Greetings to you on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time!

Come to our Community Block Party TODAY—Sunday—at the Runestone Community Center (Fairgrounds), for a time to socialize and listen to some good, free entertainment that includes Blonde & The Bohunk (country), Mary Rowels (comedian), Eric E. (amazing guitar), James Wedgewood (ventriloquist/comedian), Missy Radermacher and Enterprise Band from 11 AM to 5 PM, ending with the Grand Raffle. Good food and refreshments will be served. There will be games & bouncy house for kids, Spin for Sweets, a Country Store and a Silent Auction. Breakfast will be served in our gym on Sunday, serving from 8:30 AM - 12 PM.

T-day dinner update (I will write a brief few sentences about this as I find out)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is available to any person seeking full membership into the Catholic Church. Each year adults, youth, and children who want to join the Catholic Church from a different faith tradition or finish their sacramental initiation come together to learn about the church through prayer, catechesis and liturgy. It is an initiation process for: • Adults who have never been baptized • Adults who have been baptized but have not completed initiation sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation • Adults who have been baptized in another tradition and wish to become Roman Catholic • Children over the age of 7 who have not been baptized We begin the process in mid-September with Inquiry (asking questions). Please call me, Fr. Steve at 320-763-5781.

There is a special exhibit of the St. John’s Bible, a remarkable work of art with calligraphy and illuminated manuscript art, in Moorhead at the Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County—Hjemkomst Center—from October 1 to December 31. 68 pages taken from all seven volumes will be shown along with tools used to scribe the bible, process sketches and 6 rare illuminated manuscripts from Hill Monastic Manuscript Library will also be shown.

Next Sunday we welcome members who have registered in the last 6 months. They are welcome to check in the Great Hall before the 8 and 10 AM Masses, be seated with the newcomers and come to coffee and rolls after Mass for a welcome and brief presentation.

Fr. Steve Binsfeld

“Our Mission is to know, love, and serve God by living the Eucharist.”

Promulgated on Pentecost Sunday 2013

Readings for the Week of Sept. 11th

| Monday   | Col 1:24 — 2:3; Lk 6:6-11 |
| Tuesday  | Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19   |
| Wednesday| Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26   |
| Thursday | Nm 21:4b-9; Jn 3:13-17   |
| Friday   | 1 Tm 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-27 |
| Saturday | 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49 |
| Sunday   | Sir 27:30 — 28:9; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35 |

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE


| Monday   | No daily mass |
| Tuesday  | 5:00 PM +Dorothy Vanderheiden |
| Wednesday| 8:30 AM +Gladys Larsen |
| Thursday | 7:00 AM +Dorothy Thoennes |
|          | 1:30 PM @ Bethany ++Willem & Lorraine Van Santen |
| Friday   | 8:30 AM +Jean Rothstein |
| Saturday | 5:00 PM +Bernie Bitzan |
| Sunday   | 8:00 AM Family of Frank Mareck |
|          | 10:00 AM For the Parish |

Sacraments

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday at 4 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (room behind presider’s chair; also has a separate entry)

Celebration of Baptism: All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course before their child’s baptism. Sign up by calling the Parish Office. The next course will be offered on Sept. 12th at 7 PM.

Baptism Dates: Sept. 17th, Oct 1st, 7th, 15th, Nov. 5th, 11th, 19th. To schedule a baptism on one of these dates, please call the Parish Office.

Preparation for Marriage: Members of the parish (or children of members) must arrange for marriage at least 6 months in advance. Information can be received from the Parish Office.

Anointing of the Sick: Is held on the first Sunday of the month, immediately following the 8 AM Mass. Those who wish to be anointed are asked to come to the front of the church.

New members - to register please stop by our hospitality desk located in the Commons Area of the church or visit our website to complete the registration online.
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

September 16th & 17th

SUNDAY 5 PM MASS

Greeters Team 3 – Bernice Wagner, Nancy & Richard Beltz, Susan & Joe Korkowski

Ushers Team 3-Jim & Kathleen Lingor, Alec Wosepka, Shaun Mateer, Curt Mateer, Wayne Siffing, Diane & Loren Lukes, Randy Meyer

Extraordinary Ministers Team 3

Lector 1 Tom Wosepka
Lector 2 Jan Siffing

Servers Jairo Lopez, Julie Wilmesmeier

SUNDAY 8 AM MASS

Greeters Team 7 B – Jane & Mike Syverson, Al & Cathy Hansen, Evelyn G. Roers, Kathy & Wayne Summer

