

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 27, 2020
THE 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

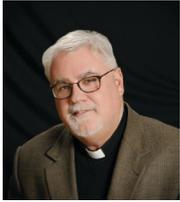
RIGHTEOUSNESS



“When John came to you in
the way of righteousness,
you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and
prostitutes did.”

MATTHEW 21:32

FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of St Mary's Parish Community,

When I am moving around in a car, I am almost always alone—and am the one who is driving. I notice that because of the few times when that isn't the case, like when I have car pooled and am a passenger. I am aware that I am uncomfortable being a passenger in someone else's car **because I'm not in control of things...I don't like that.** I don't get to determine how fast or slow we are going, what is on the radio, which route we are taking to our destination. I want to be the one who decides things while on a road trip.

Fr. Steve Binsfeld

This speaks to something bigger in my spirit, namely, **the impulse to have to be in control of everything all the time.** That includes the things of faith and religion. I want those things *on my own terms*, and it is distressing when I become aware that can't always happen. I want to be the guy who runs "*my*" church and who decides what the gospel requires of me in my daily ordering of life. But it is Jesus who tells all of us in the gospel that this is *not* what he's offering. **To embrace Jesus is to give up a measure of control—**not entirely, but significantly. **It's to move over to the passenger's seat** for the ride.

Jesus is pretty blunt about it: "*You cannot follow me without 'hating' your parents, spouses, children and siblings and even your own life.*" That's what he said. Someone should have asked him, "Just who do you think you are demanding that we prefer you to all of the relationships that matter the most to us?" That was precisely the question that Jesus asked them: "**Just who do you think I am? Do you regard me as the most important person of God whom you will ever encounter, deserving of absolute priority in the decisions you make about God and relationships and morals and priorities in your life? Or am I something less—a Sunday morning appendage to what you were planning to be and do anyway? Do you know what my gospel actually requires of you? Are you ready to hand over the controls to me? -- Because you're going to have to if you plan to be a true disciple. You can trust me, but you can't own me.**"

Nobody is required to follow this Jesus, but if we claim this as our wish, we should *be prepared for the kinds of demands that he actually places upon us.* The language of "hatred" for loved ones seems very harsh, and it's not to be understood as despising people. But it most definitely is *intended to jolt people* into paying attention to **what and who must always be of absolute value: it is God and God's reign**, nothing else, even our greatest treasures. We hear from his own mouth that "*whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*" For us, of course, the cross is a metaphor, a symbol. But that doesn't make it any less absolute as a priority of faith. We may not be made to die or to hate our families because we embrace Jesus. But **we can expect to have to do difficult things along the journey to the kingdom.** In that sense, we will have to *hand over control* of our own destiny to one who is greater.

What might some of those "*handings-over*" be? Well it might start with the willingness to *de-center* myself as the judge of people and things and situations to **let the gospel, rather than my desire, direct me to the right way to be in this world.** That may lead me into conflict with people I care about, with people I work with, people I vote with, people I worship with, people I go to school or play sports with, even people I live with. And young people are not excused from this responsibility either.

Where there is any hatred, resentment, racism, exclusion from community, or abuse, the cross involves us calling it out—no matter the consequence. That's what Jesus means when he tells us to "hate." We are to *hate sin and evil, not people*, but it means that sometimes when people embrace those things they need to be opposed and exposed, and that isn't easy. It's the cross.

We stand now at a time in history in which hate, sin and evil are being presented to us in a way that I don't ever recall in my lifetime, as actually *legitimate options* for people. That is false. We don't have the option to pretend otherwise. We are not in the driver's seat; God is. And Jesus is our navigator. Let us pray for the courage to respond as *we must*, not as we prefer. We are passengers on this journey.

