

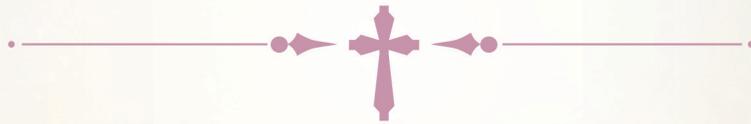
The Church of St. Mary

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

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

NOVEMBER 22, 2020
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

KINGDOM



“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

MATTHEW 25:34

FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear People of St Mary's Parish Community,

This week you should receive our "Stewardship Newsletter." Even with COVID-19, life and ministry happens. Thanks to all who contributed to the newsletter. Inside it are also prayer ideas for Advent in your home. With the increase in infections and more people staying home, it is more important than ever to develop a routine for prayer. We also have more prayers online on our website for your use.

Fr. Steve Binsfeld (stmaryalexandria.org).

Thank you to those who helped clean my home to prepare it for sale this last week. It was really hard to let it go, but it is all ok. At the end of June I will move to Speltz House in Sauk Rapids (my home town). It has 15 apartments for retired priests and is connected to the former Sacred Heart Church, where I received all my sacraments and celebrated my first Mass after ordination. The main body of the church has become a common living room. The former sanctuary of the church is a beautiful chapel. For me, it is kind of like going full circle.

On this Feast of Christ the King I want to tell you about Dorothy Fortenberry, who is a playwright and screenwriter. She's a writer and producer on Hulu's award-winning adaptation of Margaret Atwood's **The Handmaid's Tale**. She's also a mom and a struggling Catholic—but despite her questions and doubts, she and her family are at Mass every Sunday. In an essay in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* in June of 2017, she explains why.

She writes that being a Hollywood screenwriter "is like being on a perpetual second date with everyone you know. You strive to be your most charming, delightful, quirky-but-not-damaged self because you never know what will come of the encounter... It can be exhausting constantly trying to meet the right people and impressing them — But church is the opposite of that....I am not special at church, and this is the point. Because (according to the ridiculous, generous, imperfectly applied rules of my religion) we are all equally beloved children of God. We are all exactly the same amount of special. The things that I feel proud of can't help me here, and the things that I feel embarrassed by are beside the point. I'm a person for 60 minutes, not a personality... I have come to sit next to people, well aware of all we don't have in common, and face together in the same direction. Halfway through church, I turn to the congregants next to me and share the peace. I wish that they experience peace in their lives. That's it. They wish the same for me. Our words are identical. Our need for peace is infinite. Church is a group of broken individuals united only by our brokenness traveling together to ask to be fixed... Church isn't an escape from the world. It's a continuation of it. My family and I don't go to church to deny the existence of the darkness. We go to look so hard at the light that our eyes water."

And that is the "kingdom of Christ" the heart of Jesus' reign: **a community of real people who gather together, in all their brokenness and struggles, to follow Jesus.** We give our time and talent to pick up one another when we stumble. We reach out for one another's hand with humility and gratitude. Before God, we stand as brothers and sisters as the distinctions of class and culture that separate us disappear. Before God we are all loved without condition or limit.

Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats challenges us to **see the world in the light of God's compassion:** as a community that is centered in the holiness of God that dwells within every man, woman and child; a community that sees deeper than the externals of race, nationality, culture and language in order to behold the love of God animating the lives of all who draw breath; a community that reflects the compassion and mercy of God in our care for one another.

Fr. Steve

— BANS OF MARRIAGE —

**Ill Dustin Larson & Diana Dykema
Il Samuel Moenkedick & Melissa Parks**

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 12,123	\$ 23,904	\$ (11,781)
Electronic	17,712	9,769	7,943
Other	582	1,058	(476)
For Nov. 15	\$ 30,417	\$ 34,731	\$ (4,314)
YTD Offerings	\$ 578,697	\$ 694,620	\$ (115,923)

** 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, Brett Rima, Jerry Sacre, Lawrence Cline, Dan Radford, Curt Hilgers, Lorraine Sellgren-Davis, Jake, Ken Volk, Linda Rakowski, Juleann Kelley, Jesse Zens, Jody Koubsky, Kathy Moriarity, Chris Berg, Joan Norman, Pat Osterberg, and Steve Osterberg

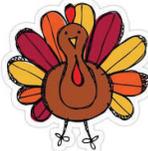
COOKIE CONNECTION - DEC. 12



Each year St. Mary's Cookie Connection delivers thousands of cookies to the homebound, elderly and those who may not have this special treat at Christmas. We will continue with this holiday tradition with some changes due to COVID-19. We will be using purchased cookies this year.

Volunteers are needed to help package and deliver cookies. Call Kathy at 762-2320 to volunteer on **Saturday, Dec. 12 at 9:00 AM in the School Gym.**

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 26 & 27. Happy Thanksgiving!



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Due to COVID-19, this year the Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be delivery only on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. We offer delivery of 1 to 2 hot meals per address to those who are homebound.