Ushers Team 7 – Jeff Perrault, Dan Rider, Tony Strasser, Shane Schmidt, David Schmidt, Steven Schmidt Bill Verschaetse

Extraordinary Ministers Team 7

Lector 1 Gloria Deick
Lector 2 Josh Sanden

Servers Riley Sabolik, John Sabolik

SUNDAY 10 AM MASS

Greeters Team 11 B – Carol Mayer, Gloria & Marty Zeimetz, Randy Holthaus

Ushers Team 11 – Randy Kinney, Andy Bristow, Jim Kokett, Brad Klinkner, Wayne DeCock, Pat Bruggeman, Nicholas Nettleton

Extraordinary Ministers Team 11

Lector 1 Anna Solheid
Lector 2 Tabatha Odens

Servers Kaitlyn Evjen, Cody Lea

Drivers – September 17th

Bethel Manor – Pete Olmscheid
Windmill Ponds – Randy Meyer
Arabella Manor – Laurel Linder
Grand Arbor – John Hovel & Ron Boyden

Hospital/Nursing Home – September 17th

Hospital – Diane Hommerding
Knute Nelson/Nelson Gables – Ron & Sharon Svihel
Bethany – Mary Strasser

HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME EM’s – We will be working on the schedule for Oct. – Dec. If you have any dates you are not available please call or email the Parish Office with that information by Sept. 15th.

BAPTISM – Sophia Orie child of Troy & Janelle Wunderlich

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I Scott Johnson & Lauren Engebretson

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Tuesday evenings in the Great Hall immediately following the 5 PM mass. Call Mike at 759-1191 for more info.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY - Thursday mornings in the Commons Area of the church at 6:00 AM. Call Mike at 759-1191 for more info.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - Please join us when we begin the fascinating, in-depth study “Peter: Cornerstone of Catholicism”. Come learn about this stubborn and impulsive fisherman who becomes the “rock” upon which Jesus built His Church. This series is perfect for both the beginner and seasoned studier! It is a ten-part study and will be offered at two different times (Saturday mornings or Sunday evenings) Begins Saturday Sept. 16th (8-10 a.m.) and Sunday Sept. 17th (6:30-8:30 p.m.) To enroll or receive more information call Lori 320-808-1145 or Tammy 320-808-6404 or email biblestudywomen@gmail.com

ST. MARY’S PRAYER LINK: If you have a prayer request, please send to Wosepkak@aol.com or phone Kelly Wosepka at 320-815-4655. You may also call Julie Desautels at 846-1842. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Rosary: Sundays (before Mass) 7:35 AM & 9:35 AM

Holy Spirit Prayer Group: Thursdays 5:30-6:00 PM (rosary in Commons Area) 6-7 PM prayer time in the Chapel. Contact Jim Joerger at 834-2945

Divine Mercy Hour: Mondays from 3-4 PM. Contact Barb Nei at 846-0022.

Sanctity of Life Prayer Group: Meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7 PM. Contact Louise Revering at 762-8632.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION - Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St. Mary’s is open Monday through Friday from the early morning until late in the evening, with several perpetual hours of operation. The following times we would like another person to be with someone who already has volunteered. Mon – 4-5 am; Tues – 7-8 am; Wed – 4-5 am, 7-8 pm, 11-midnight; Thurs – 12-1 am, 2-3 pm, 11-midnight; Fri – 12-1 am, 5-6 pm
For more information, please contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006; tscamculloch@charter.net.

THE MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION is offered by Craig Hamilton, an experienced, certified spiritual director and parishioner. For an appointment or more information call 612-237-3463 or email craighamilton@careofsouls.org.

Interested in becoming Catholic, or returning to the church? Call Fr. Steve at 320-763-5781. Our process of becoming Catholic begins mid-September. He would be happy to visit with you.

PRAYER CORNER

If you or someone you know in our parish community is sick or ill or has a family member who could use our prayers, please call our Parish Nurse, Kathy Fischer, at 762-2320. Please remember the following people in your prayers: Lori Thorson, Ruth Partington, Ron Hoffman, Chris Ficenec, Emily Stark, Ken Judson, Betty Schlosser, Robert Weiland, Butch (Bruce) Schmidt, Jim Rutten, Nancy Westhoff, Harold Grundman, Scott Addy, Gretchen Rivers, Carol Furth, Marvin Anderley, Ben Vanderheiden, Ronald Decker, Kathryn Vieaux and Irene Bundy.
COMMUNITY NEWS

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO  Sunday, September 10th at 7:00 PM & Wednesday, September 13th at 2:00 PM at the KC Hall on 6th Ave E. & Nokomis. Team 2 John Leesch, Roy Nodsle, Hank Wessel, Gene Burghardt and Shawn Becker will be in charge.