Fr Steve

— BANS OF MARRIAGE —

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

— BAPTISMS —

Hazel Mae
Child of Levi & Elizabeth Berg

SUNDAY OFFERINGS

ACTUAL

BUDGET

VARIANCE

**Sunday Offerings for Sept. 20 & 27
will be reported in the Oct. 4 bulletin.**

** 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.



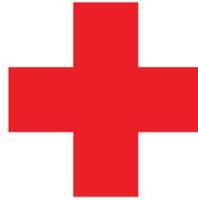
Please remember the following people in your prayers:

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, Verlyn Bruzek, Lorraine Sellgren-Davis and Jake.

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Janice Hammitt.

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. Visit Minnesota Housing's website: mnhousing.gov to learn more about how the program works.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE in the St. Mary's Great Hall on Monday, Oct. 5, 1:00 - 7:00 PM and Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. For an appointment/information, contact Janet at 320-763-3381.

**SATURDAY
5:00 PM MASS**

RESUMING OCTOBER 3!
Thanks to all who have volunteered to help!
We're excited to gather again on Saturdays!

Please enter through doors A1 & A6
Please follow posted safety protocol

ABOUT LIFE

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

Below is some information about how local organizations are helping our community.

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County provides safe affordable housing for families of Douglas County.

A family selection committee selects homeowners based on three criteria:

1. The applicant's level of need; 2. Their willingness to partner with Habitat; 3. Their ability to repay a mortgage through an affordable payment plan and offer "sweat equity" hours working alongside volunteers to construct their home. A mentor also works with the homeowner during this process.

To meet the needs of our county's growing senior population, Habitat offers an "Aging in Place" program. This program allows for repairs or needed safety equipment such as bathroom bars or ramps so seniors can live in their homes longer.

The Habitat Restore is a wonderful place to donate a variety of items! Check out their website for more details. The profit generated from this store supports the mission of Habitat.

Helping Hands of Alexandria: Primary mission is to help people with basic or unique needs due to COVID-19. In doing so, they hope to show the love of Christ to those they serve. This group began from the vision of two local women and quickly formed a large Facebook network of volunteers. Once a need is requested to Helping Hands, it is published on their Facebook site for a volunteer to meet. Examples include grocery runs, prescription pick-ups, paying bills due to job loss, etc. Although Helping Hands is not a source of long-term help, they do follow-up with each situation.



Abortions are reported on an annual basis. The latest figures, from the nonprofit Alan Guttmacher Institute are for 2017, when there were an estimated 862,320 abortions. That's an average of 16,583 per week, or 132,664 over eight weeks.

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

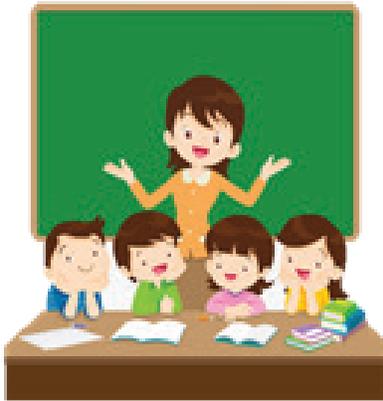


CLASS SCHEDULE

Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5:	Oct. 7, 4:45-5:30 PM
Blessed (Grade 2):	Oct. 5, 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Grades 6-8 (Wed):	Sept. 30, 6:00-7:00 PM
Grades 9-11 (Wed):	Sept. 30, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Grades 6-11 (Sun):	Oct. 4, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

JOIN US FOR "PRAISE IN THE PARKING LOT"

FAMILY EVENT - Happening in the East parking lot of St. Mary's on Sunday, September 27, from 3:30 – 5:00 PM. This is a Kick Off for our Faith Formation Year which includes prayer, worship and singing. Participants may sit outside and stay socially distanced with your family. All are welcome!



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 Wednesday, Oct. 7, and run from 4:45 to 5:30 PM. Materials and training are provided and we will guide you every step of the way. Contact Laurie Bienias at 763-9202 or lbienias@stmaryalexandria.org for more information.

