



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

MARCH 15, 2020
THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



**IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS
VOICE, HARDEN NOT
YOUR HEARTS.**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Holy Thursday, April 9

7:00 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper
**Incense used, Adoration follows in the Great Hall*

Good Friday, April 10

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer
**Incense used*

12:00 PM - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
**Incense used, with Veneration of the Cross and Communion*

8:30 PM Tenebrae Service
**A contemporary Tenebrae Service with Veneration of the Cross*

Holy Saturday, April 11

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer
8:30 PM - Easter Vigil (no 5:00 PM Mass)
**Incense used*

Easter Sunday, April 12

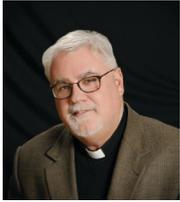
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Mass

PENITENTIAL SERVICES
Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 PM

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS
Saturday, April 4 at 3:00 PM
Tuesday, April 7 at 3:00 PM
Wednesday, April 8 at 10:00 AM

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

FROM OUR PASTOR



Fr. Steve Binsfeld

Aaron Carpenter, director of the Diocesan Office of Worship, will be here in our **Great Hall this Thursday at 6:30 PM** to speak about the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. It is for both those who proclaim the Word, and for all who hear the Word. He spoke this fall on the Rite of Gathering. How do we listen to the Word of God more effectively and open our hearts even more? What is effective proclamation of the Word—not just “reading”. Don’t miss it.

Next weekend is a very important appeal that helps people all over the world—**The Catholic Relief/Bishops’ Overseas Appeal**. This collection provides funding for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, pastoral care of Migrants and Refugees (a HUGE issue these last years), relief work for the Holy Father and Catholic Legal Immigration Network. There is an envelope in our packet. Please be as generous as you can. (*Rice Bowl* is part of this as well. If you take a Rice Bowl, you can bring them to Mass and place them at the foot of the large cross when you would like to offer it).

As of the time of this writing, there is one confirmed case of the Covid-19 virus in Minnesota. A bit of perspective would be useful. **The same sensible precautions that we’d take in preventing the flu are helpful with preventing the spread of Covid-19.**

We have received no mandates from the government or the Diocese regarding changes to *normal behavior* when we gather for worship or social activities. But I have received a few inquiries from parishioners who are concerned with keeping themselves healthy. Specifically, there are at least three times during every Mass when people have physical contact with one another. One is during the **Lord’s Prayer** when some choose to hold hands. (*This is not part of the ritual posture of the church*). The second is the **Sign of Peace** when most folks shake the hands of others or embrace. The third is the **procession to communion** when we receive the body *and blood* of the Lord. Ours is a tradition that takes the idea of sacraments very seriously as *bodily enactments* of the faith that we profess with our mouths, so the idea of *refraining* from such behaviors should be concerning to all of us, unless we have very good reason for doing so. We also regard the essential facet of *community* with utmost importance. To say it another way, **we really can’t “do” Catholicism without communal gathering**, and that will *always* involve some kind of risk to our well-being, physical or otherwise. So, **the task is to be thoughtful and prudent in considering the risk.**

With all that in mind, I’d like simply to point out that *nobody is obliged* to make bodily contact during the Lord’s Prayer or at the sign of peace. I encourage both until it becomes clear that this is unwise. But others among us will come to different decisions about that, and I’d encourage us all to be respectful of their judgment when it comes to bodily contact, at least until the reasonable threat of contagion is over. For example, some may choose to say, “*Peace be with you*” and do a slight bow.

And as for communion, which *actually is essential for us at celebrations of Eucharist*, the best medical advice is that receiving the body of Christ in the hand is *far less* subject to spreading infection than is reception on the tongue. I can vouch for this simply from the number of occasions that my fingers *get licked* by communicants during that practice. And, although it is strongly to be preferred, nobody is required to receive the blood of Christ from the common cup. As in so many situations, common sense is a good teacher here. As Kathy Fischer, our parish nurse, has written and taught: wash hands, cover coughs, do not attend events while sick, keep surfaces clean...all that is part of what will keep us well and able to be together often.

