

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.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

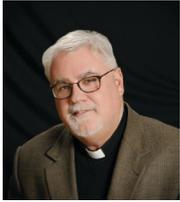
FIRST



“Thus, the last will be
first, and the first
will be last.”

MATTHEW 20:16

FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of St Mary's Parish Community,

Our Grand Raffle Drawing took place last Sunday. **Thank you** to all who participated in this, our only fundraiser for the year. The grand prize winner of \$20,000 Juettner Bucks toward a new car or \$15,000 cash -- LeRoy Poetz; Winner of \$3000 cash -- Audrey Braun; Winner of \$1000 cash -- Ron Kitz; Winners of \$100 cash were Jill Partington, Janell Eddy, Kathie Jordahl, Marguerite Lawler, Dennis Flick, Nathan Chan, Mike Gasperlin and Tom Larsen. Congratulations.

Fr. Steve Binsfeld

Thank you to Leon Breun and our Cemetery Committee for organizing the September 10 Cemetery Clean Up. Thanks to the folks who came out to help pick up trimmed branches, plant grass and do many other tasks. We have a beautiful cemetery thanks to the help of folks like them.

Right now, we are thinking of new and varied/different ways to reach out to not only our membership, but we are also exploring ways to evangelize beyond our parish. We live in an "evolutionary" time in the church. I think that has always been true, but perhaps we've never been made to recognize it as much as we have this year, when so many of our regular routines and practices have been disrupted by virus and social unrest. However, we have to remember that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was never intended to be *institutionalized*.

That notion can bring push-back from those whose business it is to exercise authority and leadership in church institutions. As soon as we *institutionalize* the Gospel, we tend to want to *freeze its message at a moment in time*, and to identify that message with a *certain way of "doing business."* Institutions don't change easily -- often -- or willingly, but **the Gospel of Jesus has to be responsive to the needs of what is happening now**. What is required among our communities today is *being 'nimble'*. We are certainly not in the same situation today as we were even some months ago.

Jesus was one who showed us *how* to do that. Institutions have their place. As a devout Jew, Jesus was loyal to an *institution* that was already ancient by the time He walked the earth, but all of the Gospels report how he needed the encrusted institutional practices of people and rules that had the effect of *harming real human beings*, or of *standing in their way of freedom and happiness*. And Jesus paid a dear price for doing that.

We can identify several necessary things for all of us to remember about **what is at the heart of the Gospel: *community, prayer, service, mission for God's kingdom, social engagement***. None of that requires an elaborate and specific institutional structure. It requires gospel and human solidarity. Church or ecclesial anarchy is not what the Gospel calls for, but a de-centering of what can sometimes seem an *automatic identification of "the church" with "how we've always done things."* **Most of all the Gospel of Jesus Christ requires a *conversion of hearts* and a *broad imagination for the future***. However, as we re-group after this COVID thing ends, it will look different, but we'll still be church.

This requires an ability to discern what is needed among our fellow human beings in the moment in order to serve God's reign. What is required? **Discernment**. Discernment is **the ability to see things as they really are, and not for what I want them to be.** Institutions have a sad habit of imposing the idea of how things "*need to be.*" But...God's Spirit is much more nimble than that. St. Irenaeus once said that one of the main tasks as disciples of Jesus is, as Irenaeus said, "*Let (our) clay be moist*" so we can feel the imprint of the Master Potter in forming us as **he** wants us to be.

- Fr Steve

— BANS OF MARRIAGE —

II Thomas Erickson & Alissa Lommel
II John Thompson & Danielle Peterson
I James Wildman & Joanna Thoennes

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Mary Louise Anderson.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET*	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 19,479	\$ 23,904	\$ (4,425)
Electronic	5,418	9,769	(4,351)
Other	401	1,058	(657)
Sept. 13	\$ 25,298	\$ 34,731	\$ (9,433)
YTD Offerings	\$ 323,280	\$ 382,041	\$ (58,761)

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

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, Andrew Herges, Kevin Richmond Sr., Rosemary Rehovsky, Marie Peterson, Virginia Schultz, Dorothy Becker, Dennis Zaviska, Sally Bellicot, Kathy Bellicot, Mary Waldorf, Dianne Otto, Ronnie Le Grange, Eddie Dummer, Virgene Grubb, Brett Rima, Kay Wagner, Jerry Sacre, Lawrence Cline, Kathy Bruder, Dan Radford, Greg Dahlgren, Curt Hilgers, and Verlyn Bruzek.

SEPTEMBER 26 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL PRAYER DAY. Pray for our country. Prayers are on our [website](#) to use if desired.

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. Training is provided. Saturday Mass can be added back if we get enough volunteers. Thank you!