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

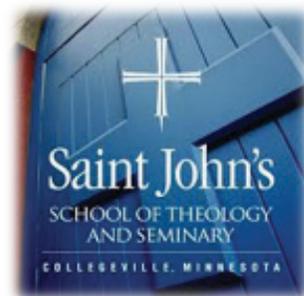
Jesus, We Trust in You!

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 days 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

Dear Parishioners:

On September 1st, students entered St. Mary's School and began the 2020-2021 school year. This date also marks the 63rd year that St. Mary's has been serving children in our community with a Catholic education.

Over the past 63 years, there have been many topics and trends that have come and gone in the education profession, but one thing has always remained consistent. The staff, students, parents, and parish have always provided a solid educational experience to the children of St. Mary's School. As a result, our enrollment has always remained stable. This year's enrollment is 222 students.

One of the reasons we have been able to increase our enrollment and class sections is by being able to offer a St. Mary's education to any student regardless of their family's financial situation. Families who qualify are granted tuition assistance from the St. Mary's School Trust Fund. Already this year there have been many requests for tuition assistance.

In order to keep up with that demand and continue to offer the St. Mary's education to all, the school needs your help! A gift to the "Sponsor a Student" program will help cover the educational expenses that these families face. It will also help St. Mary's School with the mission of allowing any student to receive a Catholic education regardless of their family's financial situation.

A donation to the "Sponsor a Student" program is a gift of education, a gift that will last a lifetime. If you are interested in sharing your treasures, see the form on this page for more information. Your support of the "Sponsor a Student" program is greatly appreciated.

God's blessings,
Mr. Sladek

St. Mary's School Trust Fund Sponsor a Student

I would like to make the following contribution to the St. Mary's School Trust Fund Sponsor a Student program. My contribution is:

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____ a memorial in honor of

(Name or may be left blank)

My contribution is in the amount of \$ _____ to pay the tuition for:

a Quarter	\$731.25
a Semester	\$1462.50
a Year	\$2925.00

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Your donation is deeply appreciated.
St. Mary's School Trust Fund Committee



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER

9/20	Elliot Christensen, Alexandria	\$35
9/21	Lori Ridler, Willmar	\$20
9/22	Ashlie Bradley, Alexandria	\$20
9/23	Jeff Schmitt, Alexandria	\$20
9/24	Steve Boerboom, Alexandria	\$20
9/25	Kathy Ballou, Alexandria	\$20
9/26	Wayne Thoennes, Alexandria	\$20

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

No AM Bus Service – Wednesday, September 30 –
Planned District 2-hr Late Start

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



stmarysschoolalexandria



St. Mary's School Alexandria

Help Support Our School by Participating in:



PART OF WHO WE ARE

The parable Jesus tells about the father who asks his two sons for help may sound familiar to those of us who have more than one child. The father in the story asks his first son to work in the vineyard. The son refuses, but later goes to work in the fields. The father approaches the second son with the same request. This son tells his father he will go, but he doesn't.

In this parable Jesus tells us God doesn't want just lip service. God wants us to be who we say we are. For example, I like to garden, but I am not a gardener. I write short reflections like this one, but I am not a writer. I know the difference because I have a friend who is a gardener, and a husband who is a writer. I garden because I want to have a summer garden. I began writing these reflections as part of my job. If I could afford to hire a gardener or to not work, I just might not do either.

My friend Nympha, the gardener, doesn't just enjoy her summer garden. She spends all of fall, winter, and spring planning and going through seed catalogs. Her garden reflects who she is. My husband isn't paid to write; yet he writes almost daily, putting into short stories or vignettes snapshots of human experiences. His writing reflects who he is. My friend gardens and my husband writes because what they do is part of who they are. She has to garden; he has to write.

This is what God ultimately wants from us. Not just obeying the rules because we want to enjoy God's kingdom or because it's part of the job of being a Christian. God wants us to obey the rules because it's a part of who we are.

