



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

MAY 10, 2020
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

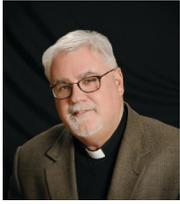
HOUSE



“In my Father’s house
there are many
dwelling places.”

JOHN 14:2

FROM OUR PASTOR



Fr. Steve Binsfeld

Dear Members of St Mary's,

An article in the *Star Tribune* the last week of April reported on the widespread experience of loneliness among youth and young adults (ages 13-25). It is the product of a study of 1000 subjects done by the Springtide Research Institute. The study discovered that about *40 percent of young people in that age group believe that they have "no one to talk to."* That is not particularly surprising.

Those of us who are old enough to remember when *actual* human beings engaged in *conversations and activities in public settings with other people* can only shake our heads at the phenomenon of so many young who spend their days staring blankly into the electronic devices of "social media" and imagining that this is a real substitute for having actual friends and mentors. It isn't...and won't ever be. I'm not sure that's their fault; the responsibility is on all of us.

But the real surprise of the poll was the fact that younger people who *are attached* to religious communities *do not experience any significantly different degree of loneliness from the rest of the general population* in their age group. The conclusion of the study suggested that what religious organizations ought to *offer to young people* is less about fantastic programs and more *about honest human relationships with adults who dedicate themselves to that kind of ministry.* Those aren't mutually exclusive options. I would like to think that we do a great degree of both here at St Mary's. But what the study shows is that, in the end, an excellently executed youth "program" will not substitute for real, honest engagement with other human beings who care about young people. The article in the paper concluded this way: *"The survey found that the more trusted adults that young people have in their lives the less isolated they feel. If faith groups want to change their lives, the adults need to know their names and get to know them so that 'sense of belonging' grows. It is a matter of "feeling noticed, feeling named, feeling known."* That sounds to me like a basic human need for *anybody of any age.*

It wasn't really all that long ago—maybe 60 or 70 years—that the demographic category of "teenagers" really began to take on an identity as its own kind of thing, distinct from (and sometimes alienated from) the larger intergenerational communities that had been part of families forever. That distinction has not served us well, in my opinion. **"Old" people need young people, and vice versa.** And we all need to be together, whether in families or in religious communities. When we start to sort ourselves out by age categories—as we seem to have become obsessed with doing for the past several decades ("Boomers" and "Gen X" and "Millennials" and, and, and...), we are creating the very conditions for isolation and loneliness of which that study speaks.

A parish like ours is in a unique position to be a place where people of all kinds gather, old and young, rich and poor, single and tethered, native and immigrant, etc. Nobody should be feeling isolated and lonely here. That is especially true for our youth and young adults, but I hope that we continue to make it our mission to see to that for everyone. And if that study is to be believed, *it is much more about the kind of people we are* than about the programs we carry out. Programs are important, but even more are the relationships we form. This is what makes us human and through which we touch the divine. "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

As we experience more isolation than we have ever had before, I know that keeping in touch electronically does not replace human contact. It never can. The sheltering at home experience calls me to rededicate myself to being a disciple who recognizes that we meet Christ not only in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, but in his living body---his people.

I came home the other day (I do go to the office for several hours a day) to find a flock of flamingos covering my front lawn with the sign: "You've been flocked! Your flock at St Mary's misses you!!!" I was moved by that gesture. I miss you too! Thanks to whoever did that.

Fr. Steve



SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET*	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 18,852	\$ 26,413	\$ (7,561)
Electronic	9,387	6,731	2,656
Other	0	2,490	(2,490)
Weekend - April 26	\$ 28,239	\$ 35,634	\$ (7,395)
Year-to-Date Offerings	\$ 1,489,242	\$ 1,567,896	\$ (78,654)

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

YOU CAN HELP US DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to continue our ministry. Use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up is easy. Click "Giving" in the top right corner of our website, stmaryalexandria.org.

