

# St. Mary Mother of God Church

## Today's Challenge ~ Tomorrow's Hope Case Statement

### Our Parish History

St. Mary Mother of God Church, was founded in 1826 and has served the spiritual needs of our parish family, marking important milestones throughout our lives. In 1847 our present church was built and it was renovated and enlarged in 1950. In 1902 a rectory was built to house the priests. In 1923 the school was built and in 1961, through your generosity, we added 4 classrooms and new restrooms. A convent was built in 1926. In 1951 St. Mary's would now be under the guidance of the Diocese of Greensburg. Over the years our parish has grown and flourished due to God's blessings and the extraordinary sacrifices of our people. Over the last several years as other parishes have struggled and declined in membership we have flourished.



Today, as we mark the 184th anniversary of our parish, we are called by God to continue the great traditions set forth by our predecessors. Presently, 678 families gather to celebrate God's presence in the Eucharist, in prayer, and in social activities. The parishioners of St. Mary Mother of God Church, celebrate a history rich in traditions and service of the total community around us, especially the poor and less fortunate.

### Our Parish's Future



As an act of prudent stewardship, and in an effort to address the future of our Church, we are beginning the *Today's Challenge ~ Tomorrow's Hope* campaign in our parish. The Diocese of Greensburg has set our goal at \$355,000. We as a parish of St. Mary Mother of God Church, in order to be successful in all our identified projects, have set a **goal of \$635,000**.

In 2006 the pastoral planning committee under the guidance of Fr. Tom Federline convened to create a Strategic Plan for St. Mary's. The plan defined both short and long term goals. The short term goal included utilizing our current buildings to most efficiently house the living quarters for the assigned priest and also the administrative offices. Also included in the short term goal was to create more parking. The short term goal was realized in 2009 under our current pastor, Fr. Ed Volz.

Our long term goal suggested by the pastoral planning committee, was to build a multi-purpose pastoral center. It was also recommended that the restroom in the church be reconfigured to make it family friendly and handicapped accessible. As part of the short term goal, one classroom in the "new section" of the school building was converted into the parish offices and another classroom was converted into the Rev. George K. Alderson Conference Center. Additionally the other classrooms were subdivided to make adequate space for our religious education classes—the start of our multi-purpose pastoral center. We will use our share from the *Today's Challenge ~ Tomorrow's Hope* campaign to renovate the parish hall and kitchen to complete the multi-purpose pastoral center and to enhance the handicap accessibility of the church. Our specific needs and anticipated costs are:

#### **Our Project**

Renovate Hall and Kitchen	\$375,000
Restroom and Chair Lift in Church	40,000
<b>Total Need</b>	<b>\$415,000</b>



While our needs are significant, we are confident that our parish family is prepared to lend generous support. *Today's Challenge ~ Tomorrow's Hope* will enable St. Mary's to complete the visions set forth by past generations and ensure the Church's presence in the lives of our children and grandchildren. As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting *Today's Challenge ~ Tomorrow's Hope*. Your prayers, generosity, and sacrifice will ensure our success.