

The Church of St. Mary

420 Irving Street (PO Box 669)
Alexandria, MN 56308

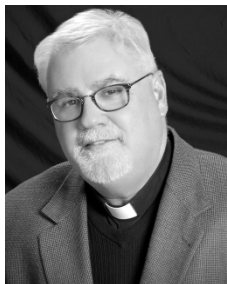
Parish Office: 320-763-5781
School Office: 320-763-5861
Rel Ed. Office: 320-763-9202

Website: www.stmaryalexandria.org
Email: stmary@stmaryalexandria.org
Diocese website: www.stclouddiocese.org

Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Monday – Thursday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM Friday

November 26, 2017

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



Fr. Steve
Binsfeld

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

*Promulgated on
Pentecost Sunday 2013*

Dear Members of St. Mary’s,

Thank you to our Thanksgiving Community Meal leaders/organizers and the many who worked at it.

This Tuesday we are having a meeting with 6 people from each church in our Alexandria-Morris Deanery (a geographical area in our diocese) here at St. Mary’s to begin the process of strategic planning for staffing our diocese with priests in the future. Within a short number of years we will have 57 priests to staff 131 parishes. So...the process continues with initial meetings with members of each parish in our Deanery. Keep them in your prayers.

Again, we need individuals and families to sign up for ‘random hand bell ringing’ before and after all weekend Masses during Advent—which begins next week. No musical ability is needed. What to do? Be at the Mass you signed up for 30 minutes before Mass to receive instructions where to stand and how to properly ring the bell. Stand in place assigned, ring the bell. After communion during the announcements, move to your places and ring as people depart. Not too tough!!!! Sign up at the hospitality desk.

I would like to print a really good article from Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI. I think it is really appropriate for me....and for many. It is appropriate as we begin the Advent season next weekend. Here it is.

Fr. Steve

Straining for Sabbath amidst the Demands of Phones and Computers

We are becoming more enslaved to and more compulsive in our use of mobile phones and the internet. For many of us it is now existentially *impossible to take off a day*, let alone several weeks off, and be on a genuine holiday or vacation. Rather the pressure is on us to constantly check for texts, emails, phone messages, and the like; and the expectation from our families, friends, and colleagues is precisely that we

Continued on page 2...

Readings for the Week of Nov 26th

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday: Is 63:16-17, 19b; 64:2-7
1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33 33-37

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass Server: Tues., Wed., Thur., - Phil Broman

Monday No daily mass
Tuesday 5:00 PM +Dennis Leier
Wednesday 8:30 AM +Kathleen Ferkinhoff
Thursday 7:00 AM +Dennis Leier
3:30 @Grand Arbor +Rita Ferhman
Friday 8:30 AM Inst of KC’S
Saturday 5:00 PM +Steve Fulst
Sunday 8:00 AM ++Jim & Mary Winters
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 Jan. 9th at 7 PM.

Baptism Dates: Dec. 3rd, 9th, 17th & 30th. 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

December 2nd & 3rd

SATURDAY 5 PM MASS

Greeters Team 1- Cheryl Wille, Grace Lambert, Reenie Elkington, Brenda Struck, Pat Polesak
Ushers Team 1-Bradley Olson, Joseph Struck, Gail Feriancek, Vicki Lorentz, Joyce & David Essler, Edward Dummer
Extraordinary Ministers Team 1

Lector 1 Carol Hughes
Lector 2 Pat Schultz

Servers Matthew Donley, Ashley Donley

SUNDAY 8 AM MASS

Greeters Team 5-A- Kathleen & Laurel Bruder, Patricia & Robert Dahlheimer, Dave & Jane Michaels
Ushers Team 5 – Bernard Wambeke, James Walz, Bradley Brejcha, Daniel Zimny, Kevin Tvrdik, Kenneth Tvrdik, Vincent Hennen
Extraordinary Ministers Team 5

Lector 1 Gloria Deick
Lector 2 Nancy Beltz

Servers Kaitlyn Evjen, Ella Sanden

SUNDAY 10 AM MASS

Greeters Team 9 –Gregory & Linda Thompson, Paulette Engels, Rodney & Sue Borden
Ushers Team 9-Brad Dumm, Bruce Strandskov, Jacob Schiltgen, Mark Meuwissen, Hank Janz, Dennis Maack, Lyle Holscher, T. Michael Thompson
Extraordinary Ministers Team 9

Lector 1 Janet Breun
Lector 2 Florian Ledermann

Servers Olivia Brault, Bria Burginger

Drivers – December 3rd

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

Hospital/Nursing Home –December 3rd

Hospital – Melanie Boesen
 Knute Nelson/Nelson Gables – Len & Bonnie Didier
 Bethany – Jim & Judi Korkowski

