

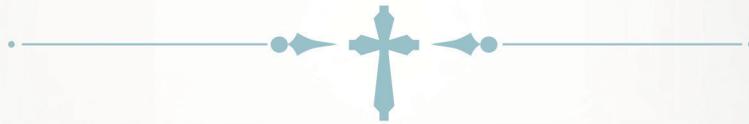
The Church of St. Mary

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 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WATCHFUL



“Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.”

MARK 13:33

FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of St. Mary's Parish Community,

As we have entered into Advent this weekend, please plan to use the prayers for Advent that were included in the Stewardship Newsletter that we just mailed to your home. Nothing happens unless you plan to make it a part of your life.

Fr. Steve Binsfeld Below I am sharing a writing by Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI that he recently shared online. It is appropriate as we begin another liturgical year as well as concluding a very tumultuous election season. There are some really good points to keep in mind.

Fr. Steve

SECRETS TO HAPPINESS by Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI

Some years ago, in an interview, Pope Francis gave some "tips for bringing greater joy to one's life." The Pope's commentary on each point was rather lengthy, and I will risk synthesizing his central point in my own words.

- 1. Proceed calmly.** - Move with kindness, humility, and calm. These are the antithesis of anxiety and distress. Calm never causes high blood pressure. We need to make conscious efforts to never let the moment cause panic and excessive hurry. Rather be late than stressed.
- 2. Respect and take care of nature.** - The air we breathe out is the air we will re-inhale. This is true spiritually, psychologically, and ecologically. We can't be whole and happy when Mother Earth is being stripped of her wholeness. Christ came to save the world, not just the people in the world. Our salvation, like our happiness, is tied to the way we treat the earth. It is immoral to slap another person in the face and so it is immoral too to throw our garbage into the face of Mother Earth.
- 3. Stop being negative.** - Needing to talk badly about others indicates low *self-esteem*. Negative thoughts feed unhappiness and a bad self-image. Positive thoughts feed happiness and healthy self-esteem.
- 4. Respect others' beliefs.** - What we cherish and put our faith into grows "*by attraction, not by proselytizing.*" Beauty is the one thing that no one can argue with. Cherish your values, but always act towards others with graciousness, charity, and respect.
- 5. Work for peace.** - Peace is more than the absence of war and working for peace means more than not causing disharmony. Peace, like war, must be waged actively by working for justice, equality, and an ever-widening inclusivity in terms of *what makes up our family*. Waging peace is the perennial struggle to stretch hearts, our own and others, to accept that in God's house there are many rooms and that all faiths, not least our own, are meant to be a house of prayer for all peoples.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AND RESERVATIONS - Reservations will be required for Christmas Mass. Please go to stmaryalexandria.org for reservations. If you don't have internet, call the Parish Office at 763-5781 to make reservations.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

Christmas Eve at 2:30 PM, 4:00 PM, & 5:30 PM
Christmas Day at 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

**A RECORDED CHRISTMAS
MASS WILL BE AVAILABLE
TO WATCH AT HOME**

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Dennis Zaviska.

— BANS OF MARRIAGE —

III Samuel Moenkedick & Melissa Parks

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 21,850	\$ 23,904	\$ (2,054)
Electronic	5,808	9,769	(3,961)
Other	2,114	1,058	1,056
For Nov. 22	\$ 29,772	\$ 34,731	\$ (4,959)
YTD Offerings	\$ 608,469	\$ 729,351	\$ (120,882)

* 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, Sally Bellicot, Kathy Bellicot, Mary Waldorf, Dianne Otto, Ronnie Le Grange, Brett Rima, Jerry Sacre, Lawrence Cline, Dan Radford, Curt Hilgers, Jake, Ken Volk, Linda Rakowski, Juleann Kelley, Jesse Zens, Jody Koubsky, Kathy Moriarity, Chris Berg, Joan Norman, Pat Osterberg and Steve Osterberg.

THE ANGEL TREE will be set up in the Commons Area this weekend. Gifts need to be returned by **Friday, December 11** in the Great Hall. Please put the presents in one bag with the angel attached. **Do not wrap the presents**, this is new this year. For questions, please call April or Brad at 762-4055.



