

# The Church of St. Mary

420 IRVING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, MN  
320.763.5781 | STMARY@STMARYALEXANDRIA.ORG

OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE GOD BY LIVING THE EUCHARIST.

AUGUST 2, 2020  
THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# BLESSING



He said the blessing,  
broke the loaves, and gave  
them to the disciples.

MATTHEW 14:19c

## FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Parishioners,

**BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND we moved away from using the alphabet for seating to open seating** with all the usual precautions taken. **We also returned to our normal Sunday Mass schedule--8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.** Please spread the word. We also ask you to remember that we are still under the guideline of 250 for maximum capacity. This number includes ALL ministers. Remember that both the **North (A6) & South (A1) doors are open for seating 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass.** Hospitality ministers must be in place 45 minutes before opening.

I am open to a Saturday late afternoon Mass (4:30 or 5 PM) if we need it. Before this can happen, **we will need more volunteer ministers to serve at that Mass.** This includes: 32 Hospitality ministers, 16 Eucharistic Ministers, 4 Readers and 4 Sacristans. (This is enough for a once a month rotation). Please email [jeddy@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto:jeddy@stmaryalexandria.org) if you are willing to be a minister. Training will be necessary. Training dates will be announced soon. But here is another point. Some volunteers who are now on Sunday may want to switch to Saturday, leaving Sunday in need of help. So, if you would like to volunteer for one of these ministries at a particular Mass, please email or call the office.

This June the Diocese of St Cloud filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy so that it can still function as well as assist the victims of clergy sexual abuse. The plan was approved in court. The plan provides for the care of the victims of clergy sexual abuse. \$22.5 million is to be set aside in a fund to compensate victims of abuse prior to the bankruptcy ruling date. A good portion of that amount (\$14 million) is coming from Diocesan insurance companies. Another portion (\$6.5 million) is coming from the sale of Diocesan property and holdings (such as the Chancery Office, etc). The remainder (\$2 million) will come from parish help. The fund will be administered by a court appointed trustee, not by the diocese. Any victim must file before October 21, 2020 to be part of that settlement. This settlement allows our Diocese to re-organize and begin anew, while at the same time, trying to help those who were victims of abuse. **Here is the announcement from the Diocesan bankruptcy ruling:**

*On June 15, 2020, The Diocese of St. Cloud filed a Chapter 11 reorganization case. The reorganization case will allow the diocese to implement a framework for a resolution with survivors of clergy sexual abuse previously agreed upon in May 2020. This will include a consensual plan of reorganization that will provide for a \$22.5 million trust to compensate survivors.*

*The diocese is committed to providing broad notice of its reorganization case to the public in order to allow all survivors an opportunity to participate in the case and receive compensation. The court overseeing the reorganization case has set a deadline of **October 21, 2020** for survivors of clergy sexual abuse to file their claims in this case. Please inform your family members and others in the community of this deadline.*

*Survivors may file their claims anonymously, and their names and other identifying information will not be revealed in the reorganization case. Anyone who would like more information about filing a claim, or generally about the reorganization case, may visit the diocese's website under the section titled "Reorganization."*

### FR. STEVE

#### — BANS OF MARRIAGE —

III Griffin Hayes & Tasha Harr  
II Levi Doherty & Amy Perreault

#### — BAPTISMS —

Avery Nicole  
Child of Joseph & Jill Niehaus

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET*	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 16,091	\$ 23,904	\$ (7,813)
Electronic	22,337	9,769	12,568
Other	368	1,058	(690)
<b>July 26</b>	<b>\$ 38,796</b>	<b>\$ 35,634</b>	<b>\$ 4,065</b>
<b>YTD Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 116,224</b>	<b>\$ 142,536</b>	<b>\$ (26,312)</b>

