



## Mary Whalen

Mary Whalen RECE has been attending St. Patrick's Basilica for about 3 years and volunteering her talents as a vocalist in the choir and lector on the altar for 2 years. Originally from Arnprior, ON, Mary grew up in a home with a strong Irish Catholic tradition, the third of five children. After high school Mary spent a year in community with Madonna House Lay Apostolate in Combermere, ON being steeped in the richness of the Roman and Byzantine Tradition. This formed her as a young adult in Catholic community, enkindling a heart for loving the Lord and others in doing ordinary things with extraordinary love (a charism she continues to live as a home support worker with Ottawa West Community Support).

From an early age Mary's natural leadership skills have been a service to her community. Currently Mary resides at St. Monica House, a Catholic women's household where her training and experience as a team member of NET Ministries of Canada (2011-12) and Duc In Altum (2015-17). These have empowered her to encourage the personal growth and sisterly community of her housemates as well as foster a spirit of hospitality and self care for all those who walk through their doors. With prayer and discernment she and her housemates have faithfully served each other and the greater community with events including a faith formation book club, an annual ladies' tea for young Catholic women, and an annual Halloween party.

Mary has been blessed to call many priests "friend" throughout her life and possesses a strong respect and reverence for the vocation. Particularly, with her older brother's recent ordination to the priesthood (December 2015), Mary feels that she has been given a renewed heart for supporting priests. A position on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) would be an excellent way for her to continue serving the Lord and His priests through this charism as the purpose of the council is to "provide advice and assistance to the rector" (Saint Patrick's Basilica Parish Pastoral Council Constitution).

If the parish feels she would be the right candidate for a position on the council, Mary will approach the position with an openness to learn from and listen to other council members before prayerfully responding to what she then perceives the priorities of the rector and the parish to be.