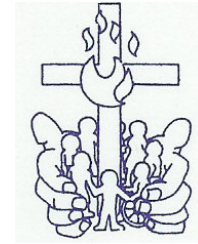


Please remember!

- Continue to pray!
- Continue to respectfully communicate to Bishop Kmiec your support for St. Mary
- Continue to support the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee
- Continue to be the loving , hospitable people you have always been!



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church
5 Saxton St.
Lockport, NY 14094

Save St. Mary!

Fact or Fiction?

When is an elevator a deciding factor in deciding the fate of a church? Evidently, it played a role in selecting a Lockport parish to remain open as a site for liturgical services. The **FACT** is that St. Mary has convenient handicap ramps to allow easy access into our Parish Center and church with no need for an elevator. More important is the continued growth of St. Mary. Within the last _____ years, we have welcomed _____ new members to our parish family. That is not fiction!

Mandate Update

Remember those mandates you signed a few weeks ago? To date, we have received **517** signed mandates authorizing our canon lawyer to represent us in our efforts to keep St. Mary open as a worship site within the newly formed parish. If you have not as yet completed the form, it is not too late to do so. Copies are available in the parish rectory and may be completed and left at the rectory. Congratulations on this splendid accomplishment, and thank you for your faith and support!

Continued Support Pours In!

Our parish community is blessed by the presence of other loving Christian communities in Lockport. Most recently, letters of support were sent to Bishop Kmiec from Rev. Alan J. Bauch, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church; The Very Rev. John A. Marshall, Rector, Christ Church; The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Devine of First Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Stephen A. Hall, pastor of Lockport United Church of Christ. The impact of their support cannot be diminished; they testify to the vibrancy of our parish family and its deep commitment to living the Gospel. We are grateful not only for their willingness to recognize and witness to our mission, but also for the opportunity to work together to spread the Good News.

We are continually surprised by and grateful for the generous contributions being made to sustain our efforts. Current and former parishioners who have heard of our situation have profoundly expressed their love for St. Mary and the lasting memories they experienced within this community. We pray and ask for your prayers of thanksgiving for the abundant blessings we have received and have been able to share with others.

Restoration Pledge Letters

We continue to receive beautiful testimony included with the restoration pledge letters. If you pledged funds for the restoration of our Parish Center, please take a moment to submit your letter as outlined in our mailing. The Strategic Planning Committee is indescribably encouraged by the heartfelt expressions of love for our parish.

Maintaining Our Potential

Please continue to support your parish community through your weekly contributions. Operating costs continue to exist and we need to remain a viable parish. Thank you for your support!

Strategic Planning Committee

Julie Brounscheidel	434-4517
Jim Buczkowski	433-6478
Ken Carter	433-3584
Martha Chilcott	433-4931
Carol Costello	772-7749
Olivia Emrich	688-6174
Mary Alice Kern	434-1938
Jerome Kern	434-1938
Kathy Michalski	433-0271
Bernie Mosher	725-4455
Esther Owens	434-7601
Sue Schilling	433-7428
Marcia Seibel	688-0772
Jean Skop	778-7764
Mary Alice Stroehlein	433-6106
Valerie Steltzer	434-7048
Mike Ulrich	433-6467
Fred Wascovich	434-3451

St. Mary Participates in First Transition Meeting

On Wednesday, November 14, members of St. Mary's transition team attended the first meeting held at St. Patrick Church. The meetings are meant to assist the parishioners of the Lockport Catholic churches to plan for the merger that will take place. Participants expressed their concerns about parish closings, what they would miss, but also what advantages would arise. As the meetings continue, the team will keep you apprised of the expanding details.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the merger process, or of any issue connected to it, you are encouraged to present your questions or concerns to the Strategic Planning Committee by submitting them in writing and placing in an envelope marked "Strategic Planning Committee" and dropping them in the collection basket.. They will be discussed at the Committee's regularly scheduled meetings and answered either personally or in this newsletter

Tax-deductible Donations

Contributions to support our efforts are gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to "St. Mary's Appeal, Inc." Please remember that your donations are tax-deductible!

T-shirts/Sweatshirts Still Available

If you haven't as yet purchased a "Save St. Mary's" shirt, you're in luck! Limited sizes are available in the back of church. Adult and children's sweatshirts are \$20 and adult t-shirts are \$10. Available sizes:

Adult sweatshirts (Small only)	5
Children's sweatshirts	5 (Small) 10 (Medium) 9 (Large)
Adult t-shirts	6 (Small) 10 (Medium) 2 (Large) 6 (X-large)

Did You Know?

According to the Lockport Journal dated August 17, 1880: "NEW ORGAN - Yesterday St. Mary's German Catholic Church received a beautiful new one manual organ from Pomplitz of Baltimore. The instrument, twelve and a half feet high and nine feet wide, has fourteen stops. The case is in the Roman style being finished in rosewood and with the front pipes richly guided. The organ which cost \$800 has been placed in position and is a credit to St. Mary's." Future editions of this newsletter will chronicle the history of our current Teller organ.

Due to the steadily increasing membership, it was publicly announced on October 2, 1884, in the Lockport Daily Journal St. Mary's intention to "raise the necessary funds to erect to the Most High a worthy house of worship in place of their old one. Subscription lists were in circulation to appeal not only to their actual members, but also to the generosity of the good people of Lockport to assist in this accord. The following gentlemen will gratefully receive any gift: B. Miller, Melekor Fritton, Joseph Spitz and Eugene Ruhlman." This visionary action was begun and directed by Fr. G. Grill.