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

## COMMUNITY NEWS

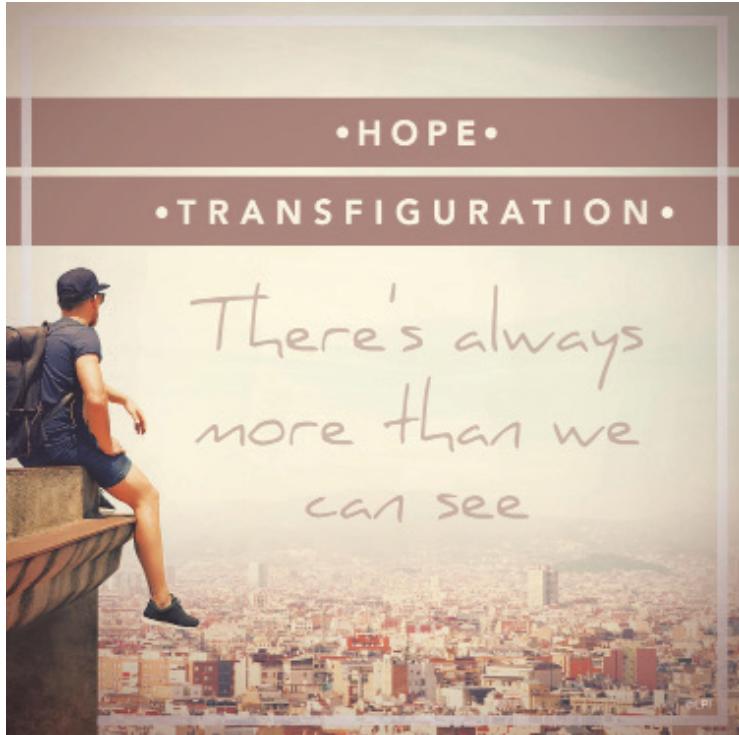
### PRAYER CORNER

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:**

Betty Schlosser, Dan Woods, Kevin Richmond Sr., Andrew Herges, Phyllis Van Kempen, Dan Ridler, Rosemary Rehovsky, Marie Peterson, Doloris Lorsung, MayVis Bruzek, Virginia Schultz, Dorothy Becker, Dennis Zaviska, Sally Bellicot, Kathy Bellicot, Lorraine Sellgren-Davis, Mary Waldorf, Dianne Otto, Ronnie Le Grange, Eddie Dummer, Virgene Grubb, Brett Rima, Kay Wagner, Jerry Sacre and Lawrence Cline.



### ABOUT LIFE



*"The Lord called me from the womb... formed me from the womb to be his servant."* - Isaiah 49:1, 5  
Visit St. Mary's Sanctity of Life online at [sanctityoflifestm.org](http://sanctityoflifestm.org) for information and resources.

### Mass INTENTIONS

**MASS INTENTIONS** - we are taking intentions for Masses through the month of September. Please contact the Parish Office at 320-763-5781 or email [stmary@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto:stmary@stmaryalexandria.org)



**Sunday Mass will return to 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.**  
There will not be a rotating schedule based on last name, but we are limited to 250 people.

**VOLUNTEER MINISTERS NEEDED** If you are able to volunteer once a month to be a Hospitality Minister, Eucharistic Minister, Reader or Sacristan, please contact the parish office - 320-763-5781 or [jeddy@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto:jeddy@stmaryalexandria.org). Training is provided. Saturday Mass can be added back if we get enough volunteers. Thank you!

# FAITH FORMATION

stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-9202

## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



**WEEKLY FAMILY SESSIONS** - Are you looking for a resource to help your family keep holy the Sabbath day at home? Perhaps you are looking for a way to build up your family's faith life. Visit <http://familytogether.stcdio.org/> where you will find weekly sessions based on the Sunday Gospel.

**ONLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - Camp Creation, Day by Day with God - A group of Faith Formation Directors is collaborating on an online Vacation Bible School based on Genesis 1 for the week of August 3-7. This will be hosted at <http://familytogether.stcdio.org/>. It will be an 'asynchronous' experience, which means parishes and families can join in during the week, or whenever they can afterwards.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**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 320-846-1842. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

## NEED SOME QUIET TIME WITH OUR LORD?

Eucharistic Adoration is available in our parish church during the day and there are several open chairs around the altar for those of you that want to drop by.

Below is the current schedule and please remember the following before attending:

- (1) bring a mask
- (2) bring your own reading materials
- (3) be reverent

Mon. and Wed.: Noon-7 pm (8:30 AM Mass)  
Tue. and Thur.: Noon-5 pm (5:30 PM Mass)  
Fri: 9-Noon (8:30 AM Mass)

Jesus, We Trust in You!

## ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-5861

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

#### JULY/AUGUST

7/26	Travis Thorson, Alexandria	\$35
7/27	Mike LeClair, Chokio, MN	\$20
7/28	Dawn Cory, Glenwood, MN	\$20
7/29	Mark Jahner, Alexandria	\$20
7/30	Mathew Meyers, Lowry, MN	\$20
7/31	Bob Matchinsky, Alexandria	\$20
8/1	Mary Bakker, Alexandria	\$100

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St. Mary's School Alexandria

# Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

August 2020

I'd like to tell you of my own personal experience about faith and worry. And what faith can do for you and what worry can do to you. The dictionary says that faith is "a belief and trust in and loyalty to God." Well, that sounds simple enough. We all believe in God and are loyal. And we all say we trust in God. But this is the rub: how complete is our trust in God? My faith, my trust in God is challenged every day.

For a long time my faith was so shallow; my trust so lacking that I literally worried myself sick. Two ulcer operations are a testimony to that. I didn't realize it at the time, but for years I had much less faith than the proverbial mustard seed. I tried to take on the problems of the world, at least my little corner of it, all by myself. I have learned the painful lesson that I can't do it by myself. I've got to let God be my partner in all I do. Not just in my church or my spiritual life, but in my business, my home, my relationships with my loving family and friends, and in my dealings with strangers on the street.

Without faith we worry; we fear the unknown and the future. This is where faith, worry and giving all tie in. We, as individuals and as a congregation, are worried that if we give away a proportionate share of our possessions - a tithe, or whatever - we will not have enough left for ourselves for tomorrow.

## Giving is a Privilege

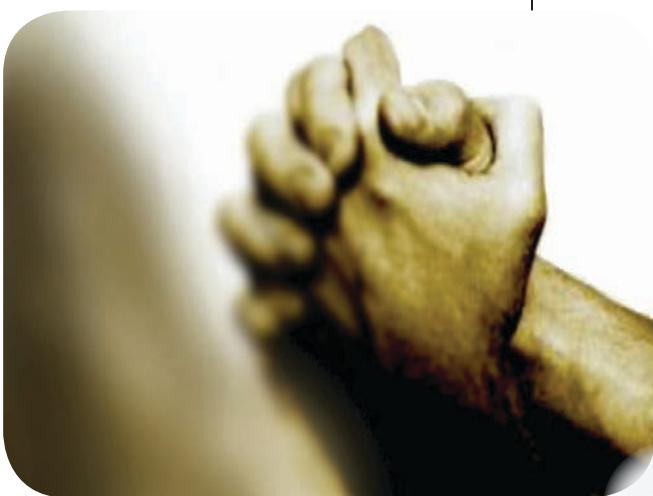
Let me pick up on something our pastor said about giving last week. First, giving is a privilege. And it is! If we weren't so richly blessed, we wouldn't

have the privilege of giving so much.

## Giving is Fun

Think of how much fun it is to give a gift that really makes someone happy. It doesn't have to be a grand, expensive purchase. It can be just giving your love and friendship through a visit to someone who needs you. I've seen recently

*We are judged by what we do, and only in doing can we give example. Christians practice stewardship by sharing with those in need their God-given time, talents and money as an act of thanks to God for all that is gifted to them.*



in my own family how by picking up the phone you can reach out and help someone with a difficult problem you didn't even know they had. Things like this seem coincidental, but through faith you see that they are not just left to chance.

One of the biggest pleasures of seeing  
(Continued on page 4)





*Jesus said: “Stop worrying, then, over questions like, ‘What are we to eat?; or what are we to drink?; or what are we to wear?’ The unbelievers are always running after these things. Your heavenly father knows all that you need. Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides”*

Matthew 6:31-33

### Never Owning the Sundial

Phillips Brooks, a noted pastor and author, once told a story of a primitive tribe to whom a sundial had been given. They wanted to honor it and keep it sacred, so they built a small roofed hut to put it in. We should be careful not to smile, for great numbers of civilized people take many of God's gifts and treat them in just the way the tribe did that didn't understand what a sundial was for.

How many there are who take God's gifts, not to use for larger life, but to keep and protect. So they put them in banks and in safe deposit boxes. They house them and build a roof over them. Those primitive people never did own that sundial. It was not something to use and serve with, but something to be kept, to be guarded, to be concerned about. They had, in a measure, to live for it, not by it.

So, too often our gifts from God, our treasures and our talents, never belong to us. We have to keep them, worry about them, care for them, and share them in such a way that others will be drawn to Jesus. Nothing really belongs to us until we pass it on to others. 

### Keep Life in Full Bloom

Everyone has a favorite flower; some diehard gardeners have several. But whether you have a simple row of tulips or an elaborate sculptured garden of perennials, one thing is the same: you've got to pull weeds or you won't have any flowers at all.