Next Sunday at 2:00 PM is the first of our **Penitential Services**. It is entitled: “**Turning Points**”.
BLESSINGS TO YOU THIS WEEK.

THANK YOU to the following for serving the funeral luncheon of:
Katherine Gilronan - Francie Peterson, Mary Ellen Lyman & Team 8

† **We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Katherine Gilronan & Ronald Saurdiff.**

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET*	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 20,148	\$ 26,413	\$ (6,265)
Electronic	3,731	6,731	(3,000)
Other	1,663	2,490	(827)
Weekend - March 8	\$ 25,542	\$ 35,634	\$ (10,092)
Year-to-Date Offerings	\$ 1,223,668	\$ 1,282,824	\$ (59,156)

* Total year budget is spread equally over 52 weeks. Detailed financial reports may be viewed at the Parish Office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA meeting Thursday, March 19 at 1:00 PM. Please note the time change. Sister Rita von Holtum will be the guest speaker.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - Give a gift to a good marriage or take an apathetic marriage to awesome! Plan to attend the April 25-26 Marriage Encounter! Weekends are held at Mt. Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651.454.3238.

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. Names will be published for 6 weeks, and renewed for an additional 6 weeks upon request.



Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Ruth Partington, Betty Schlosser, Dan Woods, Kevin Richmond Sr., Andrew Herges, Phyllis VanKempen, Dan Ridler, Rosemary Rehovsky, Marie Peterson, Doloris Lorsung, Betty Henshaw, Marilyn Miller, MayVis Bruzek, Matt Sobiech, Mitch, Alice Boesen, Lawrence Cline, Virginia Schultz, Jack Determan, Dorothy Becker, Norma Lais, Ken Volk, Dennis Zaviska, Emily Stark, Irene Cline, Sally Bellicot, Kathy Bellicot, Kim Rose, Lorraine Sellgren-Davis, Mary Waldorf, Fran Didier, Dianne Otto, and Ronnie Le Grange.

FESTIVAL OF FORGIVENESS: Pope Francis has described mercy as “the very foundation of the Church’s life.” We are all sinners in need of God’s mercy—which brings healing, forgiveness and peace. On Friday, March 27 the Diocese of St. Cloud is holding a “Festival of Forgiveness” during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available for an extended period at designated Churches throughout the Diocese. St. Mary’s will host this opportunity 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM and from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Multiple confessors will be available to celebrate the Sacrament for those who have been away for a long time, as well as those who are regular participants. Everyone is invited.



REMINDER Stations of the Cross are prayed during Lent every Friday at 5:15 PM in the Great Hall.

— BAPTISMS —

Lenora Emily - Child of Aaron & Heather Polinder
Croix Ryan - Child of Matthew & Katie Jo Jossart
Thea Marie - Child of Trenton & Beth Pribyl

ABOUT LIFE

JUSTICE PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC): The annual Day on the Hill sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) will take place on Wednesday, April 1. JRLC is represented by leaders from the four major faith groups in Minnesota - Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim. The goal of the Day on the Hill is to lobby our local legislators concerning issues of social justice that are important to all persons of faith. These include housing for low income individuals, homelessness, affordable childcare solutions and other issues that impact the most vulnerable populations in our state. Bus transportation to this event is available. For additional information, contact Ken Howell at 763-6224.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE - The Spring *40 Days for Life Campaign* goes through April 5. There are *40 Days for Life Devotionals* on the Hospitality Desk and in the Chapel entrance for you to pick up or you can go online. 40DaysForLife.com

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:	March 29, 9:50-11:00 AM
Grades 1-5:	March 18, 3:45-4:45 PM
Grades 6-12:	March 18, 6:30-8:00 PM

CATHOLIC JEWELRY & TINY SAINTS FUNDRAISER

Some of our St. Mary's middle school youth will be attending a mission trip to Duluth this summer. Also, some of our older teens will be attending a Steubenville conference in St. Paul. We are excited to offer you an opportunity to purchase beautiful rosaries, a large variety of Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets and other faith-inspired jewelry, along with Tiny Saints. An assortment of First Communion and Confirmation gift items will be included.