THE COVID-19 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS LAUNCHED! Minnesota Housing is pleased to announce that the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program is now accepting applications from individuals and families impacted by COVID-19. The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program provides housing assistance payments to help prevent eviction, prevent homelessness, and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners. Visit Minnesota Housing's website: mnhousing.gov to learn more about how the program works. Minnesotans interested in applying begin the application process by calling 211 (Toll Free: 1.800.543.7709; Local: 651.291.0211), visiting 211unitedway.org, or texting "MNRENT" or "MNHOM" to 898-211. Please help us spread the word about this important new resource with the individuals and families you work with who may be interested in applying!

ABOUT LIFE

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC):

**Immigration Sunday Minnesota – September 27, 2020
in conjunction with World Day of Migrants and Refugees**

Since 2009, the Catholic bishops of Minnesota have designated the Feast of Our Lord's Epiphany to mark Immigration Sunday Minnesota. This year Minnesota's bishops have moved this day to Sunday, September 27 to join with Catholics around the globe to mark World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This year's theme is "Forced to Flee Like Christ". Immigration Sunday is an important moment for Minnesota Catholics to show their commitment to welcoming migrants and refugees in our communities through our prayers, education, and actions. By accompanying them in person and in prayer, we can not only help them integrate into our communities, but show that we see and welcome Christ in them.

In his annual message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis places a great emphasis on the need for pastoral care for displaced people. In this letter he writes:

1. You have *to know* in order *to understand*.
2. It is necessary *to be close* in order *to serve*.
3. In order *to be reconciled*, we need *to listen*.
4. In order *to grow*, it is necessary *to share*.
5. We need *to be involved* in order *to promote*.
6. It is necessary *to cooperate* in order *to build*.



The King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." — Matthew 25:31-46

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR "PRAISE IN THE PARKING LOT" FAMILY EVENT to be held Sunday, September 27, 3:30 – 5:00 PM In the East parking lot of St. Mary's. This is a Kick Off for our Faith Formation Year. All are welcome! Watch for more information!!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD.

We are looking for people who would like to share their faith with our Elementary Faith Formation students. Classes begin in October on Wednesdays 4:45 to 5:30 PM or Sundays 9:00 to 9:45 AM. Materials and training provided and we will guide you every step of the way. Call Laurie Bienias at 763-9202 or lbienias@stmaryalexandria.org for more information.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Age 4 - Grade 11

Now Available Online ONLY
stmaryalexandria.org

SIGN UP NOW!

Classes start soon!

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

Monday/Wednesday: 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tuesday/Thursday: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

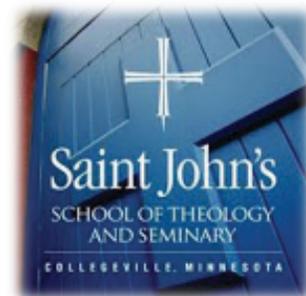
Jesus, We Trust in You!

SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY INVITES YOU TO REGISTER FOR THEOLOGY DAY PRESENTATIONS

- Take advantage of seeking a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith from Theologians of Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. Several topics to choose from. Sign up for one or all of them. Format has changed from in person to online webinars. Please use the link below and, if you have any questions, please call 320-363-3560 for assistance.

<https://www.csbsju.edu/sot/alumni-and-friends/attend-events/theology-day>

You will be receiving materials for the webinar in the mail, so they ask you sign up at least 5 day prior to the event.



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 Receives Grant Check

Recently, St. Mary's School received a check for \$1,700 from the Catholic Foundation - Diocese of Saint Cloud in response to the grant application that we submitted for the purchase of Sphero Learning Robot Kits. These kits will provide more experiences and opportunities for STEM based learning.

The funds for this grant were made possible by your generosity through the Bishop's Living the Promise capital campaign to provide permanent endowments for Catholic Schools and Faith Formation programs for adults and youth through The Catholic Foundation.



Please continue your support for the efforts of the Catholic Foundation to pass on the faith by considering other future gifts to the Foundation for the permanent endowment of Catholic education, various ministries, and for your parish. Remember, you can leave a legacy by making a gift through the Catholic Foundation from your will and estate plans.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER

9/13	Denice St. Michel, Jamestown, ND	\$35
9/14	Nancy Patrick, Nelson	\$20
9/15	Jessie Speed, Alexandria	\$50
9/16	Joyce Burghardt, Alexandria	\$20
9/17	Jon Hilton, Huron, SD	\$20
9/18	Mike Sarff, Eagle Bend	\$20
9/19	Kris Bugher, Alexandria	\$20

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Board of Education Meeting – Thursday, September 22

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



stmarysschoolalexandria



St. Mary's School Alexandria

Help Support Our School by Participating in:



BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

September 20, 2020 • 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 20:1–16b

Generosity

Jesus balances last week's parable about the justice of God with this week's story about God's generosity. The parable is about a landowner who goes out to hire workers for his fields. Some people are hired early in the day; others are hired to work only the last hour. At the end of the day, all are paid the same. Those who worked the whole day are upset.

