



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

Promulgated on Pentecost Sunday, 2013

420 Irving Street | Alexandria, MN 56308 | (320) 763-5781



The Church of
St. Mary

OCTOBER 21, 2018

THE 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**“Why Do We Sing What We Sing at Mass?
How do we choose the Music for Worship at St Mary’s?”**

Laurie Youngers, Director of Music and Liturgy

Formation Night

Tuesday, October 23, 7:00-8:30 PM in the Great Hall

Learn about the 3 principles for choosing music for Mass:

Liturgical, Pastoral, and Musical

Learn about the types of music:

**Dialogues & Litanies, Acclamations, Psalmody, Hymns, Liturgical Songs, Devotional Songs,
Contemporary Inspirational and Evangelical**

SAVE THE DATE - November 14, 2018, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Jon Leonetti

Catholic Speaker, Author & Radio Host

*“His enthusiasm is contagious
AND HIS STORIES AND MESSAGES
ARE DOWN TO EARTH AND REAL.”*

- Father Pat Kibby, Tennessee



Jon Leonetti will be speaking to our parish and youth on **November 14, at 6:30 PM** about the beatitude, “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” or “Be Truly Free.” Jon will speak about what Being Truly Free means and how it is applicable in today’s world.

Join us for an inspiring night!

Inspired to **BE**
BEATITUDE BLESSINGS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 21

- Mon.** Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21
- Tue.** Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12: 35-38
- Wed.** Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48
- Thurs.** Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53
- Fri.** Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59
- Sat.** Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13: 1-9
- Sun.** Jer 31:7-9; Heb 5:1-6; Mk 10:46-52

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

- Tue.** 5:00 PM +James Rutten
- Wed.** 8:30 AM +Mildred Benzinger
1:30 PM Edgewood Vista +Jeanette Binsfeld
- Thurs.** 7:00 AM +Rudy Raths
1:30 PM Grand Arbor ++John & Anna Hiebel
- Fri.** 8:30 AM +Loretta Wilken
- Sat.** 5:00 PM ++Jerry & Theresa Gorghuber
- Sun.** 8:00 AM For the Parish
10:00 AM +Richard Carter

NEW MEMBERS: To register, stop by our Hospitality Desk located in the Commons Area of the church or visit our website to complete the registration online.

CONTACT US

www.stmaryalexandria.org
stmary@stmaryalexandria.org

FROM OUR PASTOR



Fr. Steve Binsfeld

Dear People of St. Mary's Church,

Last week all of the priests, deacons, and one Parish Life Coordinator, met together at Arrowood to explore the direction we are going in our Diocese, and in many dioceses in our country, forming Area Catholic Communities. The emphasis is on AREA. With the new Pastoral plan that is being formed, *there will no longer be any stand-alone parish communities*. Most "clusters" – still individual parishes—will be served by one or two priests. This will be phased in over 2-4 years as people retire. We are moving from about 67 active priests to the mid-40's by 2027. We will be relying on more and more lay staff to lead our congregations in many ways. It is important for them to be trained well. We are blest to have St. John's so close by to assist us with that endeavor. What does this mean for us here? It means that we will be sharing pastors and other staff members in areas that it makes sense to do so. This indeed has its challenges, but it also can mean that there are blessings as well. It can mean that our experiences in liturgy and formation can be even more expanded for our area. There are challenges, but there are also exciting aspects as well for all of our surrounding parishes. The plan is in its draft stage. You will be hearing more and more about it as it develops.

"Called to Belong: A Retreat for Adults, Ages 18 through 39" (age was extended) next **Sunday, October 28**, from 4:00 - 8:30 PM in our church and Great Hall with composer, singer and speaker Jesse Manibusan. (He wrote "All Are Welcome, All Belong" we use at Mass here). He is a REALLY good speaker. It begins with Mass with Bishop Kettler, supper and entertainment and 2 sessions with Jesse Manibusan. Register at stcdio.org/youngadult. There is no charge, but there will be a free-will offering.

Pick up your free 8 x 10 portraits from the wooden box on the hospitality desk.