PLEASE NOTE: A family of our parish is in need of help with occasional meals brought to their home. The following dates are available Oct. 17, 19. Please call Kathy at 762-2320 by Sept. 22 if you are able to volunteer on any of these dates or for more information.

SANCTITY OF LIFE MOMENT:
“A person is a person no matter how small.” – Dr. Seuss
Visit St. Mary’s Sanctity of Life online, at http://sanctityoflifestm.org/ for information and resources.

ST. MARY’S FALL RUMMAGE SALE – Mark your calendar, our fall rummage sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16th from 8 AM until 11 AM. Sale items and paper bags may be dropped off at the school on Friday, Sept. 15th from 4-7 PM. We are trying to go Green this year, so please bring your canvas bags for shopping. NO ELECTRONICS PLEASE! Help will be needed on Friday to set up and on Saturday for the sale. Please contact Carol at 815-1208 if you are able to help.

SAVE A MARRIAGE. Are you or someone you know living in the pain of a marriage in trouble? Retrouvaille can help. The next program starts Sept. 22, 2017 @ Country Inn & Suites in St. Cloud, MN. Call 320-255-5314 or check the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information. Preregistration is required. Space is limited.

WE ARE MOMNIPO TENT. Join us for a young women’s Bible Study/Book Club! Our group meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Youth Room at the YMCA. Children are welcome as childcare is available. Our first book starts on Sept. 15th. Call Michaela at 320-219-3852 for details.

THE PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY – If you know someone in need of a prayer shawl please contact Kay Stepan at 320-815-6604.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – Please use the envelope in your packet next weekend for this collection. Over 46 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. By supporting this collection you give people a hand up, not a hand out.

Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/chd/collection.

OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA WALK
On Saturday, Sept. 30, folks from several faith communities in the Alexandria/Lakes Area will participate in the 19th annual Operation Bootstrap Africa Walk.
Over the years, the Alexandria community has come together at this annual fundraiser to build classrooms for students with special needs, purchase school books, uniforms and other supplies, construct a dormitory for deaf girls, provide teachers’ housing, and even supply breakfast for school children who may not have any other meal that day.
This year’s walk will raise funds to renovate a classroom into a dormitory for deaf boys at Ilboru Special Needs Primary School in Tanzania, East Africa.
The Walk will begin at First Lutheran Church – 822 Douglas St., Alexandria. Registration begins at 10:30 AM and the walk will start at 11 AM. Everyone is invited to stay for lunch after the walk. For more information or walk materials, please call Catherine at 320-491-6062.

FAITHFULLY FIT FOREVER
What: An exercise program with a focus on body, mind, and spirit.
Who: Designed for all ages
When: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-10:00 AM
Where: Great Hall
No registration – free of charge
Session includes: 40 min. exercise, warm-up & cool-down
10 min. health education
10 min. faith and devotion
Questions call Kathy at 763-5781. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 19th.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA MEETING will be held on Thursday, Sept. 21st at 7 PM in the Commons Area of the church. We will be nominating and electing officers at this meeting, so please try to attend.

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE NEWS
** Are you interested in joining us? We will have a meeting September 12th, at 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM in the Great Hall. We would love to see you there!!!
• Sunday, September 17th please join us in the Great Hall after 8:00 and 10:00 Mass to welcome our New Members to the Church of St Mary. If you would like to volunteer to help out with this event, please call Verna at 507-329-0135.
• Saturday, October 28th the Parish Life Committee will be hosting an Oktoberfest dance.
God First in Living and in Giving

Using an Allowance to Help Teach Stewardship

We all know that money can’t buy happiness. Wealthy people can be just as unhappy as poorer people. Rather, happiness comes from being content with what we have and feeling like we are making a difference in the world. We can put our children on the path to a happy and successful life by teaching them how to use and manage money so that it brings them contentment, fills their needs and allows them to help others.

Financial experts suggest that children should be taught to divide their allowance into three or four sections – to spend, to save, to invest and to donate. Spending covers basic needs and wants. Saving teaches patience and planning. Investing looks to the future. For children this might mean future educational needs. Donating gives kids satisfaction by allowing them to be a part of something important, like the Offertory.

