



## IGNITE ST. MARY APPLICATION GUIDE

### **ABOUT IGNITE ST. MARY**

The Chamber's flagship leadership initiative is back with a new name and a bold new vision. Ignite St. Mary is a year-long program designed to develop, inspire, and connect community-minded professionals. Through hands-on leadership training, behind-the-scenes tours, and conversations with leaders in business, government, healthcare, education, and industry, participants gain the tools, confidence, and connections to make an impact today and shape the future of St. Mary Parish.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Your journey to Ignite St. Mary starts here. Complete each section fully. If something doesn't apply, write NOT APPLICABLE and add a short explanation. Keep your answers within the space provided, no attachments allowed. Don't forget to sign and return your application by the deadline listed in the cover letter.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Ignite St. Mary is open to professionals who live or work in St. Mary Parish. Each class will include approximately 20 participants. Because space is limited, applicants not selected are encouraged to reapply in future years.

Participants will be chosen by the Ignite St. Mary Selection Committee based on the information provided in this application. We seek a diverse group of individuals who reflect the leadership potential and community spirit of St. Mary Parish. Ideal candidates are active or emerging leaders in business, education, healthcare, government, the arts, religion, media, law, industry, nonprofits, and other community organizations.

Applicants must have the full support of their employer or sponsoring organization to participate.

### **DEADLINE & SUBMISSION**

The total program cost is \$750.

**Deposit:** Applications must be submitted with a \$100 due with application by November 30, 2025.

**Early Discount:** If your application is received during the month of October, you'll receive a \$50 discount — lowering your remaining balance to \$600.

**Balance Upon Acceptance into program:** \$650 (or \$600 if October discount is applied).

**Payment plans are available.**

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

**All application materials will remain confidential and will only be reviewed by the Selection Committee.** Complete only those items that apply to you. Leave others blank. Do not attach resumes or additional pages. Please print legibly or type.

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Nickname

How would you prefer your name to appear in the press? \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived/worked in St. Mary Parish: Years: \_\_\_\_\_ Months: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Nickname

Spouse's Occupation or Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. EDUCATION**

College: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

List any activities, offices and recognitions for special contributions during your educational years:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Include civic, religious, political, government, social, athletic, or other activities. Do not include business/professional activities. Indicate major role in the organization(s) at this time.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have additional significant community, civic, religious, government, political, social, athletic, or other areas of active involvement, please describe below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any important contributions or achievements in any of the above which you consider significant, and what was your role in the accomplishment?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IV. **EMPLOYMENT**

Present title or position, if employed or self-employed (if not employed skip to V.):

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Briefly describe your responsibilities in your present employment:

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Which of the following categories best describe your present position? (please circle)

Social Service

Government

Labor

Religion

Business & Industry

Media

Education

Medical

Law

Business/Professional Affiliations (if any), not including civic organizations, public office, or political activities:

Name of group

Positions Held or Assignments

Period of Affiliation

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Describe what you believe to be your most significant contribution to the community (include former communities).

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What would you like to contribute to St. Mary Parish and your local community?

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What do you hope to gain from participation in IGNITE ST. MARY?

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V. **COMMITMENT TO PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

The IGNITE ST. MARY program consists of an opening and/or closing retreat, and eight full-day programs scheduled on weekdays about one month apart. Locations of the programs vary throughout the Parish. Attendance at the Opening Social, Leadership Seminar, Closing Social, and Graduation is mandatory. More than the equivalent of two (2) absences from regular monthly sessions may result in withdrawal from the program with no refund. Leaving early or arriving late for a regular session will count as a half-day absence. Absences must be approved by Chamber President, Beth Chiasson.

Do you have the full support of your employer for the time required to participate in Ignite St. Mary this year?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that to graduate from IGNITE ST. MARY, attendance at the opening retreat and a minimum of 7 of the 8 full-day programs is **required**.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If you cannot fulfill this attendance requirement but feel there are extraordinary circumstances, please explain:

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IGNITE ST. MARY is limited to approximately 20 participants per year. If you are not accepted to the current leadership class, would you consider re-applying for the following year's classes?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If personal or employment circumstances limit your possible participation in the current class, please explain.

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**Polo Shirt Size:** Ladies - S M L XL XXL \_\_\_\_\_ Men - S M L XL XXL XXXL \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit your application with a \$100 deposit by November 30.

Upon acceptance, the remaining balance of \$650 will be due. (Payment plans available.)

**Early Registration Bonus: Apply and submit your deposit during October and save \$50 — your remaining balance will be \$600.**

**Mail application and payment to:**

Leadership ST. MARY  
727 MYRTLE STREET  
MORGAN CITY, LA 70380