



DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

Saint Mary Parish is participating in *One Church, Many Disciples*, along with every church in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. This first ever major campaign will build a Shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, support faith formation ministries and strengthen local parishes, including St. Mary. We join with faithful from across the archdiocese who are also helping to ensure our local church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

As an archdiocese, we form a faith community of 200,000 Catholics in central and western Oklahoma; we truly are *One Church, Many Disciples*! With the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, each of us has the opportunity to share in his legacy. What an occasion to live Jesus' call to missionary discipleship.

Please take a moment to review the impact *One Church, Many Disciples* will have on St. Mary. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at St. Mary.



Rev. James A. Wickersham, Pastor

OUR PARISH ROOTS

The original St. Mary Catholic Church was built in 1889 under the direction of Rev. Felix Degrasse. When Bishop Theophile Meerschaert was assigned Vicar Apostolic of Indian Territory in 1891, he made his home here in Guthrie. As such, St. Mary became the Pro-Cathedral, functioning as the Bishop's seat until a diocese was established. The Diocese of Oklahoma City was established in 1905, and Bishop Meerschaert moved to Oklahoma City in 1906, but St. Mary in Guthrie will always be known as the home of Oklahoma's first bishop!



The present St. Mary church building was constructed by Fr. John Van Gastel and was dedicated on December 27, 1920. The style is predominantly Gothic with rounded arches adding a Romanesque influence, often referred to as "Prairie Gothic." Upon completion of the current 1920 church the original 1889 church was demolished.

The altars, baptismal font, stations of the cross, and all the statues were produced by DaPrato Statuary Company of Chicago, Illinois. The cost for the high altar alone was \$25,000 when purchased in 1920. The parishioners of St. Mary have always been very proud of their church and all that is in it. Efforts are currently underway to fully restore the high altar and side altars under the direction of a local artist.





PARISH LIFE TODAY

Saint Mary Parish continues its proud history into today. Saint Mary Catholic School serves our children, instilling in each of them a desire to seek and share God's wisdom, knowledge and truth. The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters work to enliven spirits and support special activities throughout the parish. Our Religious Education and RCIA ministries ensure that those new to the faith are well informed, well prepared for their sacraments, and ready to answer Christ's call in their lives. The future looks bright for our growing and vibrant parish.



OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

Saint Mary Parish welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City's campaign, *One Church, Many Disciples*. This campaign will enable the building of a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, and will fund shared ministerial needs. Through participating in this campaign, St. Mary will raise significant funds toward the needs of this beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of \$500,000. Saint Mary will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling \$100,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to St. Mary.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the *One Church, Many Disciples* campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment in the Church's history, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects at St. Mary.

With St. Mary's share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will repaint the interior of the church. This will address peeling and chipping paint throughout the church, and improve our worship experience.