This Tuesday, Laurie Youngers is doing a formation night in the Great Hall at 7 PM on **"Why We Sing What We Sing at Mass; How Music is Chosen for Worship at St. Mary's."** All are welcome to a very informative presentation and a wonderful prayer that follows. See the front of the bulletin for more details.

Fr. Steve

THANK YOU to the following for serving the funeral luncheon of Douglas Bakke – Cam Loch, Poots Nelson & Team 5.

+We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to family and friends of Douglas Bakke.

— BANS OF MARRIAGE —
Ill Grant Ringdahl and Rebecca Lukes

PARISH STAFF

Steve Binsfeld.....320-763-5781
 Pastor

Todd Wentworth.....320-763-5781
 Parish Business Administrator

Laurie Youngers.....320-763-5781
 Director of Music & Liturgy

Kathy Fischer.....320-762-2320
 Parish Nurse

Troy Sladek.....320-763-5861
 School Principal & Elementary Religious Education

Laurie Bienias.....320-763-9202
 Logistics Coordinator

Tammy Huss.....320-763-9202
 Coordinator of Youth Ministries & Confirmation

Elmer Kobbermann.....320-834-3103
Francie Peterson.....320-360-0325
 Parish Trustees

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION Saturday at 4 PM in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (room behind presider's chair; also has a separate entry)

BAPTISM

All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course. Call the Parish Office to sign up. Check our website for dates.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

Members of the parish (or children of members) must arrange for marriage at least 6 months in advance. Contact the Parish Office for more info.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

is held the 1st Sunday of the month, immediately following the 8AM Mass. Those who wish to be anointed are asked to come to the front of the church.

FINANCIAL GIFTS

COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 14, 2018

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Sunday Envelope	\$32,628	\$29,941
Loose	\$2,947	\$2,115
Sunday Children	\$8	\$115

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

ATTENTION LECTORS AND SERVERS We are currently working on schedules for December - February. If you have dates you are not available, please contact the parish office by October 24 at 320-763-5781 or email jeddy@stmaryalexandria.org.

MASS INTENTIONS for the remainder of 2018 are full. Beginning November 1, the Parish Office can begin taking intentions for January - March 2019.

NEW 2018 PARISH DIRECTORIES should arrive at St. Mary's in mid-November. We will keep you posted as soon as they are available for pick up.

MISSION GROUP MEETING All are welcome to our mission meeting on Monday, October 29. It will be in the Great Hall at 12:30 PM. Call Joyce at 763-7615 for more information.

JOIN US FOR OKTOBERFEST Oktoberfest is a family event open to all on October 27, 5:30 - 8:30 PM in the school gym! Enjoy a meal, refreshments, fellowship and dance to the music of the Nite Owls. A free-will basket will be available for donations. Please contact Carol at



762-0139 or Verna at 507-329-0135 for more information, or if you would like to help with this event put on by the Parish Life Committee.

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, Ken Judson, Scott Addy, Carol Peterson, Betty Schlosser, Patrick Stroh, Dan Woods, Kevin Richmond, Shirley Henshaw, Gretchen Rivers, Paul Roers, Andrew Herges, Alice Juettner, Phyllis VanKempen, Michele Pittman, Dennis Zaviska, Michelle Sayler, Terry Bodin, Sylvia Krason, Jan Breun, Gary Winter, Theresa Lanners and Heather Bitzan.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA ELDER NETWORK Have you had a day where you didn't talk to anyone? How about two days? How about a week? It's hard for most of us to imagine. We lead such busy lives. It seems like we are always running somewhere - talking and seeing people all the time!

But there are seniors in our area who are not busy. They are not seeing people. Maybe they can't leave their home. Maybe they just don't have the social connections that many of us have. They may be feeling lonely and isolated.

If you have ONE hour a week, you can make a difference. ONE hour to visit an elderly person in their home. ONE hour to hear their stories, have a cup of coffee, play a game of cards, make someone's day.