If you want a beautiful garden, you've got to be diligent about eradicating those pesky weeds. You can go away for a long weekend, but those "unwanteds" in your garden aren't going to take a vacation.

In 1 Timothy 6:10, it says "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." Like those weeds, if we aren't diligent about keeping money "in its place," those roots take hold and are mighty hard to pull. Then it gets easier and easier to let things go, because it takes so much work to keep priorities in check.

To keep our lives in full bloom, we must not give money the power to seduce and oppress us, taking our focus away from God. So no matter if it's sunny or raining in our lives, let's keep the soil free from temptation by yanking those weeds at the first sight of (Continued on page 4)

## **GUIDELINES FOR GIVING**

**F**ollowing are some suggested guidelines for giving:

- † The church should be supported by the people who believe the Gospel.
- † Support of the church is a matter of Christian worship. True worship always requires an offering, something of worth to the worshipper, which he or she gives in joy and reverence for the work of Christ's Kingdom.
- † People have enough money to support the work of the church. The best studies show that most people give about two percent

of their income. Many people could double their offerings to the church without reducing their standard of living.

- † Holmes Rolston's Stewardship in the New Testament Church is an excellent reminder of the best basis for Christian giving: joy in the wondrous Gospel of God's love. The first Christians discovered that Christ reconciled the world unto himself. They were bursting with joy to share the Good News. They gave their money, but first they gave themselves. God so loved that he gave. Christians so love that they give. Loving and giving ... this is what stewardship is all about. 

## **Steward of the Month**

### **Love Knows No Bounds**

**J**ohn Poorman has been one of the most giving people I have ever met. He is the head of the Shepherding committee at our church. Every Sunday after services he goes to visit shut-ins who are no longer able to attend services. He and his wife own a small church building of which the upstairs was being rented by a small church group. John had an antique store in the basement of the building. When the pastor brought it to John's attention that the church was in need of more room, John decided to go out of the antique business in order to allow the church to expand for classrooms and study area.

He regularly visits people in nursing homes, whom he has met in some way and brings them a treat; a kind of pastry. If there is a job to be done at church, John is there. He volunteered last year to keep the parking lot of our church plowed whenever it snowed. Now bear in mind that we are in Wisconsin and last year was a record year of snow, so that was a real contribution. John is never too busy to give a helping hand, whether it's helping with the youth group's recycling, to replace windows or having a dead tree removed from the lawn of the parsonage. John is the true model of Christian stewardship, giving of his time, possessions, and talents. 

"**Steward of the Month**" is an exciting way to recognize exemplary stewards. If you are aware of someone who has exemplified Christian stewardship, please tell us about it at [stewardofthemonth.com](http://stewardofthemonth.com). Once a month, one submission will be chosen to be published in *Stewardship*. In addition, if your story is chosen, \$100 will be given to the church or organization of your choice.

**S**tewardship is based on the biblical principle that God is the only true owner and giver of all things. All we possess, our time, our abilities ... our very lives ... and our money, we hold as a trust from God.

*It is to God that we shall render an account of our administration of that trust.*



## Keep Life in Full Bloom!

Continued from page 1...

### I'd like to tell you...

my kids grow up has been to see the joy they get, not from receiving a present at Christmas or a birthday, but the joy they get giving something special to someone else!

### Worrying about the Budget

As a congregation, we lose the opportunity for much joy because we do a lot of unnecessary worrying. We worry about meeting our yearly budget. The Finance Committee worries about presenting a budget that will be within our reach and about how best to get us to contribute enough to cover the budget. Then if we fall short, they have to start worrying about what can be cut so that we can end up in the black. As individuals, we worry about how we can give more and still have enough left with the ever rising cost of everything.

Yet, the Bible tells us over and over

again that this worrying is all unnecessary. The answer is to have faith and to be a cheerful giver.

If we met the challenge of giving the first portion of our income, as a congregation we would give extra thousands to our church. Wouldn't it be fun, if instead of worrying about the budget, we could have the joy of deciding what to do with that extra money? How we could use it to help others, to make others happy. Wouldn't that be a refreshing change?



Continued from page 2...

### Everyone has a favorite...

them!

