

Growth and Communications Ministries:
Making St. Mary's a Welcoming and Inviting Place for Everyone

The Growth and Communications Ministries team aims to create ongoing church growth through programs of invitation and welcome, celebrating the gifts and inclusion of newcomers. To that end, we coordinate internal and external communications focused on newcomers to increase pathways toward becoming a part of St. Mary's and to create a more intentional presence in the broader community as a progressive and welcoming church.

Growth and Communications-Specific Responsibilities
(about 2 hours a month)

Along with the ministry team:

- Craft St. Mary's message to emphasize the unique ways that we understand the Gospel and its application to 21st-century North American life.
- Develop and implement a welcome program to fully connect with new members and visitors.
- Work with other established committees at St. Mary's, including:
 - Outreach Ministries to ensure St. Mary's presence and involvement is known;
 - Adult Christian Formation Ministries to increase opportunities for newcomers to receive educational information and create opportunities to share the newcomer's spiritual journey;
 - Community-Building Ministries to focus on church growth activity among current church members, including providing volunteer opportunities to increase participation.

Vestry Responsibilities *About 6 hours a month*

- **General Responsibilities**
 - Help guide and oversee the financial, legal, and ministry work of the parish. Work on special projects or tasks in your area of ministry and share in the work of various Vestry subcommittees, such as Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, etc.
 - Prepare for Vestry meetings by reading and organizing materials and attend meetings of the Vestry, held on the second Monday of each month, traditionally from 6:30-8:30 pm.

- Attend the Annual Vestry Retreat (*1-2 days, during early February or March*) and any special trainings or work sessions held throughout the year (*usually 2-3*).
- Share your thoughts, hopes, and dreams as part of the spiritual and corporate leadership of our Church.
- Attend and support regular and special events in the life of St. Mary's and be active and visible in the community's worship life.
- Be a leader in stewardship and in giving back in thankfulness to God from the time, talent, and treasure God has given you.
- Maintain an active prayer life or spiritual discipline of prayer, meditation, or Bible study and strive to grow in your relationship to God in Christ. Pray for those with whom you share ministry that God may use you as an instrument of grace, healing, and reconciliation.
- **Ministry-Area Specific Responsibilities**
 - Identify people who have the gifts and interest in supporting the ministry of the assigned ministry area.
 - Convene monthly meetings: Bring them together on a regular scheduled basis to brainstorm, plan, coordinate, and carry out ministry in this area.
 - Recruit a co-chair or vice chair and ministry-area leaders to carry out ministry area.
 - Communicate in person, by phone, or via e-mail with ministry leaders in your area of support and oversight. Check to see how things are going for them and provide them encouragement and support.
 - Help them get the necessary on-going training and support they need to carry out these ministries well.
 - Thank them and help the congregation find ways of expressing its appreciation and gratitude to God for this ministry we share in Christ's name.
 - Report back regularly to the congregation about the needs, joys, challenges, and successes of these ministries.
 - Meet in person at least monthly with the staff support person for this area of ministry development.