Do you have ONE hour? We need you. The seniors in our area need you. Give us a call or send us an email. Thank you! 320-763-9084 or eldernet@embarqmail.com

ABOUT LIFE

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC) : *Global Community Partnership News* - JPIC wishes to thank all those who attended the Global Community Partnership meeting on October 9. We especially thank Joe and Betty Roers, parish members, who shared their photos, videos and stories from their visit to the San Lucas Mission in Guatemala. We also thank Bill Peterson, executive director of the Friends of San Lucas organization, who spoke at the meeting. The information and stories they presented were very interesting and inspiring! Many attendees signed up to support our parish in establishing a global community partnership. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 PM in The Church of St. Mary Great Hall. All are welcome to attend, even if you didn't attend the meeting on October 9. For more information, please contact Lee Ann Sticha at leeann6369@gmail.com or 612 750-0220.

SANCTITY OF LIFE:

"We are called to reach out to those who find themselves in the existential peripheries of our societies; and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, migrants and refugees, the elderly and the young who lack employment." ~Pope Francis Oct. 4, 2013

Visit St. Mary's Sanctity of Life online, at sanctityoflifestm.org for information and resources.

FAITH FORMATION

stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-9202



Class Schedule

Child. Lit. of the Word: October 28, 10:00 AM Mass
Sunday School: October 28, 9:50 – 11:00 AM
Grades 1-5: October 24, 3:45 – 4:30 PM
Grades 6-11: October 24, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOICES
October 21 — No Sunday School

JR/SR HIGH FAITH FORMATION

This week our 6th-8th graders will continue their Issue Series on the topic of Media. We will talk about the positive and negative aspects of social media, as well as the importance of face-to-face interaction. As human beings, we were created for community; there is a reason God became a man.

Our 9th - 11th graders will spend this week talking about the Hard Sayings of Jesus. These can be very challenging and easily misunderstood. Our goal is to help our teens understand these teachings and plant the seed of desire to live them out in their daily lives.

SR HIGH YOUTH CONFERENCE 2018

This **NEW** event is for students in grades 9-12 and is a two-day event, **October 27-28**, at Young Life Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes. Come join other Catholic Youth in the Diocese and “Hold Onto Love.” We will explore together, worship together & play together. Featuring Jesse Manibusan!

Cost is \$75 by October 22 or \$90 after that date. **Registration forms are available in the Faith Formation Office.** Call 763-9202 with questions.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION, A STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER. Have you been wondering how you can be a good **steward at St. Mary's**, but are just not sure **where to begin**? Consider an Adoration time with our Lord in the quiet of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and let **Him be your guide to stewardship.** For more information you can contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006; or tscamcculloch@charter.net. Thank you.

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. **The 2019 Living Liturgy Books are available. Contact Mike to purchase for \$10 or the Parish Office.**

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 or 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.

ADVENT 2018 “GAZE UPON JESUS” WOMEN'S BOOK/SCRIPTURE STUDY: Experience Christ's childhood through the eyes of Mary and other familiar women from the gospels. Held Sunday evenings Nov. 11 - Dec. 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at St. Mary's School. Contact Sonya at 320-219-1984 for more info and to order the book and study guide.

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2018

In a book called *Growing Into Light*, Max Long writes about a leathery old Westerner who called himself **Desert Pete**. Living out in the sun-beaten country where water is so very precious, Desert Pete wrote a note, put it in a baking-powder can and wired it to an old pump.

Here is what he wrote:

Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water, out of the sun, cork end up. There's enough water in it to prime this pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour about one fourth, and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour the rest medium fast and pump. You'll git water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you git watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller.

Desert Pete

P. S. Don't go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump with it...I've give my last dime away a dozen times to prime the pump of my prayers, and I've fed my last beans to a stranger while a'sayin' "Amen." It never failed yet to git me an answer. You've got to git "Your Heart Fixed To Give" before you can be give to.

Desert Pete in his own special style was

teaching the same lesson that Jesus taught. "Give," said our Lord, "and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38). Mark adds, "...and still more will be given you." (Mark 4:24).

Have you ever met anyone who really had his "heart fixed to give," who did not testify that he was the one who benefited by the giving? Think about that as we consider giving to our Lord's work through your church. It is in giving that we truly receive. 