Please stop by our display in the Commons Area after all Masses the weekends of March 15 and March 22.



Sunday School Voices March 15— Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

Today we were visited by a pretend shepherd, who showed us that good shepherds love and protect their flock. We each searched for—and found—a lost sheep that we can take home.

We made sheep masks and played sheep games. Most important, we learned that WE are like sheep and Jesus is our good and loving shepherd.

There is no class next week. We will meet again on March 29, which will be our final Sunday School session. There will be a short program in the gym after the 10:00 Mass, and we will enjoy juice and rolls together.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Theology Thursday, March 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM "Empty Vessels"

Presented by Aaron Carpenter in the Great Hall. He will address: What is the role of the Assembly in the Liturgy of the Word? How do we listen more effectively?

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - SHARING ONE HOUR WITH THE LORD Adoration is one way you can make prayer and spending time with the Lord a greater priority in your life. Please consider being a regular adorer for our chapel. For more information, please contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006; tscamcculloch@charter.net

Open times:
Tues, 5:00-6:00 PM (following Mass)
Tues, 6:00-7:00 PM

SUFFERING A LOSS THROUGH DEATH OR DIVORCE? BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is coming to Alexandria on March 27-29 at Luther Crest. This retreat helps people who suffer loss to face issues that are painful and to find a path beyond them...a new beginning. It will give you a map and some awesome fellow travelers a point in the right direction. Call 320-219-8863 or www.beginningexperiencemn.com.

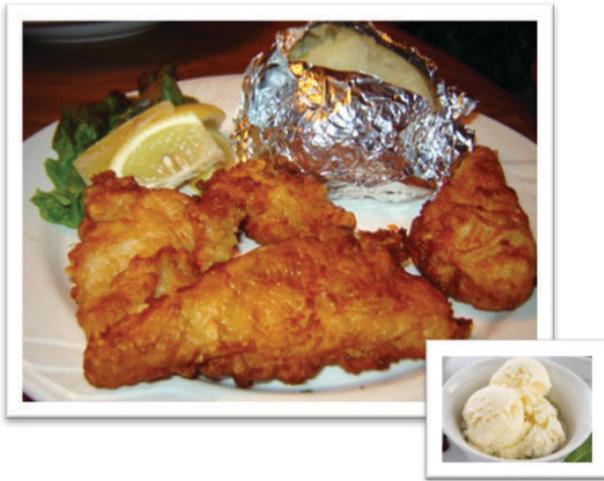
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's School educates the whole child within a nurturing Catholic Christian environment.
stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-5861

Fish Fry

Friday, March 27th | 4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

St. Mary's School Gym



Adults - \$10

Seniors - \$9

6th Grade & Under - \$5



Fish prepared by the Viking Sportsmen

Ice Cream & Dairy Products provided by the
Douglas Co. American Dairy Association



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Board of Education Meeting - Tuesday, March 17 at 8:00 AM

No School - March 20 - 23

Save the Date -

St. Mary's School Fish Fry - March 27

The Gathering, A Celebration of St. Mary's School - April 17

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St. Mary's School Alexandria

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

MARCH

3/8	Gail Jasken, Long Prairie	\$35
3/9	Laurie Cooper, Columbia Heights	\$20
3/10	Bev Olson, Evansville	\$20
3/11	Bob Neale, Alexandria	\$20
3/12	Ken Ludvigson, Litchfield	\$20
3/13	Matt Ewoldt, Alexandria	\$20
3/14	John Stone, Garfield	\$20

Help Support Our School by Participating in:



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Facts, Not Fear

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has undoubtedly been on the minds of many parishioners. Accurate information and reliable sources and recommendations from health experts ensures we all focus on prevention and prudent precautions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel (a virus that has never previously infected humans) corona virus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source but is now spreading person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with another (within 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), patients with confirmed COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. The CDC believes the symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure. Symptoms are similar to other respiratory illness, such as influenza, so experiencing these symptoms does not necessarily mean you need to be tested for COVID-19. Additional criteria will help your health care provider decide if you should be tested.

What can I do to protect myself and my community?

