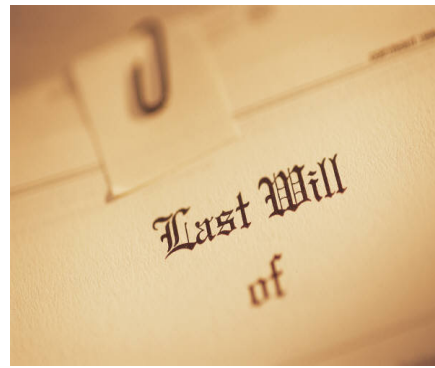


# A Lasting Legacy:

Estate Planning, and St. Mary Church  
157 High Street, Williamston, MI 48895



Giving to the Church through your will is one way of leaving a lasting legacy of Christian stewardship that benefits St. Mary Parish, the Diocese, and the whole Catholic Church.

After providing for your loved ones in your will, you may decide to give a specific amount, a percentage, or all or part of what remains after family members have been remembered. In all cases, it is advisable to seek legal counsel before drawing up a bequest or formulating a will.

Using the right words is important when you write or revise your Will. Should you decide to include St. Mary Parish in your Will, here is some suggested wording:

## **Percentage**

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing for the use and benefit of St. Mary Catholic Church, 157 High Street, Williamston, MI 48895, \_\_\_\_\_ % of my estate."

## **Dollar Amount**

"I give to the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing for the use and benefit of St. Mary Catholic Church, 157 High Street, Williamston, MI 48895, \$ \_\_\_\_\_."

## **Specific Property**

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing for the use and benefit of St. Mary Catholic Church, 157 High Street, Williamston, MI 48895, (describe the property)."

## **Residue of Estate**

"All of the residue of my estate (or specify percentage) including real and personal property, I give, devise and bequeath to the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing for the use and benefit of St. Mary Catholic Church, 157 High Street, Williamston, MI 48895."

**Note:** These examples are samples only and are not intended as legal advice for actual use. You should always consult with your attorney when preparing any legal document.

Please keep in mind that you may always designate your gift more specifically, if desired, by designating exactly how your gift would be spent. For example, you could designate the St. Mary School, St. Mary Building Fund, or some other worthy recipient of your gift through St. Mary Church.

If you would like more information about how to remember St. Mary in your will, or to let us know you have already included (or plan to include) St. Mary in your will, please contact Tom Fredericks, Chair, Stewardship Commission (655-4100)

([tomfredericks@cablespeed.com](mailto:tomfredericks@cablespeed.com)). Thanks for prayerfully considering making a bequest to St. Mary Parish through your will.

## Other Ways to Give

### **Life Insurance**

Did you know that you could make St. Mary Catholic Church a full or partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy? You can even make St. Mary Catholic Church the owner of a policy and then your payments may be tax deductible.

### **Charitable Remainder Trusts**

When you establish a charitable remainder trust, you set aside cash, securities, or other property for ultimate distribution to St. Mary Catholic Church. In the meantime, the trust pays income to you or to one or more beneficiaries that you name. You enjoy a charitable deduction, savings on your estate taxes, potential capital gains tax avoidance, and many other advantages.

### **Real Estate**

You can give real estate, improved or unimproved, to St. Mary Catholic Church and receive a tax deduction for its full fair-market value and avoid the capital gain tax on the appreciation. There is also a way to make a gift of your personal residence or farm to St. Mary Catholic Church, and retain the use of the property for your life, or for the life of you and your spouse; this is called a life estate agreement.

### **Certificate of Deposit or IRA**

Many people have decided to invest their retirement money in one of these instruments; they provide safety and security. By simply making St. Mary Catholic Church a beneficiary of a CD or IRA, you maintain control of your hard-earned dollars, and when the time comes that you no longer need this money, it can be given to the Church.

### **A "Totten" Trust**

One of the simplest kinds of trusts is a "Totten Trust," in which you are the trustee of a savings account, which names St. Mary Catholic Church a beneficiary. You maintain complete control of the money in this account. Once again, when the time comes that you no longer need this money, it will be used to help the Church.

Please keep in mind that you may always designate your gift more specifically, if desired by designating exactly how your gift would be spent. For example, you could designate the St. Mary School, St. Mary Building Fund, St Mary Scholarship Fund, or some other worthy recipient of your gift through St. Mary Church.

For more information, please contact Tom Fredericks, Chair, St. Mary Stewardship Commission (655-4100) ([tomfredericks@cablespeed.com](mailto:tomfredericks@cablespeed.com)).