*T*ithing teaches the happy virtue of gratitude. We tend to think of ourselves as "self-made." We forget that all we have, we have received. Tithing changes the attitude, too, for tithing is an acknowledgment that "it is God that hath made us and not we ourselves." (Psalms 100:3)

The person who tithes is saying "Thank you" to God for health, food, family, love and life. Tithing teaches that the love of God is the creative factor in every person's life.





Remember a dear friend of mine who was always able to see in every problem not an occasion for trouble, but a “golden opportunity.” Look about your life right now and ask yourself: What opportunities am I overlooking or missing?

God raised Christ with newness of life, which says to us that God is not content to simply shrug his heavenly shoulders and say of us “well, what could I have expected of such people.” Rather he chose a unique, new beginning that unleashed all manner of power and creative actions into this world. Once more not a defeat, but an occasion for growth! This is the recurring theme of the New Testament. Just at the point when we think all is lost and nothing is going to improve, God surprises us with a new opportunity.

The key, of course, is our response. Shall we be like those who are always ready and willing to join the large ranks of scoffers and the “I told you so” crowds? Or shall we say “I see here a chance to grow with God”? The tug of the “what might have been...if only” idea is strong, but must be overcome by a good, large dosage of ... “what new opportunities do I see in today’s world.”

I am certain that God is working within the events of today and that God is always gracious and giving to use us as we respond faithfully. Like the proverbial bus, don’t worry, if you missed the last one, there will always be another coming along. See the excitement that God has built into your life and say

a hearty “Yes” to the opportunities for joy, life and goodness God sets before you. 

Have you ever seen a puppet show? Children bubble over with giggles at the puppets’ antics during comedy. They shout advice during an adventure. Of course, young audiences don’t care about the performers behind the stage. The puppets appear to have a life of their own, and so the children don’t think about the hands inside them.

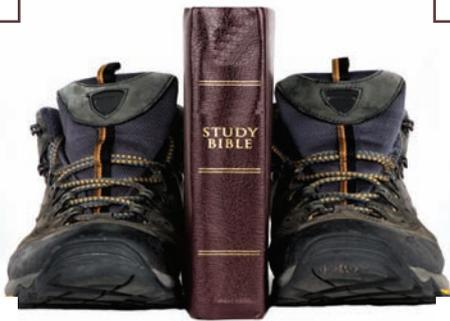
Church activities

Similarly, many of us forget the hidden hands behind many church activities. It’s all too easy to forget the members of the congregation who volunteer to clean the sanctuary the day before so it’s ready for the beautiful music and powerful words of worship. It’s all too easy to attend spaghetti dinners and pancake suppers, forgetting those in the kitchen preparing food or washing dishes. It’s all too easy to pray for shut-ins, forgetting those who take the time to write or visit them. All too easy, because so often it’s the same people performing all of these tasks. Our lives are made of time. God’s most precious gift was Jesus’ time on Earth. Surely spending time doing what the church needs – behind the scenes – is a vital part of saying “Thank You” to God. 



“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

We are borne out in Jesus’ life and his death on the cross, and have served down through the centuries as the impetus for disciples of Christ to give of their time and talent to many varied ministries.



My Journey with God

I know why people turn various shades of red when the pastor gets up on a given Sunday and talks about their stewardship - especially that part of our stewardship we call our "treasure." Let me tell you why:

When you go to the doctor for a routine physical exam, you are asked to take off your shirt or blouse. Once you do, the physician begins pressing and probing and poking all around your chest and back. Usually it's not a big problem - just a little ticklish or annoying. Then, all of a sudden, the doctor begins to strike out for new territory and presses on a new area of your body. Just as suddenly you flinch and blurt out "ouch!" The physician gets a surprised look on his face, obviously puzzled by your reaction. You can see it all over his face. The doctor says, "I'm sorry, but I have to probe that area again. I promise to be careful and gentle," and begins poking and probing all over again. This time is more gentle, but when the doctor hits the same area you grimaced over, sure enough, once again you recoil, flinch, and let out a little louder, "ouch!!" The physician says, "I'm sorry I had to do that, Mr. Doe, but it's not supposed to hurt there!" That part isn't supposed to be sensitive!"