Free COVID-19 testing is available from the MN Dept. of Health. For more information, go to

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/>

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 17 at 6:15 PM
Saturday, December 19 at 11:00 AM
Sunday, December 20 at 1:00 PM
Wednesday, December 23 at 11:00 AM

Instructions for attending individual confession:

- Masks and social distancing required
- Stay in designated line while waiting for confessor
- Exit church after confession
- Keep confessions brief in order to reduce exposure for confessors

A recorded Penance Service will be available December 6. Find it on:

- OUR WEBSITE
- FACEBOOK
- EMAIL BLAST
- OUR VIMEO SITE

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 deliver cookies. Call Kathy at 762-2320 to volunteer on **Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 AM.**

ABOUT LIFE

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC): GUATEMALA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE - Hurricane Eta raced through Honduras and dumped rain along its path, inundating parts of Guatemala, mostly in the north and east. San Lucas Toliman was spared; however, the small, remote village of Queja suffered a devastating mudslide, killing over 100 villagers.

During natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Lucas Mission continues to help those in need. Emi Tun, Director of the Charity Program, and her team have worked tirelessly to prepare bags of food for over 4,000 families. They rotate among all communities, distributing food to the most vulnerable. In 2021, the budget for the Charity Program will double from 2020 levels as the San Lucas Mission continues to devote more resources to those who are suffering. For more information about the Charity Program, please see the website:

sanlucasmision.org.



"Defend the unborn against abortion even if they persecute you, calumniate you, set traps for you, take you to court or kill you." - Pope Francis

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:	Jan. 6, 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

LITTLE SAINTS ADVENT PROJECT

When Mary said “yes” to Gabriel, she did so with great faith.

Today, many pregnant women face some of the same problems that Mary did. Their families and neighbors can still judge them. There is financial stress as well as an uncertain future. All of this can be very overwhelming, especially if they have no support.

That’s where Life Connections comes in! Life Connections provides non-judgmental support to women who need help. Volunteers help women from the moment a pregnancy is suspected and continue to help them after the baby has been born. Life Connections helps by providing pregnancy tests, maternity and baby clothing, diapers, diaper supplies, education, emergency financial assistance, car seats, and much more. All help is free and confidential.

Your family can help Life Connections help women say YES to life! The Little Saints program will be collecting new or gently used baby items throughout Advent. **You may drop off your donations in the Commons Area at church.**

Thank you! What a wonderful way to honor Mary and her baby Jesus!

Ideas: **diapers, socks, wipes, rash cream, unopened formula and baby food, crib sheets, baby clothing (through size 5), gift cards (grocery, gas, Target), maternity clothing, new toys, boots, shoes, pacifiers, sippy cups, toys, monetary donations, pull-ups, baby blankets, quilts...**

TWO Faith Formation Fundraisers - To support our youth Mission Trips and Conferences next summer, our Youth Faith Formation is offering two fundraisers:

Catholic Jewelry & Rosary Online Fundraiser
totallycatholicfundraising.com/shop
use code **STMALEX**



Tiny Saints \$5 Charms

Call the Faith Formation Office at: 320-763-9202 for purchasing details (there are over 100 to choose from.)



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Callings of Women in the Church: A Young Feminist Perspective

It’s an experience many women share: they are talented and passionate about discipleship, but they serve a church that puts limits on their participation simply because of their gender. Who can Catholic women turn to for encouragement? How is God calling people of all genders to speak their truths and stand up to the patriarchy? Presented through a young feminist lens, this presentation welcomes people of all genders to consider how the church can grow into a more inclusive, empowering community.

Friday, December 11, Webinar presentation from 9:00-11:00 AM. Event is Free.

Registration is required (register at least five days in advance of the event)

To register:

www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday

320-363-3560

theologyday@csbsju.edu

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!

Falling for Reading

Resources for Educators -
Home & School Connection



With COVID restrictions on youth activities now in effect, this is the perfect time for curling up with a good book. Take advantage of this time to get your kids hooked on reading.

