

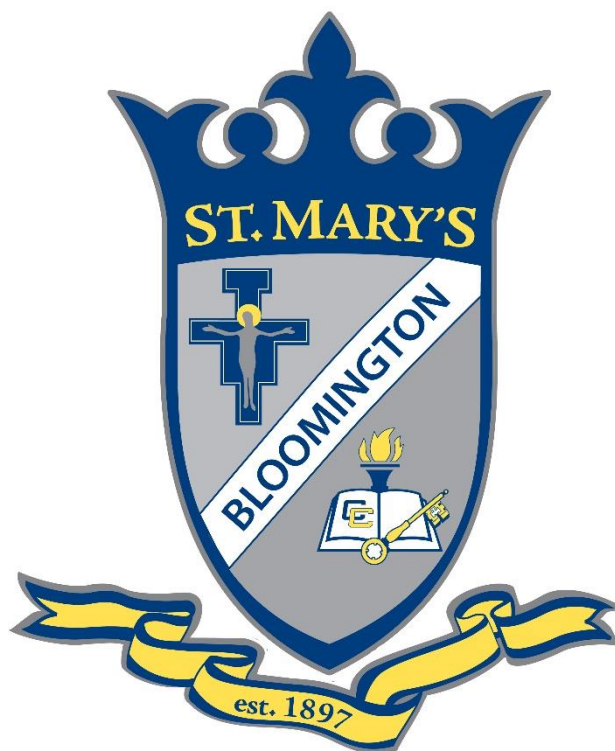
*"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."  
- Matthew 17:20*

# St. Mary's Catholic School

Spiritual Development Plan

2019-2020

*“Faith Moves Mountains”*



## **Spiritual Development**

Spiritual development is a powerful personal transformation that embraces the heart, opens the mind, and nourishes the soul. It makes us more aware of the presence of God in our world, it encourages us to see Jesus in others, and it empowers us to discover the Holy Spirit within ourselves. Spiritual development is a faith journey toward a deeper personal and communal relationship with God and it is a road most easily traveled within the family of the Body of Christ.

### **Our Mission**

***Brought together by faith, St. Mary's School is a Franciscan family  
welcoming and inspiring all to love, live, learn and serve as Christ taught us.***

### **Goal for School Spiritual Development:**

To become a family of faith, in the tradition of St. Francis, by welcoming and inspiring all to love, live, learn and serve as Christ taught us.

### **School Objectives:**

- To create a welcoming school climate of joy and service to those in need.
- To focus on faith first, build positive relationships, and employ quality teaching for learning to inspire academic excellence.
- To empower our Spiritual Growth and Inspiration Team to develop, organize, and implement the activities in our Spiritual Growth Plan.

### **School Action Plan:**

- Continue to incorporate, display, repeat and use our Mission Statement in all publications and communications, visual representations, morning assemblies and religious and behavior education.
- Promote a yearlong theme incorporating the concepts of "Faith Moves Mountains"
- Song to use throughout the year: Don't Give Up on Me – Andrew Grammer  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDwNbi-3O-k&list=RDbDwNbi-3O-k&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDwNbi-3O-k&list=RDbDwNbi-3O-k&start_radio=1)
- Quote to use throughout the year: *"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*- Matthew 17:20
- Use the phrase "God is good...All the time and All the time...God is good" regularly in morning assembly.
- Continue the use of music, movement, drama, and visual arts in religious education
- Utilize "Faith" in music and Scripture
- Incorporate "Faith" and "God is Good...all the time & all the time....God is good" in all school Masses and Morning Assemblies

**Goal for Principal Spiritual Development:**

To constantly renew and strengthen my own spiritual development as I continue on my faith journey toward a deeper relationship with God and the community of His Church.

**Principal Objectives:**

- Maintain previously established relationships and support-groups that provide a foundation for my spirituality.
- Maintain spiritual growth, servant leadership and Apostolic action as a religious role model for students and staff at St. Mary's School and Church.
- Explore new relationships, ministries and habits that will take my spiritual development to the next level.

**Principal Action Plan:**

- Develop a prayer routine using daily readings from various spiritual vocational books.
- Pray with students, parents and staff at assemblies, meetings, activities and events
- Share praise and worship music at Morning Assembly and All School Masses
- Incorporate the theme of "Flawless" in meetings and prayer
- Maintain an active parish presence and attend Mass at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington
- Volunteer as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary's Church

**Goal for Staff Spiritual Development:**

To deepen your personal relationship with God and continue your spiritual development in order to strengthen your role as teacher and catechist.