Likewise, when your pastor speaks to you from God's word about your

treasure - about the way you manage all the gifts God has given you. When the pastor touches on returning to God a portion of what God has given you to manage and take care of, it's not supposed to be sensitive there! What might it say about us when the pastor talks about our stewardship, and we yell, "Ouch?" You know, Jesus said it's not supposed to hurt there! ☩

Amen

In prayer, we hear God's call to be for and with others on life's journey. In that mysterious silence the Lord invites and commands us to serve our brothers and sisters. In that paradoxical solitude we come into contact with the whole world. In and through this action we surrender; we allow God's will to become control in our lives. A solid prayer-life necessarily leads to stewardship.

Of equal importance is the spiritual exercise of asceticism. Through voluntary self-denial, we gain a freedom that allows us to be truly for others. Mortification breaks down our egotism and selfishness. Discipline keeps us alert and sensitive to life and the needs of others. It would be difficult to imagine a steward maintaining that identity without a solid prayer-life and without the exercise of discipline. Without prayer, there is no authentic listening; without discipline, no authentic freedom.

The Spirit enters into our life; we enjoy the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit; our lives are growing examples of these. Oh yes; one important question still remains: are we willing to participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus? ☩

Our faith journey can be helped by our seeing, understanding and accepting our stewardship. We affirm our faith by our actions. Those actions are the use of our gifts and our talents and are, thus, acts of stewardship. The deeper and stronger our faith, the more consistently we will perform acts of charity, peace and freedom that build the kingdom of God on Earth.



The key, of course, is our response. Shall we be like those who are always ready and willing to join the large ranks of scoffers and the “I told you so” crowds? Or shall we say “I see here a chance to grow with God”?



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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

stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-5861

St. Mary's School Magazine Sales

Are you looking to renew some magazine subscriptions or considering a subscription to a new magazine? If so, now is the time to order. By doing so, you will not only be getting new reading materials, you will also be supporting our school as well!

Starting on Tuesday, October 23, the students of St. Mary's School will be kicking off our annual magazine sales. St. Mary's School receives 40% cash back from every subscription sold during the event.

To order:

1. Log on to www.gaschoolstore.com
2. Click Shop Now in the top right-hand corner
3. In the school ID section type in 2582419
4. Type in the name of the student you are supporting from our school. If you know a current student, type their name and click "next". If you do not know a current student, click on "skip this step"
5. Verify you are logged into our school store. In the top right-hand corner of the site it should say, "Your purchase is appreciated and will benefit St. Mary's School"
6. Navigate through our school store to renew or purchase your new magazine subscriptions

St. Mary's School will receive 40% cash back from everything purchased from this site! Enjoy reading and thank you for your support.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Picture Retakes – Tuesday, October 23

St. Mary's School Fall Dance – Friday, October 26
6:30-8:00 PM

Halloween Costume Parade – Wednesday, October 31
2:10 in the school gym

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

OCTOBER 2018

October 14	Mark Graf, Alexandria \$35
October 15	Kevin Hess, Eagle Bend \$50
October 16	Rod Salfer, Wabasso \$20
October 17	Sue Haugen, Dawson \$20
October 18	Joann Evjen, Dawson \$20
October 19	Jen Gustafson, Alexandria \$20
October 20	Stacey Parteka, Browerville \$20

LITURGICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES

AN EVEN BETTER MARRIAGE – FROM NEWLYWED TO LONG-TIMER – PART III

Compassion and communication are two wonderful tools for a good marriage. We may be acutely aware that our spouse is not perfect, and occasionally we recall that we aren't perfect either. We can ask God for compassion for this imperfect person we are married to, especially for a sense of how he/she is hurting or wounded in some way.

And it helps to remember our own imperfections. Jesus reminds us to take care of the beam of wood in our own eye before we worry about the splinter in our spouse's eye. Those who work with mentally disabled people may, at the outset, think how different "we" are from "them." It is only when we spend time with those who have limited abilities that we realize we are all limited in some ways – all of us. If we can bring that kind of awareness to our relationship, it helps us to deal with a spouse who is frustrated with us, with work, with children or with life in general. We all need help to cope and I can be there for him/her.

