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Promulgated on Pentecost Sunday, 2013

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The Church of
St. Mary

MARCH 17, 2019
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

LENT

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Sunday, March 31 at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 PM

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

Saturday, April 13 at 3:00 PM
Tuesday, April 16 at 3:00 PM
Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 AM

*Stations of the Cross every
Friday during Lent at 5:15 PM*

This is my
chosen son,
listen to him.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY
ALEXANDRIA, MN

3 PERFORMANCE DATES:
7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 20
Friday, March 22
Saturday, March 23

Contact Bonnie Broman at 320-763-9429 for more information.

FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of St Mary's,

The 2019 pastoral plan for the Diocese of Saint Cloud introduces the concept of **Area Catholic Communities**. The aim of this pastoral plan focuses on strengthening the life of the Church in Central Minnesota. This will be accomplished through *intentional collaboration* and sharing of resources, talents and efforts within an Area Catholic Community.

What is an Area Catholic Community?

Every parish in the Diocese of Saint Cloud will be part of an Area Catholic Community. These communities are comprised of two or more parishes, which can gain substantial advantages by offering a more comprehensive set of pastoral services for their parishioners by being part of the group. We will be in partnership with the Osakis and Belle River Parishes.

What is "intentional collaboration" in an Area Catholic Community? Intentional collaboration is about building mutual relationships where every parish shares for the good of the Body of Christ. Every parish is unique and has something to offer.

What has been the planning process thus far? Bishop Kettler asked the planning council, when looking at demographics and numbers, to develop a plan for the diocese to be implemented, beginning in 2019 and *extending out a number of years*, depending on the local circumstances. Priest focus groups began the process in the summer of 2017. Additional input was received from participants at the Diocesan Ministry Day workshop in September, at a Curia meeting, and fall deanery meetings with parish leadership representatives from every parish. In the spring of 2018, each parish was asked to hold discussions and submit recommendations. The planning council read through over 650 submitted recommendations. Discerning and praying about the input from all of these discussions and studying work done from other dioceses, the planning council discerned the concept of Area Catholic Communities.

What is the next step in developing Area Catholic Communities (ACC)? We know we will be working with Osakis and Belle River. Next, we will be forming an **area planning council**. Area planning councils comprise of equal representation from each parish in the ACC and has the responsibility to vision a more vibrant area community. This will include, but is not limited to, building relationships, evaluating resources, programs and ministries, communicating between all parishes.

What does ACC planning council do? This group comprised of equal representatives from each parish serves two important functions. The first is *building relationships* in order for the ACC to carry out its mission. The second is the *ongoing review of how that mission is lived out*. They set short term and long term goals to ensure that the elements of a vibrant Area Catholic Community grow and thrive. Goals will be determined for each ACC by December 2019. Our Council members are Todd Wentworth (administrator), Rita Winters and Mary Jane Reif, who are currently elected members of our Pastoral Council.

What will happen on July 1, 2019? The formal establishment of Area Catholic Communities in the Diocese of Saint Cloud. What that will look like will be determined by local leadership in collaboration with the diocesan personnel committee. For some, it is the joining of existing clusters. For others, new parish relationships may begin. Goals for relationship building, ministries, resources use, etc. will be determined by each Area Catholic Community planning council.

How many priests will be serving our Area Catholic Community? Overall, the number of parish priests available to serve our 131 parishes in the diocese will go down over the next ten years, and so we will need to collaborate and cooperate more as ACCs to adjust with our human resources. Some ACCs should expect to have fewer priests available to them over time.

Will the roles of lay leadership change for the needs of the Area Catholic Community? In order to facilitate the collaboration and cooperation of parishes within an ACC, lay leaders may need to be added or adapted. Our parishes will be stronger through these changes. They will evolve over time.

Will Mass schedules change? There are many variables that the ACC will need to discuss as they make decisions about Mass times. Some of these variables include seating capacities of churches, overlapping and gaps in Mass schedules, and time for relationship building.

What will happen with finances of the parishes and ACC? The finances of each parish will continue to be separate. Each parish will maintain its own finance council that will continue its present work. Each parish will maintain its own accounts. The finances of the parishes will not be comingled. Pastoral leaders, in collaboration with the area planning council, will determine a fair way for each parish to provide for shared expenses, such as personnel, ministries, programs and resources.