- For meal deliveries to the homebound, call 763-9429 (until November 19)
- To volunteer to help with the dinner or as a delivery driver, call or email:
618-292-0506 or 320-834-3722
or gracehlambert@yahoo.com

HELP NEEDED ON: Wed., Nov. 25, 2:30 - 5:00 PM for meal prep and Thur., Nov. 26, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM for various kitchen duties!

THE ANGEL TREE will be up Nov. 28/29 and Dec. 5/6. If you know of someone in need 0-18 years old, please fill out the form with gift ideas on the United Way website: www.uwdp.org, or call 320-834-7800 Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM to phone in the ideas.

If you know of a senior citizen in need of a gift, please call the Parish Office by Tuesday, Nov. 24.

If you would like to donate and let someone else shop for the gifts, please contact the Parish Office. To help



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AND RESERVATIONS - All parishioners will be receiving the St. Mary's quarterly newsletter this week. It will include information about the Christmas Mass schedule and how to make reservations.

ABOUT LIFE

"We must not be surprised when we hear of murders, of killings, of wars, of hatred. If a mother can kill her own child, what is left but for us to kill each other... Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-women. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta



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:	Dec. 2, 4:45 - 5:30 PM
Grades 6-8 (Wed):	Jan. 13, 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Grades 9-11 (Wed):	Jan. 13, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Grades 8-11 (Sun):	Jan. 10, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Welcome to Wednesday Elementary Faith Formation!

This year, due to new safety procedures, we needed to adapt and make changes to our program. Families had the option to have their children attend classes onsite or opt for a Distance Learning program.



Families who chose Distance Learning are teaching their children at home, but they still have our guidance and support. Each week families receive an email giving instructions and links to help plan and teach the lesson. At the completion of each lesson, children take an online quiz where we can see results and track their progress. It is another way we can stay connected.

For those who chose onsite classes, they are greeted by Josie (see photo above) at the main door. She takes her job at St. Mary's very seriously. She is always watching for the kids to come and holds the door open for them.

Thank you, Josie, for welcoming our children. You do a great job, and your mom is a great helper too.

Classroom teachers are volunteers who share their time and faith. Each teacher has unique talents and teaching styles. It is wonderful to watch children get excited about learning to pray. After a lesson on prayer and the rosary, 3rd graders were wanting to learn more about the rosary; so Mary Gorghuber arranged that each student was able to pick out their own rosary and continued to teach them ways to pray and build their relationship with God.



Finding ways to be together and follow social distancing is a challenge, but Carol Klimek's class took advantage of some great Fall weather and had class outside in our courtyard.

With each passing week we are building relationships and growing our faith. Special thanks to all our teachers!

Emily Regnier, Mary Gorghuber, Elizabeth Radil, Carol Klimek, Danna Sabolik, Laura and Josie Scegura - and to all the parents who continue to find ways to form their children in the faith.



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 ★ CALENDAR RAFFLE



- \$100.00** 1st of the Month
- \$50.00** 15th of the Month
- \$35.00** Sunday
- \$20.00** Monday - Saturday

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS:

\$ 20

While at Church:

1. Go to the Hospitality Desk.
2. Fill out your ticket(s).
3. Attach payment to your ticket.
4. Drop in the Parish Drop Box.
(outside Parish office door)
5. Keep your copy.

While on Campus:

Stop by the school office during school hours.

From Your Home:

Contact the School Office -

☎ Call - 763-5861

✉ Email -
stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org

(Drawings for daily cash prizes will be held February 26, 2021 at St. Mary's School. Prizes will be awarded March 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022.)

THANK YOU!

Dear Parishioners:

St Mary's School has been educating kids in our community for the past 63 years. One of the reasons we have been able to maintain this strong tradition is through the help of the St. Mary's School Trust Fund. Any student, regardless of their family financial situation, is able to attend St. Mary's School. This is made possible by yearly tuition assistance scholarships provided by the Trust Fund. Enrollment for this year is up by 27 students and, as a result, the applications for scholarships are considerably up as well.

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 in the amount of:

Name: _____ to Quarter \$731.50
Address: _____ to Semester \$1,462.50
City, State, Zip: _____ to Year \$2,925.00
Phone: _____ to Other _____
tuition for

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

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Magazine Sales and Renewals are taking place now
@ www.gaschoolstore.com
Use ID # 2582419

Substitute Teachers Wanted - Contact Mr. Sladek for more information

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

11/15	Nathan Klimek, Alexandria	\$50
11/16	Emily Cash, Alexandria	\$20
11/17	Tyler Knick, Alexandria	\$20
11/18	Janell Eddy, Garfield	\$20
11/19	Larry Kobberman, Remsen, IA	\$20
11/20	Fern Hess, Eagle Bend	\$20
11/21	Sharon Peterson, Pipestone	\$20

Support St. Mary's School by Participating in:



Elden's Tapes for Education

Follow St. Mary's School on Instagram and Facebook



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



St. Mary's School Alexandria

CELEBRATE THE FAMILY

Throughout the Gospels we hear about what Jesus does to bring about the kingdom. In this parable, we hear what we need to do to be a part of the kingdom. In this story of Christ's kingship, we hear about the corporal works of mercy—feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and so on.