BAPTISM - Emilia - Child of Juan & Luz Gomez

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

I I Matthew Doll & Rachel Finazzo

ATTENTION USHERS, GREETERS & EM'S

Team Captains: if you know of any changes, please let the Parish Office know by **DECEMBER 18TH**.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - Tuesday evenings in the Great Hall immediately following the 5 PM mass. Call Mike at 759-1911 for more info.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Thursday mornings in the Commons Area of the church at 6 AM. Call Mike at 759-1911 for more info.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Please join us when we begin the exciting new study “Wisdom: God’s Vision for Life” by Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith. Meets both Sat. AM and Sun. PM beginning Jan. 13th & 14th. For more info. and/or to enroll, contact: Tammy 320-808-6404 or Lori 320-808-1145. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION, A STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER.

For more information you can contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006 (call or text); tscamcculloch@charter.net.

The 50/50 Club

What is the 50/50 Club? The 50/50 Club is a place for adults to gather and talk about issues facing our teens and pre-teens.

Where? When? Meet at the KC Hall on 6th Ave. and Nokomis.

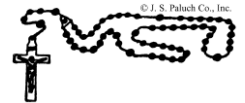
Wednesday Nov. 29th

Social Gathering Time – 6:30 PM

Session runs from 6:50 PM to 7:50 PM.

This week's discussion will be on Advent Family Ideas presented by Julie Desautels.

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: Ruth Partington, Ron Hoffman, Chris Ficenc, Ken Judson, Betty Schlosser, Butch (Bruce) Schmidt, Jim Rutten, Nancy Westhoff, Scott Addy, Ben Vanderheiden, Ronald Decker, Kathryn Vieaux, Dick Wagner, Pat Pahl, Irma Moriarty, Ione Grubb, Shirley Botzet, Maureen Bruzik and Janine Clayton.

Fr. Steve's article continued...

we are checking these regularly. *The sin-du-jour is to be, at any time, unavailable, unreachable, or non-communicative.*

But the rhythm of time as God designed it is meant to give us, regularly, weekly, some time off the wheel, some "Sabbath-time" when ordinary life, ordinary pressures, ordinary work, and ordinary expectations are bracketed and we give ourselves permission to stop, to shut things down, and to rest. Today, nowhere is this more appropriate and urgent than in regards to our use of phones, notebooks, and computers. They, more than anything else, constitute regular time, servile work, and the occupations and preoccupations from which the commandment to keep holy the Sabbath ask us to refrain.

When I was young, both our churches and our culture still took the concept of Sabbath (for Christians, especially the idea of not working on Sunday) more seriously. A popular question was always: *What are you allowed to do on a Sunday and what are you not allowed to do?* Mostly this focused on different kinds of physical labor: May you work in your garden on a Sunday? May you harvest your apples tree on a Sunday? Today, I worry less about gardening or picking apples on a Sunday. **The more important issue is: Can we step off the treadmill of phones and computers on Sundays and be genuinely available to celebrate Sabbath?**

Sabbath, as Wayne Muller tells us, **is time off the wheel, time when we take our hand from the plough and let God and the earth care of things, while we drink, if only for a few moments, for the fountain of rest and delight.** Today that plough looks a lot like a mobile phone or a computer.

Centuries ago, the mystic poet, Rumi, wrote: *I have lived too long where I can be reached!*" Haven't we all!

Fr. Ron Rolheiser

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO Sunday November 26th at 7:00 PM & Wednesday, November 29th at 2:00 PM at the KC Hall on 6th Ave E. & Nokomis. Team 13 Curt Mateer, Philip Pittman, Jim Faber, Joseph Korkowski, Eddie Dummer will be in charge.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONDAY NIGHT MEETING TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 7 PM.

ATTENTION DAILY MASS GOERS:

Rosary Leaders are needed to pray at daily masses a couple of times a week & about once a month. If you can do this ministry, contact Larry at 763-5476 for more details. Thank you for volunteering.

**SANCTITY OF LIFE MOMENT:**

May those who hold life as trivial realize that we live because God wills it so.

Who among all these does not know that the hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:9-10

Contact Bruce Becker for more info: 320-759-2003 or Email bbecker100@gmail.com.

Visit St. Mary's Sanctity of Life online at:

<http://sanctityoflifestm.org/> for information and resources

RECOGNIZING THE CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY— "FEED THE HUNGRY"

Your Committee for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation is sponsoring a **NOVEMBER FOOD CAMPAIGN**

Please check your car trunk & closets for our St. Mary's blue bags for the collection of food. We ask that you kindly return them.

"LET'S BAG HUNGER"

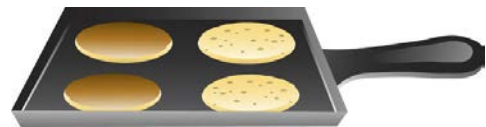
- Pick up a bag from the display tables at the church entrances
- Return the filled bag to display area in the commons area.