Will any of our parishes in our ACC be closing? Bishop Kettler has asked leadership to avoid closing parishes. After ACC planning councils have discerned and determined resources in a given area, it does not mean a change of status* is impossible, but the focus of planning is to work together with area parishes for the sake of our mission. (*change of status = oratory, merger, chapel, closure, etc.)

So...forward we go!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Fr. Steve

FINANCIAL GIFTS

COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 10, 2019

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Sunday	\$22,374	\$29,941
Envelope	\$694	\$2,115
Loose	\$3	\$115

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE - April 27, 8 AM - 12 PM. Drop off donations April 26 at St. Mary's School from 4 PM - 6 PM. No furniture or electronics. Contact Cecelia at 320-491-8527 with any questions.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA will meet for their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21 at 1:30 PM in the Commons Area.

ATTENTION ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS - There are 5 weekends in March. Please check your schedule for the weekend of March 30/31.

MARCH FOOD CAMPAIGN During the month of March, by picking up and returning a Let's Bag Hunger Bag or donating with envelopes provided, you can help those in need. The need for food is great in Douglas County as well as throughout the state. Thanks to the support of our community, the Douglas County Outreach Food Shelf does an outstanding job of helping to meet the need.

THANK YOU to The Church of St Mary for hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive March 4 and 5. Thank you to all who donated blood. It is very much appreciated by the Red Cross & the Grey Ladies of the Red Cross.

COMMUNITY SUICIDE AWARENESS EDUCATION GROUP (CSAEG) is leading a presentation about Post Traumatic Stress and Compassion Fatigue and how it can affect health and personal relationships on April 1 at 3:30 PM, St. Mary's Great Hall. RSVP to CSAEG.Suicide@gmail.com or call 320-429-5363.

MISSION QUILTING will be on March 25 in the Great Hall at 12:30 PM. All are welcome! Call Joyce B. at 763-7615 with questions.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS! We want to welcome our new parishioners who have joined us in the past 6 months on March 24 after the 8:00 and 10:00 AM Masses. Everyone is invited to the Great Hall for a continental breakfast where you can meet our new members and view a special movie.

+We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Robert J. Rader.

THANK YOU to the following for serving the funeral luncheon of: Robert J. Rader - Carol Gaffaney & Team 9

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, Scott Addy, Carol Peterson, Betty Schlosser, Patrick Stroh, Dan Woods, Kevin Richmond, Paul Roers, Andrew Herges, Phyllis VanKempen, Dennis Zaviska, Heather Bitzan, Gladys Bodell, Dan Ridler, Dennis Craig, Ed Longhenry, Delores Modderman, Rosemary Rehovsky, Lorraine Peterson, Melvin Klimek, Marie Peterson, Edwina Schmidt, Lyle Keller, and Jean Keller.



ABOUT LIFE

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC): Reflection on Racism and other forms of discrimination: Let us pray: God the Father, origin of all that is divine, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in you is calmness, peace and concord. Heal what divides us from one another and bring us back into the unity of love, bearing some likeness to your divine nature. Through this embrace of love and the bonds of Godly affection, make us one in the spirit by that peace which makes all things peaceful. We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of your only begotten son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen. (St Dionysius of Alexandria-+264)

SANCTITY OF LIFE: SANCTITY OF LIFE MOMENT:

"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." ~ An old Irish proverb

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

FAITH FORMATION

stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-9202

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



Class Schedule

Sunday School: April 7, 9:50 – 11:00 AM
Grades 1-5: March 20, 3:45 – 4:30 PM
Grades 6-11: March 20, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOICES March 17: The Forgiving Father

Today we heard the story of the Prodigal Son. We had lots of fun playing pig games, and we made a sweet piggy treat! We learned that sometimes we wish for things that are not good for us. But we also learned that our Heavenly Father will always take us back! We had a prayer service today with the theme "I am Sorry." The children are bringing home a stuffed pig to help them remember today's story!

There will be no Sunday school the next two weeks due to school having breaks. We meet again April 7.