I can't change the other person. I can only change myself.

This is a deceptively simple idea that can have a powerful impact on my marriage. Instead of spending a lot of time thinking of ways I can change *him/her*, I can be realistic and understand that I can only change myself. Now: what needs changing in *me*? Are there uncomfortable truths my spouse tells me which I should listen to? Is it true that I nag and correct constantly? Do I try really try to control my world and those around me? We can take some time to reflect on what my spouse might have said in the heat of an argument – is there a nugget of truth in it? How can I ask God for help to heal me?

Remember the little things we can do to make our marriages better. A candle lit at a Tuesday night dinner at home. A note left on the mirror when I leave early for work. A card or even a sticky note tucked into a briefcase, a lunchbox, or left on a steering wheel of a car. This may seem deceptively simple, but it is a real way we can draw closer to the person we loved enough to marry. How can we get back to remembering that kind of early love? Not once, not twice but over and over, without keeping track of a response – or losing hope.

St. Ignatius says that love expresses itself in deeds more than words and always expresses itself in a mutual sharing of gifts. What deeds can I do today? What mutual sharing of gifts can I use to express myself to my spouse?

Next week: "Crushes and Prayers?"

Taken from Creighton's Online Ministries Web site: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>. Used with permission.

STEWARDSHIP

LIVING A STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE

- makes us pleasing to God
- is a blessing to others
- brings us true happiness

If we believe the above heading, then all of us should earnestly strive to live a life of faithful stewardship. For which of us does not wish to:

- live a life pleasing to God?
- be a blessing to others?
- experience true happiness?

Well, I strongly believe that living a stewardship way of life will deliver all of the above. My guess is that some of you reading this column already know that this is indeed the truth.

What is a stewardship way of life?

A stewardship way of life involves the following:

- Becoming more and more aware that everything is a gift and blessing—that all that we are and have is a gift from God. This means accepting the biblical truth that we own nothing. Scripture reminds us that we come into the world with nothing and we leave the world with nothing (Job 1). A stewardship way of life involves recognizing God as the sole creator and owner of all that we are and have, and accepting the fact that we are merely the stewards or managers of God's gifts and blessings. Our job or mission is to manage and use wisely and responsibly all that God has placed in our care.
- As we grow into a stewardship way of life, we gradually develop a lifestyle marked by generosity. A life of generosity is a clear sign that we do in fact believe and accept the biblical truth that God owns it all. Conversely, when we hoard our gifts and talents, we assign ownership of our good fortune to ourselves and not to God, doing with them as we please.
- As we seek to develop a stewardship way of life, we are aware that one day we will have to account for our stewardship here on earth. How well did we use God's gifts to bless the lives of others?

In their Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, the U.S. bishops affirm: "The Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."

<http://www.ascensioncatholic.net>

OUR THANKS TO THESE MERCHANTS FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARISH BULLETIN

Call 320-763-5781
Advertise your Business Here with a 2X2 Ad

County Line Off-Sale Liquor
 Hwy. 29 So.
762-8880

NORTHWOODS CONSTRUCTION LLC
 Mike Klimek 320-766-8709
 Dan Klimek 320-766-8690

GENEVA GOLF CLUB
 Gary & Barb Thompson
 Proshop: 320-762-7089
 Geneva Grill: 320-762-7092

Johnsons Pest Control
 Jerry Rutten
 Certified Specialist
 701-388-8584

AQUARIUS - 84, INC.
 Plumbing, Mechanical & Hot Water Heat
 214 6th Ave. East
 Alexandria, MN
 763-3636

KOEP'S KORNER
 Quality Auto Center
 320-763-4900
 Alexandria, Minnesota

VILLAGE COOPERATIVE
 INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR SENIOR'S 62+
 LOCATED ONE BLOCK FROM ST. MARY'S
 515 JEFFERSON ST.
 CALL 320-219-7592
 ALEXANDRIA@REDEVELOPMENT.COM

Eldens FRESH FOODS
 Live Love Local
 707 3rd Ave East, Alexandria
 www.eldens.com

