

The Church of St. Mary

420 IRVING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, MN
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OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE GOD BY LIVING THE EUCHARIST.

OCTOBER 4, 2020
THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CORNERSTONE



*“The stone that the
builders rejected has
become the cornerstone.”*

MATTHEW 21:42AB

FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Parishioners,

Around election time, a major factor for many people is whether a candidate is pro-life or pro-choice. Indeed, we are called to respect the dignity of all life—from conception to natural death. I want to offer a reflection (partly written by one of my brothers) on a remarkable transformation that we saw in our brother Ron, who cared for people that can easily fall off our radar who are in between conception and death. Here is the story. Fr. Steve

"My brother Ron has always been larger than life; his formidable physical presence and his ability to weave his irreverent sense of humor commands attention. Always the apple of dad's eye, Ron's athletic skill allowed dad to vicariously live through Ron's success. I remember Ron's football years playing at St John's – larger than life: #68. His massive shoulders and a thickness of neck did not provide clear definition where his shoulders ended and his neck began. His courtship and subsequent marriage to his high school love, Joann, produced two remarkable children. Ron and Joann weathered life challenges directly and without ceremony. Ron's life mirrored our parents: a strong work ethic, "take care of your family" ethos and an irreverent use self-deprecating humor to get through difficult times and to level the playing field when you feel vulnerable."

Unforeseen employment circumstances forced Ron into a total career change. He found a 'gap career' that would "serve as a bridge to retirement" in a move from the manufacturing world (a foundry, then a paper mill) to human services. He began caring for profoundly physically challenged clients in a group home, where he cared for George, Ce Ce, Gary and Peter. This was a very different line of work for him. There were no production quotas, no tonnage benchmarks, and no measurements of output. How do you measure tangible success in working with George – or was there?

According to Ron, George had many quirks and was stubborn. However, his care needs were complex. George was not able to reason when he did not understand or got frustrated, which was a recipe for disaster. We were afraid of the headlines: "Short-fused worker pummels resident with chocolate éclair!" In his new job, Ron did not have the luxury to "reboot."

Ron and George learned to mutually grow their relationship, each learning from the other how to "listen with the ear of the heart." Ron had to listen and watch carefully to learn what George was trying to communicate. Ron began to see the "sweet" George. He eventually learned that George would do anything for a pair of welder's gloves or used keys for his big key ring, a piece of Joann's incredible homemade pie or a chance to drink a beer 'like one of the guys!'—none of which were part of the standard daily care plan for the union part-time health care aide. It was Ron and George, George and Ron, but with Ron clearly defining his role. (By the way, George was almost 70 years old.) George always responded favorably and continued to expand his treasured 'collection of keys' prompted by his best friend Ron. Outside excursions didn't always fall within the confines of Ron's work hours, but that didn't matter. Both seemed to recognize their own vulnerability because love can grow. Both recognized that in weakness, you can find strength and in silence you can find your voice.

Fr. Henri Nouwen, priest, psychologist, spiritual writer, professor and author began his sabbatical from Harvard attempting to redefine his spiritual life by serving at a group home for the disabled at the L'Arche community where he ended his tenure with Adam, a profoundly handicapped resident at the community. Henri claims that Adam was his mentor for 25 years. Fr Nouwen was looking to serve, but instead, it was he who was served. He wrote: "Intimacy is not a happy medium. It is a way of being in which the tension between distance and closeness is dissolved and a new horizon appears. Intimacy is beyond fear."

Distance and closeness dissolved--Ron and George; George and Ron. Weeks turned to months and months extended to years. George's family witnessed George's contentment and happiness; we witnessed a metamorphosis in Ron--a willingness to unconditionally love and be loved as a distinct softness.

A witness of Ron's newly-recognized gentleness was evident in his care for our mother in her final days of life. Instead of being restless, Ron was simply present! Instead of being irritable, he was gracefully patient. During the four-week process of mom's move to total nursing care and her death, Ron volunteered for shifts to stay with her, religiously reporting on her progress, reminding his fragile siblings that reviewed the texts that being present to the "least" is an honor.

George and Ron; Ron and George: to each other God's gift. Ron provided the gift of love, persistence and friendship. George provided a gift of presence with unconditional acceptance – grace: Grace that did not need to be earned...and neither of them were ever the same!"