Take the same precautions recommended for avoiding colds and seasonal influenza:

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is unavailable.
2. Stay home when you are sick.
3. Cover your cough with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away immediately. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your upper arm.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
5. Try not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.

Is there a vaccine for COVID-19? There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19.

What is St. Mary's doing to prevent and prepare for possible COVID-19 transmission?

- CDC, MDH and Horizon Public Health websites are checked daily for updates
- Increased awareness of the disease and prevention through the bulletin, announcements, posters, and hand sanitizer and Kleenexes located throughout campus
- Sign of Peace during Mass changed to a slight bow, encouraging parishioners to stay home if sick, Communion from the Chalice voluntary
- Daily discussions with parish leadership regarding preventive measures warranted and/or appropriate as the situation changes

The Minnesota Department of Health has set up a free hotline for anyone who has questions about Coronavirus. Call the MDH hotline at 651-201-3920.

How can I stay informed?

Reliable sources for up-to-date information include:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- Minnesota Department of Health, www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html

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.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

- Tue.** 5:00 PM †Judy Lovrien
Wed. 8:30 AM †Elsie Platto
Thurs. 7:00 AM †Gary Ignowski
2:00 PM Windmill Ponds †Charles Giefer
Fri. 8:30 AM ††Harold & Bernadine Ferrigiaria
Sat. 5:00 PM †Charles Giefer
Sun. 8:00AM For the Parish
10:00 AM †Elsie Platto

WEEKLY READINGS - MARCH 15

- Mon.** 2 KGS 5:1-15AB; LK 4:24-30
Tue. DN 3:25, 34-43; MT 18:21-35
Wed. DT 4:1, 5-9; MT 5:17-19
Thurs. 2 SM 7:4-5A, 12-14A, 16; ROM 4:13, 16-18, 22; MT 1:16, 18-21, 24A
Fri. HOS 14:2-10; MK 12:28-34
Sat. HOS 6:1-6; LK 18:9-14
Sun. 1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A; EPH 5:8-14; JN 9:1-41

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**
Principal & Elementary Faith Formation

- Laurie Bienias**.....**320-763-9202**
Logistics Coordinator
Tammy Huss.....**320-763-9202**
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Kathy Ballou.....**320-763-5781**
Communications Coordinator
Elmer Kobbermann.....**320-834-3103**
Francie Peterson.....**320-360-0325**
Parish Trustees

CONTACT US

www.stmaryalexandria.org

stmary@stmaryalexandria.org

320-763-5781

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](#).

OUR THANKS TO THESE MERCHANTS FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARISH BULLETIN

 <p>Better Water: Pure & Simple Sales, Rentals, Salt 763-6586 - 601 Nokomis St.</p>	 <p>Village Cooperative 62+ Senior Living 320-219-7592</p>	<p>NORTHWOODS CONSTRUCTION LLC Mike Klimek 320-766-8709 Dan Klimek 320-766-8690</p>	 <p>KNUTE NELSON Guided by our <i>Christian heritage</i> to serve you with innovative senior care. knutenelson.org</p>
 <p>Runestone HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING LLC 320-763-3954</p>	<p>AQUARIUS - 84, INC. Plumbing, Mechanical, & Hot Water Heat 763-3636 • 214 6th Ave. East Alexandria, MN</p>	 <p>HEARTLAND ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALISTS A Service of ALOMERE HEALTH 320.762.1144 HeartlandOrthopedics.com</p>	 <p>AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK OF MINNESOTA 512 30th Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 320.762.5330</p>
<p>THORNTON, DOLAN, BOWEN, KLECKER & BURKHAMMER, PA Attorneys At Law 1017 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>			
 <p>www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com 320-762-2124 Auto Home Business Life Health LTC Ins. 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	 <p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 722 6th Avenue East Membership: Bob Neale, 320-762-8685 KC Hall Rental: John Leesch, 320-763-3644 Bingo: Wednesdays 2:00 PM & Sundays 7:00 PM</p>	<p>1210 Broadway St. S 320-763-3040 </p> <p>The UPS Store</p>   <p>Detailed . Distinctive . Sincere 320.763.5556 raukfamilydentistry.com</p>	
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