Jan's Place
 "Home Cookin' Done Right"
 763-3877
 1210 BROADWAY ST S
 PHONE: 320-763-3040
The UPS Store

Love INC
 Love In the Name of Christ
 Love INC of Douglas County Lakes Area
 Call to volunteer, donate or receive services
 44 Glenn Rd NW
 320-760-3022
 www.loveincdouglas.org

Call 320-763-5781
Advertise your Business Here

KN KNUTE NELSON
 Living Exceptionally Well
 Innovative Care for Every Stage of Aging
 320-763-6653
 www.knutenelson.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 722 6th Avenue East
 Membership: Roger Johnson 612-965-1014
 KC Hall Rental: John Leesch 320-763-3644
 Bingo Wednesdays: 2 pm & Sundays: 7 pm

Call 320-763-5781
to place your ad here

ACE Hardware
 "The Helpful Hardware Folks"
 320-763-5200 • 406 Broadway
 Alexandria, MN 56308

Klimek Bros. Well Drilling, Inc.
 Alexandria 24 Hr. Service 762-8669
 Wells - Pumps - Softeners

MARY KAY COSMETICS
 Judy Anderson
 320-760-4082

Norwex
 IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE
 KristinaKramer.Norwex.Biz
 612-251-5413
 Kristina Kramer

Call 320-763-5781
Advertise your Business Here

Quality Printing Co.
 "Our Name Says It All!"
 For Price Quotes Email:
 qualityp@rea-alp.com
 2020 Fillmore St., Alexandria
320 762-0606

Bremer Bank

BERG PLUMBING
 320-763-5600

Life CONNECTIONS
 Pregnancy and Parenting Resources
 (formerly Birthright)
 1114 Broadway
 320-762-1224

Call 320-763-5781
Place your 2x2 Ad Here

AM 1180 K-YES
CATHOLIC TALK
 Listen 24/7 via our FREE App
 Also on www.KYESRadio.com
 "Listen Live" Button

Kim Dahlheimer
 320.304.2532
 kim@randyfischerrealestate.com
RandyFischer
 REAL ESTATE, INC.

CHARLES & GLEN KLIMEK

Perry's
 FURNITURE & CARPETS

Winsupply OF ALEXANDRIA
 PLUMBING • HEATING • AC • WELL SUPPLIES
 WHOLESALE • SHOWROOM OPEN TO PUBLIC
 320-763-2828

Call 320-763-5781
Advertise your Business Here

J & L Sound
 (320) 763-4602 / (320) 583-4915
DJ & Karaoke
 Jim & Lu Faber
 Specializing in Weddings & Parties / Reasonably Priced

DQ Grill & Chill
DJ's TAP HOUSE

OUR THANKS TO THESE MERCHANTS FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARISH BULLETIN

The Hometown Guys
ARR
ALEX RUBBISH & RECYCLING
320.763.4712
"Start Seeing Red"

Culligan.
 Better Water: Pure & Simple
 Sales, Rentals, Salt
 763-6586 - 601 Nokomis St.

Viking Plaza
 3015 Hwy 29 S
 Alexandria MN 56308
 www.vikingplaza.com
 www.facebook.com/vikingplaza

JUETTNER
motors-
 Ford • Chrysler
763-3126 Alexandria

Is Your Involvement
 In An Abortion
 Haunting You?
 FIND
 HOPE, HEALING,
 MERCY
 Help For Mothers,
 Fathers, Grandparents,
 Friends, Aunts, Uncles
HopeAfterAbortion.com

Traveler's Inn
 RESTAURANT
 Downtown Alexandria
Since 1925
 511 Broadway St.
 Alexandria
 320-763-4000

Randy Fischer
 REAL ESTATE, INC.
"the needs of the client come first..."
 Julie Rambow Owner/Broker 320.762.1050

Catholic United
Financial.
 Judy Tetrick
 (320) 808-1810
 jtetrick@catholicunited.org
 Life Insurance
 Annuities
 IRAs

Steinbring
 MOTORCOACH
 SINCE 1917
320-834-6333 • Garfield, MN
 www.steinbring.com