I'm not a gardener or writer, but I am a mother. My children are a part of who I am. Their needs are my needs. I think being a Christian means feeling that way about everyone, friend and foe. Taking care of others' needs as deftly as we take care of our children's or our own should be a natural response, and not done just because it is the rule. When that happens, we are not just followers of Christ; we are Christ.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Look through a newspaper or watch a local news program together. Decide on something you can do to help someone who is in need. (Sometimes offering a prayer is the only practical or possible response.)

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What is something you love to do—something that is a part of who you are? 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.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 45,000 Americans die by suicide every year. Read that again. **Upsetting, right?**

One way you can help lower this statistic is to talk about it. Having open conversations about mental health and emotional struggles helps reduce the stigma – which is what prevents a lot of people from seeking the help they need.

You should reach out for professional help if you or someone you know is showing any of the following warning signs:

- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Giving away prized possessions
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings

There are several ways you can go about getting help. If you are employed or have insurance, you can call the behavioral health phone number on the back of your health insurance card or see if your employer offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). You can also call a local counseling office and schedule an urgent appointment. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

If you have lost a loved one to suicide, the impact can be intense and overwhelming. Know that you don't have to cope alone. Talk to a caring professional or join a support group to help you heal and move forward.

Join the movement to **#StopSuicide** and together, we can save lives.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
800-273-8255**

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) ndbh.com/suicide

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 † Kathy DeCock
Wed. 8:30 AM † Bill O'Brien
Thurs. 5:30 PM † Steven Ignowski
Fri. 8:30 AM † Kathy DeCock
Sat. 5:00 PM For the Parish
Sun. 8:00 AM † Deceased Members of
Christian Mothers
10:00AM † Bill O'Brien

WEEKLY READINGS-SEPT. 27

- Mon.** JB 1:6-22; LK 9:46-50
Tue. DN 7:9-10, 13-14; JN 1:47-51
Wed. JB 9:1-12, 14-16; LK 9:57-62
Thurs. JB 19:21-27; LK 10:1-12
Fri. JB 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; MT 18:1-5, 10
Sat. JB 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; LK 10:17-24
Sun. IS 5:1-7; PHIL 4:6-9; MT 21:33-43

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>Detailed . Distinctive . Sincere</p>  <p>320.763.5556 raukfamilydentistry.com</p>
 <p>www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com 320-762-2124 Auto Home Business Life Health LTC Ins. 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	 <p>www.skidpro.com 877-378-4642</p>	<p>Viking Garage Door Co. Doors & Openers JANET SCHILTGEN 320-762-2528</p>	<p>CULLEN'S <i>Home Center</i> 762-1249</p>
<p>Put the problem solving people to work for you!</p>  <p>IVERSON INSURANCE <i>Auto-Owners</i> LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS</p>	<p>A & E PLUMBING & HEATING INC. Water Heaters - Furnaces - Service Work 763-6673</p>	<p>BITZAN/OHREN <i>Masonry, LLC</i> Residential/Commercial 320-834-5488</p>	<p>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>Alexandria Electric ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR 620 Oak Street South ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308 763-5222 "Since 1945"</p>	 <p>BERG - PLUMBING - 320-763-5600</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>Mike's IN/OUT OIL CHANGE 10 Minute OIL CHANGE 1318 Broadway, Alexandria, MN 320-763-5259</p>	<p>Mari Leuthner COLDWELL BANKER 320-760-2291 CROWN REALTORS mari.coldwell@gmail.com www.coldwellbankercrown.com</p>
<p>Made you look! Call 320-763-5781 to advertise!</p>		 <p>Alexandria MOTORS 762-2114 www.ALEXANDRIA-CHEV.com CHEVROLET  FIND NEW ROADS*</p>	<p>PAPPENFUS PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS Robert H. Pappenfus Thomas J. Pappenfus Alexandria, MN 56308 320-763-6688 web: www.pappenfus.com</p>