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:

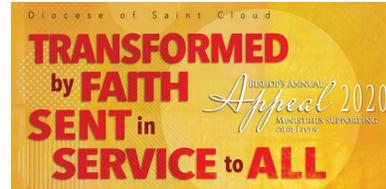
Ruth Partington, Betty Schlosser, Dan Woods, Kevin Richmond Sr., Andrew Herges, Phyllis VanKempen, Dan Ridler, Rosemary Rehovsky, Marie Peterson, Doloris Lorsung, May Vis Bruzek, Matt Sobiech, Mitch, Lawrence Cline, Virginia Schultz, Jack Determan, Dorothy Becker, Norma Lais, Dennis Zaviska, Emily Stark, Irene Cline, Sally Bellicot, Kathy Bellicot, Lorraine Sellgren-Davis, Mary Waldorf, Fran Didier, Dianne Otto, Ronnie Le Grange, Dixie Decker, Eddie Dummer and Roger Rutten.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED in efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19. The parish staff will remain available via phone and email:

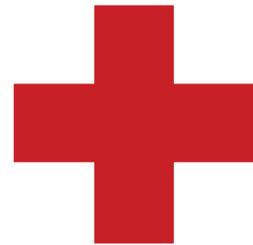
320-763-5781 | stmary@stmaryalexandria.org

Please use the dropbox outside the Parish Office for dropping off envelopes and other communications.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL - We are the Church Together: Your diocesan ministries are walking with you during these challenging times. Diocesan staff continue to reach out to parishes, advance ministries from home and respond to phone calls and messages. Our diocesan website has updates, weekly video messages from Bishop Kettler, spiritual resources and prayers at www.stcdio.org. May God be with you and those you love.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at St. Mary's Great Hall on Monday, May 11, 1:00 - 6:00 PM and Tuesday, May 12, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Appt./info, call Janet at 320-763-3381.



ABOUT LIFE



The National Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC is a shiny black wall that stretches 492 feet and lists the names of the 58,022 known Americans killed in that war. **If such a wall listed the names of the children killed by abortion since 1973, the wall would be about 60 miles long! The casualties of our wars put together are fewer than the casualties from abortion in a single year.**

Taken from "Priests for Life"

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

All classes are cancelled at this time to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

BIGGEST YOUTH NIGHT EVER

It's been a crazy few months. There's a lot up in the air, and we're not sure when we'll start gathering at the church again – but that doesn't mean youth nights have to stop...

Thousands of teenagers from across the country are gathering on Sunday nights for the **BIGGEST YOUTH NIGHT EVER**. It's called ProjectYM Live and each week it'll feature some of the biggest speakers and worship leaders in the Catholic youth ministry world.

Our parish is signed up to participate – all your teenager has to do is head to PROJECTYM.COM/WATCH this

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

All bible studies, group gatherings and committee/ministry meetings, including Eucharistic Adoration, at St. Mary's will be cancelled indefinitely to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

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.

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US EACH MORNING!

Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to pray the Rosary every day during the month of May in spiritual union with him. He is also asking us to end the Rosary with two special prayers to Our Blessed Mother.

"The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary," the pope said.

The request and prayers can be found on the Vatican News site: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>

You are invited to join in praying the Rosary each morning at 8:00 AM along with friends from St. Mary's Church and the surrounding community. Your prayers will be united via conference call. It is easy to do; please join in!

AT 7:55 A.M. EACH MORNING DIAL THIS NUMBER: 712-775-7465 AND THEN ENTER THIS ACCESS CODE 653790#.

YOU MAY INTRODUCE YOURSELF IF YOU WOULD LIKE. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO MUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN THE ROSARY BEGINS AT 8:00 AM.

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL JUDY CLAYTON 320-333-9892 OR DIANE GAY 320-766-7036.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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

WE ARE GOING VIRTUAL! MAY 9-15, 2020



The Gathering

A Celebration of St. Mary's School

*We are bringing the fun
to your living room this year!*

Follow and Share our Facebook Page

'The Gathering 2020 - A Celebration of St. Mary's School'
Check Interested or Going to stay up-to-date on announcements

**Go to one.bidpal.net/gathering2020 or text *Gathering 2020* to 243725
to register with our online auction!**

This will allow you to see and bid on auction items. Start your bidding May 9.

Questions?

Contact us at 320-763-5861 or via email at gathering.sms@gmail.com

100% of the proceeds go directly to St. Mary's School

THANK YOU
to our Host
Sponsors



CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

APRIL/MAY

5/3	Phil Warren, Farwell, MN	\$35
5/4	Lachlan DeKrey, Alexandria	\$20
5/5	Laurel Linder, Alexandria	\$20
5/6	Leslie Kirscht, Alexandria	\$20
5/7	Kimberly Walsh, Alexandria	\$20
5/8	Curtis Behrends, Alexandria	\$20
5/9	Janet Matchinsky, Alexandria	\$20

Help Support Our School by Participating in:



Follow St. Mary's School
Find us on Instagram and Facebook!