**Staff Objectives:**

- To pursue a personal plan of piety, study, and action in order to strengthen your relationship with God and the Church.
- To participate in a minimum of 5 hours of faith-based staff development or spiritual formation opportunities each year.
- To become a spiritual leader within the classroom, school family and church community.

**Staff Action Plan:**

- Develop and implement at least one personal spiritual development goal
- Become aware of your own spiritual gifts
- Extend the school year theme of "#Flawless" into your classroom
- Develop a classroom service project for you and your students/parents
- Lead prayer and rosary activities at morning assembly on a rotating basis
- Pray the Angelus with the students at lunch time either before or after lunch
- Plan and organize All School Mass on a rotating basis
- Pray with and for students, Prayer Partners, Professional Partners, and school colleagues
- Attend the Summer Diocesan Faith Formation Institute in June at Peoria, Illinois
- Explore opportunities to participate in Teens Encounter Christ, Cursillo, Secular Franciscans, Faith in Action, RCIA, Religious Education, Scripture Study or Parish Mission activities.

### **Goal for Student Spiritual Development:**

To educate students with a knowledge of the Catholic faith, its traditions and practices, and to motivate our students and their families to be actively involved in the Church.

#### **Student Objectives:**

- To gain a better understanding and appreciation for Liturgy through all school Mass celebrations.
- To increase family attendance at weekend Masses.
- To improve the quality of student responses and prayers at Mass.
- To gain a better understanding of the Liturgical seasons through Morning Assembly activities.
- To love, live, learn and serve as Christ taught us.

#### **Student Action Plan:**

- Improve the quality of participation in all faith formation events and activities.
- Daily Morning Assembly gathering for praise, prayer and announcements
- Daily decade of the Rosary and prayer for those in need, explore “Living Rosary.”
- Daily exposure to Mission Statement and “Flawless” or Hope activities
- Daily instruction in Religious Education and the Catholic Faith
- All School Mass every Wednesday or Holy Day of Obligation
- Celebrate your spiritual gifts by volunteering or serving the community by using your God-given talents.
- Participation in classroom and school initiated service projects
- Special morning activities for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter
- Stations of the Cross and explore “Living Stations” during Lent
- May Crowning Celebration in May

### **Spiritual Year-Long Plan**

The following activities are performed by St. Mary’s staff, students, parents and parish members.

#### **August**

- Faculty In-Service and CDOP Retreat
- Faculty/Staff Prayer Partners
- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus

#### **September**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass

- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- Diocesan Education Mass with Bishop Jenky (Every 2 years)
- SMS Faculty & Faith Formation teachers retreat
- Catechetical Sunday

### **October**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- Vocation Awareness Week

### **November**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- All Saints' Day Presentations (Grade 3)
- Veterans' Day Assembly
- All-School canned food drive
- Thanksgiving Dinner (Prek – 5)

### **December**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- Reconciliation Service (Grade 3-8)
- St. Nicholas School Visits (Grade 1)
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Las Posadas Presentation (Spanish Class)
- Advent Preparation: Living Advent Wreath, Jesse Tree Presentations
- Christmas Program (Prek – 5 & Choir/Band)

### **January**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- First Reconciliation (Grade 2)
- ACRE Faith Assessment (Grades: 5 & 8)
- Confirmation Retreat (Grade 8)
- National Catholic Schools Week celebrations
- Vocation Awareness Week

## **February**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- Ash Wednesday Mass & Preparation
- Lenten Activities: Living Stations of the Cross, Lenten preparations
- Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent (Friday at 2:15)

## **March**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- Lenten Activities: Living Stations of the Cross, Lenten preparations
- Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent (Friday at 2:15)
- Lenten Confessions (Grades: 2-8)

## **April**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- Lenten Activities: Living Stations of the Cross, Lenten preparations
- Weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent (Friday at 2:15)
- Seder Meal (Grades 3-8)
- Easter Triduum
- Chasity Education Program
- Vocation Awareness Week
- Confirmation (Grade 8)

## **May**

- Daily decade of the Rosary at Morning Assembly
- Weekly Wednesday All School Mass
- Daily prayer of the Angelus
- First Communion (Grade 2)
- May Crowning
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Mass
- Last day of School Mass & Candle Ceremony