**MISSION:**

All are welcome to join the mission ladies on Monday Nov. 27th for quilting at 12:30 in the Great Hall. Call Joyce if any questions at 763-7615.

PANCAKE – FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST:

St. Mary's Boy Scout Troop 418 is having a pancake – french toast breakfast fundraiser Sunday morning Dec. 3rd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the St. Mary's School Gym.



THE CARING & SHARING ROOM invites your participation by sharing much needed items with this ministry during the Advent season. A collection box is in the Commons Area where donations of the following items can be placed: kitchen towels, dish cloths, pot holders, measuring cups and spoons, glasses, basic kitchen utensils, toasters, coffee pots, hand mixers and bakeware.

Blankets for twin, full, and queen beds are needed throughout the winter season and can be donated by calling The Caring & Sharing Room at 760-8084. Thanks for any help you can offer.

IT'S COOKIE TIME



As you begin your holiday baking, please keep St. Mary's Cookie Connection in mind. We need lots of cookies, help in packaging and delivering the cookies on Saturday, Dec. 2nd.

Meet at St. Mary's School Cafeteria at 9:00 AM to package and/or deliver cookies. If you would like to donate cookies, please drop off at the cafeteria after 3:30 PM on Friday Dec. 1st. Please indicate the number of cookies on the container. If you know someone who would appreciate cookies for the holidays or if you have questions, please call Kathy at 762-2320.

ST MARY'S ANGEL TREE

We are now done taking names. The Christmas Angel Trees will be set up at all masses the weekend of December 2-3.



THANKFUL FOR YOU!

Catholic Charities would like to thank everyone who has already donated to their Make God's Love Visible campaign. The campaign funds work throughout the Diocese for the coming year. That includes work in the areas of housing, emergency services, mental health, family services and senior health and wellness. Visit Cc StCloud.org to learn more!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – if you know of someone in need of comfort and prayer, we have prayer shawls available. Please call Kay at 320-815-6604.

STEWARDSHIP

The Church of St. Mary would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Randy and Cathy Kinney for sharing their stewardship message with our parish. Their story so clearly illustrates how sharing of our gifts has such a positive impact on those that give and those that receive.

Thank you to all the mistires that hosted a booth at the Ministry Fair. We hope this fair created an awareness of the wonderful things already happening here at St. Mary's and helps those that are looking to become more involved in our parish and community find an avenue to share their gifts.

During this season of Thanksgiving, may we be thankful for the many blessings we have received from our good and gracious God. May we work to make stewardship a way of life in our parish community by considering how we can more generously use the time, talent and treasure we have been given for the good of God's plan here on earth.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

email: stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org

Phone: 763-9202



Class Schedule

Sunday School: December 3, 9:50 – 11:00 AM

Grades 1-5: November 29, 3:45 – 4:30 PM

Grades 6-11: November 29, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Sunday School Voices

What a wonderful king Jesus is! How can we show him how much we love him? Jesus tells us in today's Gospel—he wants us to serve others. Next week the Sunday school children will begin collecting gently used baby items for Birthright. We will collect these throughout the season of Advent. In doing this, we will do what Jesus wants us to do - help others. We invite the whole parish to help us give baby supplies to the poor of this region—let's shower them with gifts we would be proud to give to the baby in the manger! **Simply drop off new or gently used baby items in the bin found in the Commons Area during Advent. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated as well. These can be dropped in the collection baskets (labeled Birthright). Thank you!**

If parents are interested in hearing ways they can help their children understand Advent better, **we invite you to a session on November 29th at the KC Hall on 6th and Nokomis from 6:50 -7:50 PM.** Hope to see you there!

Jr/Sr High Faith Formation

Junior High - The 6th-8th graders will be continuing their semester on the Creed. They will be learning more about the story of creation and what it reveals about God and about the world around us.

Senior High - The 9-11th graders will be starting a new series this week on the Paschal Mystery. Our first night in this series is to connect the events of original sin to the coming of Jesus Christ. Our Service Night for the year will be December 13th. Any parent who is interested in driving a small group to a service location should let Gina know that they can help.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School educates the whole child within a nurturing Catholic Christian environment.

Email: stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org
 Phone: 320-763-5861
 Fax: 320-763-7992

St. Mary's Students Experience Curling!



As part of our physical education classes, the St. Mary's School 5th and 6th graders will be participating in a curling unit at the Runestone Community Center. Many volunteers from the Vikingland Curling Club are donating their time to help our students.

In addition to the many volunteers giving their time, there are expenses with bus transportation and ice rental. Thank you to Rauk Family Dentistry and the Vikingland Curling Club for covering those expenses.

Our students are curling on December 4, 11, 18 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. We are thankful to the volunteers and sponsors for providing this unique learning experience!



CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

NOVEMBER 2017

November 19	Dorothy Thoennes, Alexandria	\$35
November 20	Lois Gehrke, New Ulm	\$20
November 21	Shannon Huebner, Alexandria	\$20
November 22	Joann Evjen, Dawson	\$20
November 23	Andrew Winter, Glenwood	\$20
November 24	Doris Weinrich, Alexandria	\$20
November 25	Sue Haugen, Dawson	\$20

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED
 MARCH 1, 2018 – FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Sponsored by St. Mary's School

Drawings for daily cash prizes will be held
 February 28, 2018 at St. Mary's School

0 Monday-Saturday

Name _____
 Address _____ REGISTER _____
 City _____ TO _____
 State _____ Zip _____ WIN! _____
 Phone _____
 License #: X-21001 _____

LITURGICAL & MUSICAL NOTES

Make Your Choice

Not only is Sunday the feast of Christ the King, it is the last Sunday of the Church year! Advent will begin in a week! We should begin getting nervous about Christmas presents, shouldn't we? And family dinner? Or else why we will not have a family to celebrate with?

Yes, but let us not get ahead of ourselves. For now we need only ask why the churches have chosen to mark Christ as "king." Did they think we would understand our year better this way? In a word, yes. We will be helped by looking at the Christ we have looked over the past months! And a revealing way to look is at the readings for Christ the King.

Thus the shepherd imagery of the [First Reading](#). We are asked if we have let God's sheep scatter over the face of the earth? Have we maybe eaten the sheep instead of tending them? If so, God said, "I myself will look after and tend my sheep. The injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal."

This is a beautiful passage. Throughout history, God continually sought out his people, we are told, inviting them to a mutual relationship. It is the foundation of our faith. He shepherds us today in the same way!

Then the [Responsorial Psalm](#), "The Lord is My Shepherd." If we are paying attention we see that God is still being the shepherd, as he promised. Goodness and kindness are all around us. God has us walk beside restful waters, through green pastures.

Gratitude fills our hearts.

In the [Second Reading](#), St. Paul tells us about Christ, who is God's shepherding made concrete. In spite of the rampage of death and sorrow and sin, Christ brings the First Reading's light and peace to the world!

Finally, the [Gospel](#) tells us in a parable who will get to have this light and peace. Not everyone! Some people have been goats instead.

Alright, how do we become sheep, in spite of our goatish tendencies? Or how do we become, at least sometimes, the sheep? Simple. We care for the Lord in other people. Yes.

Instead of goatishly taking our own preferences as the goals for our lives, though we must do that too, we join God as the one who cares for others. We dip into the restful waters with Jesus, we offer everything, with him, for the poor and needy, not because it is simpler but because this is the way the Lord has taken among us as the very way of God. The way of the King.

You see, the example is God, who gives according to the many needs of the least of his brothers and sisters. Instead of sleeping restfully in the slumber of non-acting, we are to join with Christ as one among very many shepherds. We are asked to say "yes."

Yes to the God who loves without prejudice, to the Christ who spent life as a non-entity, to the shepherd who would love his sheep to the very end. We will be cared for insofar as we care for them!

Next week: the new year of God's love!

John Foley, SJ

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FINANCIAL GIFTS

Collections for the Weekend of 11/19/2017

	Actual	Budgeted
Sunday Envelope	\$23,613.50	\$29,941.88
Loose	\$ 1,854.78	\$ 2,115.38
Sunday Children	\$ 20.85	\$ 115.38

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

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Steve Binsfeld 763-5781

Parish Business Administrator

Todd Wentworth 763-5781

Director of Music and Liturgy

Laurie Youngers 763-5781

Parish Nurse

Kathy Fischer 762-2320

School Principal & Elem. Religious Ed

Troy Sladek 763-5861

Logistics Coordinator

Laurie Bienias 763-9202

Coordinator of Youth Ministries &
Confirmation

Gina Pohlen 763-9202

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Parish Trustees

Elmer Kobbermann 834-3103

Francie Peterson 320-360-0325

Pastoral Council President

Steve Russell 218-943-5191

Finance Committee

Mike Dolan 763-4705

Board of Education

Francie Peterson 320-360-0325

Liturgy Committee

Laurie Youngers 763-5781

Committee for Justice, Peace and
Integrity of Creation

Tammy Boushek 760-5405

Parish Life Committee

Verna Winter 507-329-0135

Cemetery Committee

Leon Breun 320-763-5781

CARING & SHARING ROOM

320-760-8084

PASTORAL COUNCIL

President: Steve Russell

Vice President: Mike Sponsler

Secretary: Sonya Skinner

Megan Bristow, Tammy Huss, Dan

Hillback, Dawn Houska, Mary Jane Reif,

Tabatha Odens .