You are invited to a short program immediately after the 10:00 Mass on April 7. It will be in the school gym.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

There is still room if you are interested in attending NCYC!! This event is only held every other year, so please consider joining us! The dates are November 20-24, 2019. Pickup a registration form in the Faith Formation Office.

We have started our fundraising, so sign up now to get in on it! For more information, go to <http://ncyc.nfcym.org/> or contact Tammy at 763-9202.

Back by Popular Demand! Catholic Jewelry & Rosaries Sale March 16 & 17

Our youth and adults who will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference next November are excited to offer you an opportunity to purchase beautiful imported hand-made Italian and Bethlehem rosaries, as well as a large variety of Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets and other faith-inspired jewelry.

An assortment of First Holy Communion and Confirmation gift items will be included.

Please stop at our display in the Commons Area after all Masses
March 16 and 17.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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

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.

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP: Thursdays 5:30-6:00 PM (rosary in Commons Area) 6-7 PM prayer time in the Chapel. Contact Jim Joerg 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. 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.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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

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Dear Parishioners,

You may have noticed in last weekend's bulletin that during Lent the children at St. Mary's School are participating in a "Penny Challenge." This is an all-school project that raises money for a worthy cause.



"Penny Challenge" Specifics

The "Penny Challenge" is a competition where each classroom tries to collect the most pennies. The class with the most pennies on April 12 will win. The event rules could end there; however, there is an interesting twist to the competition. As the pennies are being collected, a class may put silver coins or dollar bills into their competitors' jars. The amount of silver and paper money placed in those jars will be subtracted from the total amount of pennies. If a class has a large lead in the number of pennies they have collected, a couple dollars placed into their jar will allow other classes to catch up. After all the pennies are collected, and the silver and paper money are subtracted from the jars, a classroom winner will be determined.

Who are the winners?

Every student who contributes to the "Penny Challenge" is a winner. The students know that all the money raised will be donated to others in need. This year's donations are going to Sole Hope. Sole Hope's mission is to bring hope, healthier lives and freedom from foot-related diseases through education, jobs and medical relief. Learn more at www.solehope.org.

If you would like to donate to our "Penny Challenge", find a St. Mary's School student or drop off your donation in the school office.

Used Eyeglass Collection

Also, during Lent, St. Mary's School will be collecting used eye glasses for Kissy Eye Hospital, Sierra Leone, Africa.



Kissy Eye Hospital, Sierra Leone, Africa was founded in 1976 by local missionaries and ophthalmologist Dr. Lowell and Ruth Gess. This hospital continues to serve one of the poorest areas in Africa. Dr. Lowell Gess will forward the glasses to patients at this hospital.

Drop your glasses in the collection basket, school office or after Mass at the hospitality desk until April 14.

Mr. Sladek



YOU ARE INVITED!

All are invited to attend the 5-6 grade production of Winnie the Pooh at the Andria Theatre on Thursday, March 21 at 1:30pm.

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

MARCH 2019

March 10	Paul Kietzmann, Alexandria \$35
March 11	Gary Boesen, Alexandria \$20
March 12	Peg Lussenden, Alexandria \$20
March 13	Jessica Schuette, Alexandria \$20
March 14	Eric Ristvedt, Alexandria \$20
March 15	William Vaughan, Alexandria \$50
March 16	Joe Kuperus, Alexandria \$20

JESUS TAKES HIS FRIENDS TO THE MOUNTAINTOP

Jesus takes Peter, John and James to the top of a mountain to pray. Jesus' appearance changes as he prays, and his face and clothing reflect the glory of God. The apostles also notice that Jesus is talking to two men, Moses and Elijah. Peter wants to build three tents on the mountain to mark the experience. But after hearing God's voice proclaim Jesus as God's Son, the apostles leave the mountain and tell no one what they have seen or heard.

Like Peter, James and John, we, too, sometimes have mountaintop experiences. It is easy to pray at those times—to praise God or just sit in quiet meditation. In those brief, personal encounters with the divine, our prayers can become deeply private and powerful. However, as this Scripture reminds us, we can't stay on the mountain.