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## Well-Child Visits Are Essential

In recent months, families have been doing their part by staying at home as much as possible to help stop the spread of COVID-19. As communities open up, it's important your child goes in for their well-child visit. These well-child visits are essential for many reasons, including:

- Tracking growth and development including milestones, social behaviors, and learning
- Discussing any concerns about your child's health
- Getting scheduled vaccinations to prevent illnesses like measles and whooping cough (pertussis) and **12 other serious diseases**



Did you know that there were several outbreaks of measles and whooping cough in recent years? These diseases are extremely contagious and can be very serious, especially for babies and young children. As schools and daycares also begin to reopen, protecting children against these and other diseases makes these vaccinations particularly important.

Not sure what vaccines are needed when? Concerned about keeping your child safe? Call your doctor's office to see what special measures they might have in place. Many offices and clinics are taking extra steps to see children safely during this time, like:

- Scheduling sick visits and well-child visits during different times of the day
- Asking patients to remain outside until they are called into the facility to reduce crowding in waiting rooms
- Offering sick visits and well-child visits in different locations

If you need help paying for vaccines, ask your child's doctor or nurse about the **Vaccines for Children program**. This program provides free vaccines to children who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, or American Indian/Alaska Native.

These are challenging times, but you have the power to help keep your child healthy. Making sure that your child sees their doctor for well-child visits and vaccines is one of the best things you can do to protect your child and community.

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

August 2, 2020 • 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 14:13-21

## Meeting the Needs (and Wants) of the Many

*Jesus leaves his friends to find some quiet time for prayer, but the people follow him. Once again he finds himself surrounded by a crowd. When evening comes, Jesus' disciples tell him to send the people home. There is not enough food for all of them. Instead, Jesus takes the few loaves and fishes available, blesses them, and feeds the thousands.*

One of the messages we can take from this Gospel is that God's love will take care of our every need. When I think about this reading, it doesn't surprise me that God is called Father (or Mother for that matter). A parent's love is an awesome thing. I remember when my children were infants; their every need was anticipated. I would do anything humanly possible to take care of them and keep them close.

When they got older and began confusing wants with needs, life became more difficult. For example, to our fourteen-year-old, buying the latest sneakers that everyone was wearing was clearly a need. As bill payer in a family with five growing children, expensive sneakers were definitely a want. When our children's wants weren't met, life sometimes wasn't easy. Their anger at not receiving what they wanted would often separate us.

Too often, my own reaction to their feelings or moods only exacerbated the situation. It was only when I could remember that I was the grown-up and stay calm and firm in a just decision that we could sometimes negotiate a happy ending. (Shoes were certainly a need, so we would set a reasonable amount to put toward sneakers. If my son wanted to buy the more expensive brand, he could earn the money to make up the difference.)

It's hard to say no to our children; after all we want them to be happy. But we are circling a bottomless pit if we give into their every want, and we are teaching them a dangerous lesson if we reinforce the notion that things can make them happy. Our responsibility is to teach them the difference between wants and needs, and then, like God, the all-loving parent, provide as best we can, all that they truly need.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk about needs and wants. Ask everyone to give two examples of each.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

What is your greatest need right now? How can you go about getting what you need? If you are not able to get what you need, how will you do without it? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

## SACRAMENTS

### RECONCILIATION

Starting June 8, Wednesdays at 11:00 AM and Saturdays at 11:00 AM. Please enter through door A1 (Courtyard Door). Health and Safety instructions will be posted.

### BAPTISM

All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course. Call the Parish Office to sign up. Contact Fr. Steve to schedule a baptism date at 320-763-5781.

### 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

Please call the Parish Office to arrange at 320-763-5781.

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

**Tue.** 5:30 PM †Norma Lais  
**Wed.** 8:30 AM † Pat Lenertz  
**Thurs.** 5:30 PM †Gary Ignowski  
    †Paul Jost  
**Fri.** 8:30 AM ††Harvey Johnson & Skip Haen  
**Sun.** 8:30 AM †Jeanette Jost  
    11:00 AM For the Parish

## WEEKLY READINGS - AUGUST 2

**Mon.** JER 28:1-17; MT 14:22-36  
**Tue.** JER 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; MT 14:22-36  
**Wed.** JER 31:1-7; MT 15: 21-28  
**Thurs.** DN 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 PT 1:16-19; MT 17:1-9  
**Fri.** NA 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; MT 16:24-28  
**Sat.** HAB 1:12—2:4; MT 17:14-20  
**Sun.** 1KGS 19:9A, 11-13A; ROM 9:1-5;  
    MT 14:22-33

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

[stmary@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto: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](#).

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