Our Lord calls each of us to share what we have. He tells us, “Much will be required of the person entrusted with much and even more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” (Luke 12:48) Children who learn to give away a portion of their financial blessings not only are following the Lord’s command but they also begin to discover that sharing part of their money can be very satisfying. article from: http://archstl.org

SACRAMENTAL PARENT MEETING

There will be a meeting for parents of second graders who wish for their child to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. Postcards will be sent out the end of September with more information.

Wednesday, October 11, 4:00 PM in the Great Hall
OR
Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 PM in the Great Hall
Parents! Grandparents! Parishioners!

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The St. Mary's School kitchen relies on volunteers to help prepare our school lunches! We need you!

The time commitment is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Volunteers are asked to sign up for one week, Monday-Friday.

Duties include cleaning and cutting fruits and vegetables and assisting with serving the lunch to students.

If you enjoy working in the kitchen and have the time to give, please consider helping us!

Call Mrs. Flaten in the School Office if you have any questions or to schedule your week!

Thank you!

Mr. Sladek

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Please contact Mr. Sladek at 763-5861 if interested in helping out.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER 2017

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<td>September 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>Steve Peterson</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
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SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Parent / Teacher Meetings are on Tuesday, September 12. Grades K-2 are at 6:30 p.m. and Grades 3-6 at 7:15 p.m.

PAC Meeting is taking place on September 12 at 8:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

First School Mass is Friday, September 15.

LITURGICAL & MUSICAL NOTES

In the production Fiddler on the Roof, the rabbi is asked if there is a blessing for a sewing machine and for the Czar of Russia. He responds that of course there is. Jesus, himself a rabbi, utters a variety of blessings, the beatitudes. They are presented in both Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel (5:3-10) and his Sermon on the Plain in Luke’s Gospel (6:20-26).

While the beatitudes tell us what our rewards will be if we live a life in accord with God, we need to be cautious in our understanding of the word “blessed.” In the beatitudes, “blessed” should not be equated with a particular emotion. To be blessed is not necessarily to feel good. The biblical understanding of being blessed is to be “set-aside” for a specific purpose. It is to know that you are doing something right and in accord with God and to persevere in the midst of what may not always feel like blessedness or happiness.

The reason the beatitudes are so jarring is that the culture in which we live and move has its own set of beatitudes. Jesus says: blessed are the poor in spirit. Culture says: blessed are the prosperous, for prosperity is a true sign of God’s favor.

Jesus says: blessed are those who mourn. Culture says: blessed are those who ignore pain and think self-actualizing thoughts. Jesus says: blessed are those who hunger. Culture says blessed are the high achievers who never want to hunger.

Jesus says: blessed are the meek. Culture says: blessed are those with high esteem. Jesus says: Blessed are the righteous. Culture says blessed are those who are secure in their “rightness.” Jesus says: blessed are the merciful.

Culture says: blessed are those who aren’t limited by “bleeding hearts.” Jesus says: blessed are the pure of heart.

Culture says: Blessed are the clever, street-wise and street-tough. Jesus says: blessed are the peacemakers. Culture says:
Continued from Page 4...blessed are the guns in our homes and our weapons of mass destruction that keep the peace. Jesus says: Blessed are the persecuted. Culture says blessed are the assertive and aggressive who never let themselves become victims. Our cultural beatitudes enshrine the status quo. Jesus' beatitudes usher in the reign of God in the hearts, souls and minds of those who live by them, for they will inherit the kingdom provided by Jesus and God.

As St. Mary’s begins a two-year, parish-wide faith formation focus on the Beatitudes, we ask that you pray the following prayer as an invitation for you to go deeper into your understanding of what Christ is calling us to BE...

Inspired to BE:  
A Beatitude Blessing Prayer

Leader prays bold lines; all pray lines following together

Lord our God,
Inspire us to BE – Open,
knowing that all we are and have
is a gift from You.
Inspire us to BE – Compassionate,
renewing us daily to lift up
those who are bowed down.
Inspire us to BE – Humble,
reminding us that kindness and gentleness
are more effective than forcefulness.
Inspire us to BE – Kind,
helping us stand in solidarity
with those whom the world forgets.
Inspire us to BE – Anchored,
reflecting Your beautiful image.
Inspire us to BE – Peaceful,
living as people of reconciliation.
Inspire us to BE – Undivided,
giving us the heart, mind and spirit
to change the world in which we live.
Inspire us to BE – Truly Free,
believing that we can change the world
by how we live,
and that one day we will join You
at the Heavenly Banquet.
Amen.

Collections for the Weekend of 09/03/2017

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A more detailed report may be viewed at the Parish Office.