More common are our valley experiences with prayer: times when we are plugged into every distraction around us, and God feels an eternity away. Spiritual masters tell us that those prayers that seem empty and monotonous can be even more valuable than a mountaintop experience.

Those same masters remind us that while alone time with God is valuable, often Christians pray best together. Christians are not theists who believe in a totally personal, one-on-one relationship with God. We are a covenant people who believe that together we are the body of Christ. We believe in the Incarnation—God is with us and in us. We don't have to go to mountaintops or valleys to encounter God, because we find God all around us in everyone we meet.

We find God in other people, in our parish church and in our homes. This is why communal and family prayer is so important. Every Sunday, we gather to pray together with our parish family. And so, it should be with our immediate family. Choose a prayer space in your home and gather on a regular basis. You may be surprised to find how this not-so-quiet family time can provide transfiguring moments when a kitchen or living room can seem like a mountaintop.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Plan some time each day when your family can pray together. Gather in the same place, light a candle, join hands, say a simple prayer like the Our Father and then let people add their own prayers.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Are you comfortable praying with others? With whom do you pray? How often?

Bringing Home, the Gospel: Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels • Copyright © 2007, 2018 Judith Dunlap. Published by the Pastoral Center, PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved. Scripture passages have been taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 by

LEARNING THE OBSTACLES AROUND OBESITY

Obesity is a common health issue that is defined by having a high percentage of body fat. A body mass index (BMI) of 30 or higher is an indicator of obesity. Over the last few decades, obesity has become a considerable health problem. In fact, it's now considered to be an epidemic in the United States. According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), roughly 93.3 million adults (39.8 percent) and 13.7 million children and teens (18.5 percent) in the United States are obese. Despite the rising percentages, there are plenty of ways to prevent obesity.



Consume less processed and sugary foods

According to a 2016 study published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, consumption of processed and ultra-processed foods is linked to a higher risk of obesity. Many processed foods are high in fat, salt, and sugar, which can encourage overeating.



Eat more servings of vegetables and fruits

The daily recommendation for fruit and vegetable intake is five to nine servings per day for adults. Filling your plate with veggies and fruit can help keep calories reasonable and reduce the risk of overeating.



Eat plenty of dietary fiber

Studies continue to show that dietary fiber plays a role in weight maintenance. One 2012 trial found that people who took a fiber complex supplement three times daily for 12 weeks lost up to 5 percent of their body weight.



Get the family involved in your journey

Social support isn't just for children and teens — it's important for adults to feel supported too. Whether cooking with family or going on walks with friends, getting people involved can help to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

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PARISH STAFF

Steve Binsfeld320-763-5781 Pastor	Laurie Bienias320-763-9202 Logistics Coordinator
Todd Wentworth320-763-5781 Parish Business Administrator	Tammy Huss320-763-9202 Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Laurie Youngers320-763-5781 Director of Music & Liturgy	Kathy Ballou320-763-5781 Communications Coordinator
Kathy Fischer320-762-2320 Parish Nurse	Elmer Kobbermann320-834-3103
Troy Sladek320-763-5861 Principal & Elementary Faith Formation	Francie Peterson 320-360-0325 Parish Trustees

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION Saturday at 4:00 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 information.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK is the 1st Sunday of the month, immediately following the 8:00 AM Mass. Those who wish to be anointed are asked to come to the front of the church.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17

Mon.	Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tue.	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Lk 2:41-51a
Wed.	Jer 18: 18-20; Mt 20: 17-28
Thurs.	Jer 17: 5-10; Lk 16: 19-31
Fri.	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21: 31-43, 45-46
Sat.	Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20; Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32
Sun.	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Tue.	5:00 PM +Ryan Beers
Wed.	8:30 AM Jonathon Thorstad Mission Trip
Thurs.	7:00 AM +Sue Doyle 2:00 PM Windmill Ponds +Gary Rehovsky
Fri.	8:30 AM +George Murphy
Sat.	5:00 PM +For the Parish
Sun.	8:00 AM +Al Suter 10:00 AM +Louis Zinsli

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.](http://www.stmaryalexandria.org)

CONTACT US

www.stmaryalexandria.org
stmary@stmaryalexandria.org
320-763-5781