

St. Mary of the Lake

Parish Leadership Council

St. Mary's uses a process of discernment instead of elections to recruit parish leaders, and it is focused on "knowledge-based leadership." It allows a parishioner to gain experience and knowledge working in the parish or on a committee before becoming a Parish Leadership Council member.

According to Fr. Rodger Bauman, "good leaders are informed leaders-informed about the church, the parish and its ministries and concerned about parishioners. Knowledge-based leadership works well to serve our parish." He goes on to explain that, "A good council has a pastoral care and concern for its people. People who have lived and worked in the parish know the concerns and bring them to council, and act consistently for the benefit of the parish as a whole." The 16 members of St. Mary's Parish Leadership Council make up a balanced group:

- Six members come to the council by way of the parish committees-a committee representative is required to be on the parish leadership council so that each committee is represented and all the committees are aware of what the others are doing.
- Four members are at-large council members who step forward and volunteer their time.
- Six members are staff ministry directors, including Fr. Bauman.

At-large council members serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms. Members coming from committees are subject to annual re-election by their committees, for a maximum of six consecutive years. Membership openings occur each fall. Time commitment for parish council members can vary, but is typically about 10 hours a month, which includes a monthly parish council meeting on a Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meetings are open to the parish community. Besides carrying out the parish visions and goals, parish council members also approve the annual budget.

For a current list of council members, please go to page 7 of our current church bulletin (click Bulletin above).