Call 320-763-5781
Advertise your Business Here

A & E PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
 Sheet Metal Work
763-6673

Mike's IN OUT
10 Minute OIL CHANGE
 1318 Broadway, Alexandria, MN
320 763-5259

Anderson
 FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY
 PHONE: 320-763-5900
 www.AndersonFuneral.net

SKIDPRO
 ATTACHMENTS
 www.skidpro.com
877-378-4642

BUTTWEILER'S DO-ALL
 ROOFING & SHEET METAL, INC.
 Bonded Roofing & Sheet Metal
 Alexandria **886-5319**

KRAMER
 CHIROPRACTIC
 Good health for
 your body...
 your family...
 your life.
 Alexandria
 320-760-6531
 kramerfamilychiro.com

ANDERSON'S ON BROADWAY
 ALEXANDRIA CREMATION SERVICE
 PHONE: 320-219-6278

Arnquist
CarpetsPlus
COLORTILE
 AMERICA'S FLOOR STORE
 Committed to Family &
 Community for the past 85 years!
 805 1st Avenue E, Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-8050
 www.arnquistcarpetsplus.net

Viking Garage
 Door Co.
 Doors & Openers
 JANET SCHILTGEN
762-2528

American
 Solutions for Business
800 721-7105

THORNTON, DOLAN, BOWEN, KLECKER & BURKHAMMER, PA
 Attorneys At Law
 1017 Broadway, Alexandria, MN

Zacher Excavating, Inc.
 P.O. Box 85 / Alexandria, MN 56308
 Gary Zacher Shop & Res: 762-2035

HEARTLAND
 Orthopedic Specialists
 A Department of Douglas County Hospital
The One To Trust.
 320-762-1144
 www.HeartlandOrthopedics.com

KPF
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
 Poured Wall Specialist
 ALL TYPES OF FLAT WORK
 Kluger's Poured Foundations
320-763-7404
 2602 SOUTHSIDE DRIVE SE • ALEXANDRIA

Call 320-763-5781
Advertise your Business Here

Forada
 Supper Club
 Receptions & Catering
763-4400

ALEXANDRIA
 TITLE COMPANY
 Jody Schimek
 1804 Broadway St, Suite 140 • Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-6858

WEST CENTRAL
 SANITIZATION
 Residential • Commercial • Roll Off Constr. Boxes
 Serving The Pope/Douglas Areas
1-800-246-7630

Alexandria Electric
 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
 620 Oak Street South
 ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308
763-5222 "Since 1945"

BITZAN/OHREN
 Masonry, LLC
 Residential / Commercial
320-834-5488

AMERICAN NATIONAL
 BANK
 OF MINNESOTA
 512 30th Avenue East • Alexandria, MN
320.762.5330

Rauk
 family
 Dentistry
 Detailed . Distinctive . Sincere
 Kim Rauk, DDS
 320.763.5556
 raukfamilydentistry.com

CULLEN'S
 Home Center
762-1249

Thompson
 Heating & Air Conditioning
 ALEXANDRIA, MN
320-763-6634

Alexandria
 MOTORS
 CHEVROLET MAZDA Cadillac
762-2114

ZIMNY
 INSURANCE
 AGENCY
 www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com
320-762-2124
 Auto | Home | Business | Life | Health | LTC Ins.
 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN

IVERSON
 INSURANCE
 3 Convenient Locations to Serve You
 Parkers Prairie: 218-338-4755
 Miltna: 218-943-5551
 Alexandria: 320-762-9400
 www.iversoninsurance.com
 Auto-Owners Insurance
 Life Home Car Business

HILLTOP
 LUMBER
 www.hilltoplbr.com
 Alexandria • Glenwood
 Parkers Prairie • Brandon

ROERS FAMILY BAKERY
"Being Sweet to you is our Business!"
 430 Broadway **763-4741**

PAPPENFUS
 Personal Injury Lawyers
 Robert H. Pappenfus • Thomas J. Pappenfus
 Alexandria, MN 56308 • 320-763-6688
 Email: law@pappenfus.com • Web: www.pappenfus.com