Isn't it good to know that by providing for our children's physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare we find ourselves blessed by Jesus, seated on the right side of God?

Parents are no strangers to the corporal works of mercy. Every day we feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty (think of all those school lunches packed!) We clothe the naked (or at least pay for the clothes of those born naked). We take care of the sick and visit the imprisoned. (Think about the bars on a crib or a heartbroken teen self-imprisoned in her room.)

If we consider the spiritual works of mercy—instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently, comfort the afflicted and pray for the living and the dead—we will discover seven more everyday opportunities for parents to be blessed.

We listen patiently to a little one as she sounds out the words in her primer. With every first-day-of-school pep talk we counsel the doubtful. We admonish the sinner when we provide Christian commentary during almost any sitcom or news report. It's a spiritual work of mercy when we let a penitent teenager off lightly for mouthing off. And it's an opportunity to bear wrongs patiently when an "I'm sorry" from the offender isn't forthcoming. Parents comfort babies suffering from colic and adolescents afflicted with acne.

Sometimes we think in order to be a saint we have to have visions or die as a missionary. But if we listen to this Gospel reading, it is fairly clear that the path to heaven runs right through our kitchen and family room.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Plan a special meal for no particular reason except to celebrate being a family. Let everyone have a part in the preparations, decorations, and clean-up.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

List all the good things in your life. List all the good things about yourself. Ponder your goodness and blessings. 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.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) Awareness Month sponsored by The American Lung Association is observed in November. COPD is a chronic disease that is often preventable and treatable. Steps can be taken to cope with the lifestyle changes this disease brings. Knowledge of the disease and treatment plans is important.

Key Points:

1. COPD is a chronic disease.
2. COPD can cause serious long-term disability and early death.
3. There is no cure for COPD, but it is often preventable and treatable.
4. COPD is referred to as chronic bronchitis or emphysema.

With COPD, the airways in the lungs become inflamed and thicken, and the tissue where oxygen is exchanged is destroyed. The flow of air in and out of the lungs decreases. When this happens, less oxygen gets into body tissues, and it becomes more difficult to get rid of the waste gas carbon dioxide. As the disease gets worse, shortness of breath makes it harder to remain active. Sometimes referred to as either chronic bronchitis or emphysema, most people will have symptoms of both conditions, so health care providers prefer to call the disease COPD.

COPD is the third leading cause of death by disease in the United States. More than 16.4 million people have been diagnosed with COPD, but millions more have the disease without knowing it. COPD is often not diagnosed until the disease has advanced because people do not know the early warning signs. Sometimes people think they are short of breath or less able to take part in their normal activities because they are "just getting older." If you experience any of these symptoms, you might be at risk for COPD. It is important to discuss the following with your health care provider. Further testing and a health history will help diagnose COPD.

- Chronic cough
- Shortness of breath while doing everyday activities (dyspnea)
- Frequent respiratory infections
- Blueness of the lips or fingernail beds (cyanosis)
- Fatigue
- Producing a lot of mucus (phlegm or sputum)
- Wheezing

Having a chronic lung disease means that you may be in the high-risk category for severe illness and complications from COVID-19. It is important to follow all the health guidelines to minimize your risk of infection. It is very important you are vaccinated for flu this year too.

For more information visit: The American Lung Association at Lung.org or call 1-800-LUNGUSA

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays 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 † Janice Hammitt
Wed. 8:30 AM † Cyril Nelson
Thurs. 9:00 AM † Doloris Lorsung
Sat. 5:00 PM † Christopher Ficenec
Sun. 8:00 AM † For the Parish
10:00AM † Dorothy Zimmer

WEEKLY READINGS-NOV. 22

- Mon.** RV 14:1-3, 4B-5; LK 21:1-4
Tue. RV 14:14-19; LK 21:5-11
Wed. RV 15:1-4; LK 21:12-19
Thurs. RV 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9A; LK 21:20-28
Fri. RV 20:1-4, 11—21:2; LK 21:29-33
Sat. RV 22:1-7; LK 21:34-36
Sun. IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7; 1 COR 1:3-9;
MK 13:33-37

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

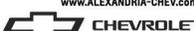
stmary@stmaryalexandria.org

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>Culligan Better Water: Pure & Simple Sales, Rentals, Salt 763-6586 - 601 Nokomis St.</p>	<p>VILLAGE COOPERATIVE 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>KN KNUTE NELSON Guided by our <i>Christian heritage</i> to serve you with innovative senior care. knutenelson.org</p>
<p>Runestone HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING LLC 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>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>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  The UPS Store   Detailed . Distinctive . Sincere 320.763.5556 raukfamilydentistry.com</p>
<p>ZIMNY INSURANCE AGENCY 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>CULLEN'S Home Center 762-1249</p>
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