally share in a decision that will influence the future of our parish.

### ***Enlightenment and Commitment (June 4 – June 5, 2011)***

This is an opportunity for the entire parish to meet for fellowship and inspiration. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this important event. Those who attend will be given the opportunity to register their commitment for our **Legacy of Faith** Stewardship Campaign. Be sure to reserve June 4th/5th on your calendar.

### ***Celebration Mass (June 26, 2011)***

During Mass this weekend, we will celebrate our thanksgiving to the Lord for his blessings and generosity.

It is the goal of this stewardship campaign to retire the debt so that our parish family can move forward in creating a **Legacy of Faith** in service to our Lord, our community, and beyond.



# Legacy Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
You have never ceased to provide.  
We come before you in faith and  
gratitude for the many blessings  
in our lives and in our parish.  
We continue **BUILDING FAITH**  
while remembering future  
generations will reap what we sow.

O Blessed Mother of God,  
Mary our patroness,  
watch over our parish  
in this time of new beginnings.  
As we move **FORWARD BY FAITH**  
help us discern God's will  
for our new church.

May our church  
be a place of welcome,  
a source of healing,  
and a house of God  
That keeps our **FAITH ALIVE.**

Pick us up when we fall,  
show us how to comfort others,  
steer us in the direction you lead,  
guide us as we walk in your footsteps,  
in creating a **LEGACY OF FAITH**  
in loving service to You, O Lord.

We ask this in Your Name,

Amen



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