In all honesty, this Gospel story always caused me concern. I found myself on the side of the workers who had labored all day. When I listened to my inner voice, I sounded like a four-year-old, “That’s not fair!” Then one Sunday a priest told a story in his homily that helped me understand the parable a little better. I’ll share it with you.

A middle-aged husband and wife both die, and find themselves surrounded by a large crowd standing in front of the pearly gates. An angel behind the gates tells the crowd that the gates to heaven will be opened at any moment, and eternal judgment will begin.

The husband gets more and more agitated as time passes and as he looks around at the crowd. “Good grief,” he tells his wife, “there’s George Walton, one of the biggest frauds in the state. What is he doing here in front of heaven’s gates? Does he honestly think he has a chance of making it in?” “Oh no,” he continues, “there’s the assassin Oswald. And is that Adolph Hitler in the corner there waiting to be let in? This is ludicrous,” he continues, “Those three should be sweltering in hell. What is God thinking of letting them even near the gates to heaven and close to good folks like us?”

At that moment, the man hears the booming voice of God telling him he has just passed judgment on himself, and he has failed. In questioning God’s love and generosity, he has shown his own lack of both. He was refused entrance through the pearly gates.

Jesus is clear in the parable of the landowner that God’s love and generosity is not to be questioned. We are all on the receiving end of what was promised. God’s generosity is something to celebrate, even if we are not the ones on the receiving end at that particular moment.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask each family member to name a gift they received from God. If they were God, what gift would they give to each family member?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What gift would you give each family member? What would you give yourself? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

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 † Adrian Ledermann
Wed. 8:30 AM † Edell Swanson
Thurs. 5:30 PM † Don Skrove
Fri. 8:30 AM † † Louis & Mathilda Gimpl
Sun. 8:00 AM For the Parish
10:00AM † † Katie & Jerry Jahner

WEEKLY READINGS - SEPT. 20

- Mon.** EPH 4:1-7, 11-13; MT 9:9-13
Tue. PRV 21:1-6, 10-13; LK 8:19-21
Wed. PRV 30:5-9; LK 9:1-6
Thurs. ECCL 1:2-11; LK 9:7-9
Fri. ECCL 3:1-11; LK 9:18-22
Sat. ECCL 11:9—12:8; LK 9:43B-45
Sun. EZ 18:25-28; PHIL 2:1-11; MT 21:28-32

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>Guided by our <i>Christian heritage</i> to serve you with innovative senior care. knutenelson.org</p>
 <p>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>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>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>www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com 320-762-2124 Auto Home Business Life Health LTC Ins. 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	 <p>SKIDPRO ATTACHMENTS www.skidpro.com 877-378-4642</p>	<p>Viking Garage Door Co. Doors & Openers JANET SCHILTGEN 320-762-2528</p>	 <p>Detailed . Distinctive . Sincere 320.763.5556 raukfamilydentistry.com</p> 
 <p>Ford • Chrysler 763-3126 Alexandria</p> <p><i>Put the problem solving people to work for you!</i></p>	<p>A & E PLUMBING & HEATING INC. Water Heaters - Furnaces - Service Work 763-6673</p>	<p>BITZAN/OHREN Masonry, LLC Residential/Commercial 320-834-5488</p>	<p>CULLEN'S Home Center 762-1249</p>
 <p>IVERSON INSURANCE Auto-Owners LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS</p>	<p>Alexandria Electric ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR 620 Oak Street South ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308 763-5222 "Since 1945"</p>	 <p>BERG PLUMBING 320-763-5600</p>	<p><i>Build It Better With</i> HILLTOP LUMBER www.hilltoplbr.com Alexandria • Glenwood Parkers Prairie • Brandon</p>
 <p>The helpful place. 320-763-5200 406 Broadway Alexandria, MN 56308</p>	 <p>Elden's FRESH FOODS Live • Love • Local</p>		 <p>"Mobilizing Churches to Transform Lives" 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 320-759-3022 www.loveincdouglas.org</p>
<p>Call 320-763-5781 Advertise your business here</p>		 <p><i>American</i> Solutions for Business</p>	 <p>Mari Leuthner COLDWELL BANKER CROWN REALTORS 320-760-2291 mari.coldwell@gmail.com www.coldwellbankercrown.com</p>
<p>Mike's IN/OUT OIL CHANGE 10 Minute OIL CHANGE 1318 Broadway, Alexandria, MN 320-763-5259</p>		<p>PAPPENFUS PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS Robert H. Pappenfus Thomas J. Pappenfus Alexandria, MN 56308 320-763-6688 web: www.pappenfus.com</p>	
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