

A Word from Father Kevin



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For more than 150 years, Saint Mary Parish has served the Evanston community. Our church began as a small wooden cabin in 1865 and has since blossomed into a parish with over 800 families. The generosity and support of

many have led to the proud legacy that we maintain today as the first Catholic church in the Evanston area.

Over the years, Saint Mary Parish has developed a reputation for giving a warm welcome to parishioners of all origins, languages and backgrounds — proudly reflecting the diversity of God's kingdom and providing a faith home for all who desire to hear God's word. We have also developed a strong reputation for serving the poor and needy through our parish life activities. Our faith formation and spiritual life programs serve over 280 parishioners each year. Due to the sacrifices of those that have come before us, we have a beautiful church, education building, spacious grounds and a parish center that help make our various community activities possible.

One's life is measured by how well they have stewarded the many blessings God has given them. I want to continue to challenge our community to grow in their faith and come closer together by stewarding God's blessings. Every day, our relationship with Christ requires maintenance. Our 150 year old parish is no different. Our parking lot is sinking and has become a safety hazard to all those coming to worship. Our campus requires updates to provide a more safe and comfortable space for community events — reinvigorating our spiritual life by ensuring our parish can grow and flourish for another 150 years.

The **Stewarding God's Blessings** campaign is an opportunity for you to receive the beautiful gift of leaving your legacy in our historic faith community, like the many parishioners that have come before you. I invite you to take part in our campaign by becoming involved — sharing your time, talent, resources, and most importantly, opening your heart to our campaign. In this campaign we will seek pledges payable over a five-year period. Your gift will support our parish of today and tomorrow.

Please join me in prayer for the success of the **Stewarding God's Blessings Campaign**. Together, we will meet the imminent needs of our faith community as well as provide a legacy for the future.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Kevin McCray



Stewarding God's Blessings

Campaign Prayer

Almighty and ever-loving God,
Your Son is the Way, the Truth and the
Life. As His disciples, we follow his way,
Believe his truth, and live his life.

Heavenly Father,
raise up a new generation of disciples
with fervor and eagerness
to steward God's blessings and teach and
proclaim Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
the One who tells who we are, shows us
how to love, and assures our salvation.

Bless this Campaign
"Stewarding God's Blessings."

Lord God,
may donors discover in themselves your
gift of a generous and sacrificial spirit
that flows from a love for the Church
and supports her mission
to maintain itself.

May the pattern of holiness,
the Virgin Mary, Christ's mother and ours,
open our hearts anew with the desire
for your will to be done, through Jesus
Christ, Your Son and Our Lord.

Amen.



Stewarding God's Blessings



Saint Mary Parish

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At Saint Mary Parish, we want all people—no matter who they are or where they come from—to know that they can come here when they have a need.

- Fr. Kevin



Saint Mary Parish is often described as warm, welcoming, diverse and inclusive. Over 800 families from around the globe—hailing from Africa, Asia,

Europe and Latin America—call Saint Mary home. For hundreds of years, Saint Mary Parish has served as a voice for the voiceless through social justice, community outreach and social service programs. Today, the parish continues to serve the community, utilizing its campus for outreach, spiritual life and religious programming through a variety of ministries.

Snapshot of Saint Mary Parish Impact

Number of people served through social outreach programs in 2018:

1,000

Number of people attending spiritual life programs, retreats and events in 2018:

300

Pope John XXIII School	Faith Formation Program
St. Vincent de Paul Society	RCIA
Knights of Columbus	Black Catholics Faith Sharing Group
Warming Center	March 4 Life
AA and Al-Anon	Spirit of Love Charismatic Prayer Groups
Haitian Mass	Summer Block Party
Young Adult Ministry	

As good stewards, we must act to ensure ministries at Saint Mary continue to accommodate the needs of all within our community who desire to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Stewarding Our Parish Home

Over the years, Saint Mary Parish has incurred more and more expenses for maintaining its 153-year-old campus due to deferred maintenance. A simple \$30,000 repair today can cost \$1,000,000 when delayed for 5-10 years. In 2018 alone, Saint Mary spent \$358,000 in renovation and maintenance. Generally, the parish spends 21% of annual income on repairs. Our campaign builds the foundation for a more physically and financially sustainable parish campus.

Systematically setting aside funds for continued maintenance ensures the parish can continue to perform vital community outreach and spiritual life programs in Evanston for years to come!

Cost	Output	Outcomes
\$599,000 Legacy Fund	153-yr-old church inspection and building tuckpointing  Boiler system upgrades Evaluating and updating the 1990s sound system Cleaning, repairing and protecting the 1920s stained glass windows	Church remains in good-working condition for Mass and serving the Evanston community for the next 150 years
\$376,000 School building maintenance/renovation	Replacing hazardous and outdated windows  Refurbishing the cafeteria and the auditorium 	Safe, toxin-free facilities for all who come into contact with the building Safeguard critical income stream for parish—30-40% of incomes flow from YMCA building lease Good environmental stewardship via energy efficiency Better utilization for spiritual life and community outreach events
\$275,000 Parking Lot	Replacing the current parking lot to end pot holes and flooding for once and for all	Avoid accidents and provide a safe and welcoming campus
TOTAL		\$1,250,000

All funds raised for the campaign are restricted to Saint Mary Parish maintenance, repair and renovation.

Our Shared Future

It is up to us today to provide for the future generations of our parish, as those in the past have done for us. If not you, then who? If not now, then when?



Our goal to raise \$1.25 million for stewarding our parish home will only be met and exceeded by the financial participation of every parish family.

This campaign is a planned, methodical approach to involve all of Saint Mary Parish in living out the Christian principle of stewardship: i.e., giving back to God a portion of the blessings that you have received according to how you have been blessed. Equal sacrifice, not equal giving, is the plan's basic premise.

Please prayerfully consider what a sacrificial gift pledged over five years means to you. Gifts made over time have a profound impact on reaching our goal. For example, a pledge of just \$50 per week can add up to a five-year pledge of \$12,000.

The participation of everyone is crucial. Christian stewardship teaches us that all are gifted and all are called to participate in the building up of God's kingdom.

To learn more about this campaign, donate, or serve as a campaign volunteer, please contact the parish office.

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