Post Script: When George was hospitalized in his final days, who was at his side until he died? His friend Ron.

— BANS OF MARRIAGE —

I Martin Lovrien & Cathy Juettner

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
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**Sunday Offerings for Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4
will be reported in the Oct. 11 bulletin.**

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Patricia Rud and Jenice Molitor.

* 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, 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, Lorraine Sellgren-Davis, Jake, Ken Volk and Linda Rakowski.

SCAM WARNING - Do not respond to any texts that are purported to be Fr. Steve asking for gift cards. It is a scam.

2020 NATIONAL ROSARY CRUSADE for America on October 10, at 12:00 PM, Lions Park, Brandon MN by the water tower. Questions call Pat 320-834-4881 or Ellen 320-834-2573.

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.

HELP NEEDED - WE ARE IN NEED OF:

- 5 HEALTH SCREETERS
- 5 SACRISTANS

Contact Erin Takle for more information: etakle@stmaryalexandria.org or 320-763-5781

CEMETERY UPDATE - Many thanks to all who helped out on the September 10 work day. The crew was small but everyone pitched in and got the work done. Now a little rain would be nice to get the new grass and plants off to a good start.

A second big thank you to all who have removed their decorations from the cemetery. The deadline is October 11 for removal. All other decorations will be removed and discarded on October 12.

The new handrails for the steps by the mausoleums have arrived and will be installed this week. This will make the cemetery safer. A ramp by the north driveway with access to the upper areas is another safe option. Progress continues in a long list of tasks to be completed!

ABOUT LIFE

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC): Have you noticed the proliferation of books about the BLACK EXPERIENCE in the United States of America? In 2012 Michelle Alexander published **THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS**. You may have seen it on the New York Times best seller list.

The introduction begins with the following story of Jarvious Cotton. Like his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather, he cannot participate in our electoral democracy. All were born in the United States.

"His great-great-grandfather could not vote as a slave. His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation. His father was barred from voting by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Jarvious Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the U.S., has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole."

The author provides some provocative history to this story. Check it out!



Give us the grace...when the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, to stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life. - John Paul II

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):	Oct. 7, 6:00-7:00 PM
Grades 9-11 (Wed):	Oct. 7, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Grades 8-11 (Sun):	Oct. 4, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

NOW available for home use

To continue ensuring the health and well-being of all those who enter our facilities, it was necessary to move Children's Liturgy of the Word to an online option. This ministry is for children in Grades 1-5.

Please subscribe to our CLOW email blast

which is available on our website home page -

stmaryalexandria.org. St. Mary's

will send a weekly email that will coach families through an age-appropriate liturgical experience, and all will have fun while doing it! Music, videos, art, and prayer are used to help reinforce the Sunday Liturgy of the Word.

Sign up today!

If you have questions, please call the Faith Formation Office at 763-9202



NEED HELP THIS FALL?

If you or a loved one is in need of some help with yardwork, window cleaning or light painting, let us know! St. Mary's Faith Formation Youth will be participating in a day of service on October 16.

Contact Tammy Huss for more information and to sign up for service help.
thuss@stmaryalexandria.org or 763-9202

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

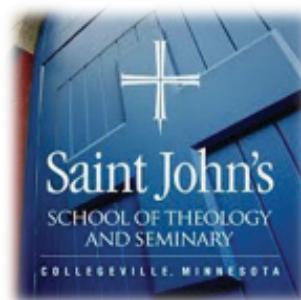
Jesus, We Trust in You!

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



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL MARATHON OF SERVICE 2020

October is Marathon Month at St. Mary's School. The Minnesota Marathon for Non-Public Education designates this month as a statewide public relations activity for all Christian schools. By participating, we celebrate our Catholic identity and our commitment to serve the community.

To participate in a Marathon of Service, each student (or family) is asked to complete a service project or act of

kindness during the month of October. We have some school families who are looking for projects to do for the Marathon.

If you are in need of assistance or know someone who needs help with raking this fall, please contact Mrs. Flaten in the school office. The names will be taken and placed on a service list and we will do our best to help those in need.