[stmaryschoolalexandria](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschoolalexandria)



St. Mary's School Alexandria

JESUS IS THE WAY

John's Gospel is very different from the other three Gospels. For example, at the Last Supper John tells us nothing about the blessed bread and wine. Instead, he talks about the washing of the feet, an incident not reported by the other Gospel writers. John also gives us the prayers and long discourse said by Jesus at the Last Supper.

This is one of my favorite Scripture passages from John's Gospel. It is a powerful summation of all that Jesus is. Each word holds so much meaning and significance. Consider the statement, "Jesus is the Way."

Jesus is the Way to find out who God is. Jesus was God in person. When he spoke and acted, it was God speaking and acting. If you want to find out about God, find out about Jesus.

Jesus is the Way to the kingdom. The kingdom is not just something in the future. It has been with us since the beginning of time, most decisively in the person of Jesus. The kingdom is also now, wherever we see someone acting in Jesus' healing love, offering reconciliation, or working for peace and justice.

Jesus is the Way to all that is true and all that gives life. Make Jesus a reality for your children. Let them hear you talk about him as if he were a member of your family. Let them know that he is their champion and that his love for them will never end. But also make sure they understand that they share Jesus' mission and they are called to champion others. They are asked to share Jesus' love in very practical ways with everyone they encounter, especially those most in need. Help them understand that they are called to be the way for others—the way to find the kingdom, the way for others to find out who God is.

Jesus is the Way maker. Let our children know that with Jesus' help, no matter the obstacles, nothing can stop them from finding his love and sharing that love with others.

FAMILY RESPONSE

As you gather around the dinner table to share a special meal, read the words from John 14:6. Ask each family member to finish this sentence: "Jesus is the Way because...."

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Finish the following sentence for yourself. Jesus is the Way for me because... What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

Bringing Home the Gospel: Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels • Copyright © 2007, 2019 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 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and used by permission. All rights reserved.

IS IT ALLERGIES OR COVID-19?

With allergy season and the corona virus pandemic overlapping this spring, it is important to understand the symptoms of each condition and seek medical care when needed.

"This spring allergy season has been especially challenging because of the pandemic of COVID-19, and a lot of my patients, and a lot of allergy sufferers, can have a hard time distinguishing between what is an allergy, and what are symptoms of COVID-19", said Dr. Rachna Shah, an allergist at Loyola Medicine in Maywood, Illinois.

Typical symptoms of seasonal allergies include itchy eyes, itchy nose, sneezing, runny nose and post-nasal drip. Symptoms of COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, repeated shaking with chills and a new loss of taste or smell.

"The big differentiating factor between allergies and COVID-19 are those itchy symptoms—itchy eyes, itchy nose and sneezing. If you are experiencing these, they are most likely due to environmental allergies and not COVID-19," Shah said in a Loyola news release.

Many people with allergies also suffer from asthma. Asthma can also make you more susceptible to having more severe symptoms of COVID-19," Shah said. "So, it is really important to have an up-to-date action plan for both your allergies and asthma." He goes on to say, "patients must be vigilant in taking all medications as prescribed and having additional inhalers and refills."

To minimize spring allergy symptoms, try and avoid allergens. Suggestions include:

- Keep windows closed
- Rinse off or change clothes after being outside
- Avoid using window or attic fans that draw in outside air
- Use air conditioning
- Refrain from outside activities, if possible, during times of high pollen counts (if you are sensitive to pollen.) Peak pollination occurs at different times of the day for different plants (for example, ragweed in the late morning, grasses in the afternoon.)

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider for further instructions regarding testing and care.

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.** † Paul Jost
Wed. † Edell Swanson
Thurs. † Kirk Voge
†† Leah & Larry Yost
Fri. † Mary "Jo" Howe
Sat. For the Parish
Sun. † Richard Evich
† Mary Van Hecke

Fr. Steve will be saying Mass privately each day for the Mass intentions and the well-being of the parish and all people of the Alexandria community.

WEEKLY READINGS - MAY 10

- Mon.** ACTS 14:5-18; JN 14:21-26
Tue. ACTS 14:19-28; JN 14:27-31A
Wed. ACTS 15:1-6; JN 15:1-8
Thurs. ACTS 1:15-17, 20-26; JN 15:9-17
Fri. ACTS 15:22-31; JN 15:12-17
Sat. ACTS 16:1-10; JN 15:18-21
Sun. ACTS 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 PT 3:15-18;
JN 14:15-21

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

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 <p>HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING LLC 320-763-3954</p>	<p>AQUARIUS - 84, INC. <i>Plumbing, Mechanical, & Hot Water Heat</i> 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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