The students are blessed to be part of a parish community who so generously supports them with their education, and this is one way they can share their time and talent to give back.

Mr. Sladek

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

9/27	Jim Mootz, Alexandria	\$35
9/28	Lindsey Buttweiler, Alexandria	\$20
9/29	Wally Roers, Alexandria	\$20
9/30	Jen Bugher, Alexandria	\$20
10/1	Donald Lorsung, Alexandria	\$100
10/2	Colten Zollner, Alexandria	\$20
10/3	Debbie Shelstad, Wendell	\$20

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

MEA Break – October 15 - 16

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



stmarysschoolalexandria

St. Mary's School Alexandria

Help Support Our School by Participating in:



LITURGICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In this parable Jesus warns his followers that God expects certain results if we want to be part of the kingdom. Tenant farmers beat the farm owner's representatives when they come to collect the owner's profit. They even kill the owner's son when he is sent. The landowner has the last say, and the tenants are put to death. The land is given to more reliable tenants.

Believing in God should be a life-altering decision. How can we hear the Gospels without understanding that the God we believe in is a God of love, a God of mercy, and a God of justice? How can we say we believe in the kingdom of God, and not have it affect every facet of our lives? Yet people do. They say they believe in the kingdom of God, but are selfish with their love.

Maybe it's because they think the kingdom of God is just some afterlife for those who follow the rules. They don't understand that the kingdom Jesus is talking about is also already with us. It is a kingdom of love. It is wherever God's love is happening. We enter into that kingdom by accepting God's love and responding in love.

Since no one is excluded from God's love, no one should be excluded from our love. The fruit of God's kingdom is all-encompassing love. It is always open to everyone. Indeed, it is a reciprocal love that will last for all eternity even into the afterlife.

What does it look like? To begin with, it doesn't look for any reward or payback. It is nurturing and forgiving, patient and enduring. It is not just feeling loving: It is played out in action. It's the way God loves us. When we accept God's love, we will bear fruit. Because when we really open our hearts to God's love, our hearts remain open to love others.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk to your family about what the kingdom of God really is. Ask family members to draw a picture of what the kingdom of God might look like.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Think about the last week. What fruit do you see from your interaction with your family or other people you have encountered? 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
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STEWARDSHIP

A "BROWNIE" LESSON

"You boys can have the corner pieces, but the rest of the pan is going to church."

It's been fifty years, but I can still hear my mother saying these words. They were often offered in reference to a batch of brownies that had just been removed from the oven.

Chocolate brownies were my mother's dessert of choice. She would frequently offer this treat for a variety of church events. But there was a "house rule" concerning them. Whereas my brother and I were allowed to snack on the four corner pieces (viewed as less desirable), the best pieces were reserved for church.

Little did I know it then, but my mother was offering her two sons a wonderful lesson in stewardship. She was re-enforcing the biblical concept of the "first fruits," where the first and best of our time, talent and treasure – or in this case, a pan of brownies – is to be offered to God.

On several occasions over the years I have been reminded that whenever I have held on to the first of my income, time and talent, I seldom seemed satisfied. Yet when I have offered God the first and best of these resources, not only has a greater sense of satisfaction arisen, but there has always been enough left over to meet my needs.



A beautiful creed to live by was expressed by Etienne De Grellet: "I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

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 † Bill O'Brien
Wed. 8:30 AM † Lori Ledermann
Thurs. 5:30 PM † Doloris Lorsung
Fri. 8:30 AM † Connie Looft
Sat. 5:00 PM † Deceased Family of Sheldon & Harriet Sibell
Sun. 8:00 AM For the Parish
10:00AM † Adrian Ledermann

WEEKLY READINGS - OCT. 4

Mon. GAL 1:6-12; LK 10:25-37
Tue. GAL 1:13-24; LK 10:38-42
Wed. GAL 2:1-2, 7-14; LK 11:1-4
Thurs. GAL 3:1-5; LK 11:5-13
Fri. GAL 3:7-14; LK 11:15-26
Sat. GAL 3:22-29; LK 11:27-28
Sun. IS 25:6-10A; PHIL 4:12-14, 19-20; MT 22:1-14

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](#).

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KC Hall Rental: John Leesch, 320-763-3644

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