Story Hour - Read aloud to your youngster. Try choosing a book that's slightly harder than one they can read on their own. The more complex plots and bigger words will stretch their comprehension skills and vocabulary. Plus, getting a sneak peek at what older kids are reading is a real motivator.

A Family Habit - Promote regular reading with a "What We're Reading" bulletin board. Provide sticky notes and have each family member post a note to let everyone know what's on their nightstand. When others are reading, your child will want to read also! *Tip:* Encourage visitors (grandparents, friends) to contribute to the board.

Pass the Poetry - Sit in a circle and pass around a volume of poetry. Each person opens the book, reads aloud the first poem they see, and passes it on. Suggest that your youngster copy and collect favorite poems in a binder to make their own poetry collection.

Note: Guarantee your children a steady supply of fresh reading material by taking them to the library often.

Mr. Sladek

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

11/22	Ron Goracke, Alexandria	\$35
11/23	David Rutten, Scotts, MI	\$20
11/24	John Walz, Alexandria	\$20
11/25	Mona Dickey, Donnelly	\$20
11/26	John Slagle, Alexandria	\$20
11/27	Nancy Patrick, Nelson	\$20
11/28	Charles Klimek, Alexandria	\$20

Support St. Mary's School by Participating in:



Elders Tapes for Education

Follow St. Mary's School on Instagram and Facebook



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



St. Mary's School Alexandria

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

November 29, 2020 • First Sunday of Advent • Mark 13:33-37

Keep Awake

Jesus tells his disciples a story about a gatekeeper who was told to watch carefully for his master's return. The gatekeeper is warned that the time or day of the man's return is unknown, and so he must be watchful. He is cautioned to stay alert and not be caught sleeping.

This Gospel from Mark is read on the First Sunday of Advent, the season we prepare to celebrate Christmas. And Mark certainly isn't subtle in telling us how to get ready. His Gospel almost shouts, "Keep awake, pay attention." Fortunately, being on guard and staying alert is something parents know all about.

With five children under ten (three under three at one point), I was on guard at all times. When they were infants, my eyes were always alert for open basement doors, sharp or breakable items and choking hazards. The teen years required even more vigilance. We needed to be alert for subtler hazards. Some questions became standard: Where are you going? Who will you be with? When will you be home?

In the weeks ahead, consider staying alert in other ways. Discover where God is in your everyday life. On Christmas we celebrate more than Jesus' birth. It is a celebration of Jesus alive today, all around us in all of creation and especially in his people. And it is a celebration that Jesus, in all his glory, will come again.

Look carefully. Be alert to where Jesus can be found in your life. Recognize him in the faces of your children, friends, coworkers, and be especially

vigilant in finding Jesus in the faces of those you would rather ignore. Whenever possible, help your children understand that Jesus is all around them, especially in the people he loves.

Find Jesus in your own heart, and be vigilant for opportunities to share his love with your family and the people you encounter in your everyday life. Stay alert!

FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask family members to talk about their hopes for the year ahead. Decide as a family on a New Year's resolution.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

On the lines below write down your hopes and dreams for the year ahead. Also make note of the family's resolution. What do you want to remember from last year? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

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 † Doloris Lorsung
Wed. 8:30 AM † Richard Evich
Thurs. 5:30 PM † Gary Ignowski
Fri. 8:30 AM † Brenton Palin
Sat. 5:00 PM † Dorothy Zimmer
Sun. 8:00 AM † Warren (Bud) Skrove
10:00AM For the Parish

WEEKLY READINGS-NOV. 29

Mon. ROM 10:9-18; MT 4:18-22
Tue. IS 11:1-10; LK 10:21-24
Wed. IS 25:6-10A; MT 15:29-37
Thurs. IS 26:1-6; MT 7:21, 24-27
Fri. IS 29:17-24; MT 9:27-31
Sat. IS 30:19-21, 23-26; MT 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8
Sun. IS 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 PT 3:8-14; MK 1:1-8

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>
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<p>Call 320-763-5781 Advertise your business here</p>		 <p>Solutions for Business</p>	 <p>Mari Leuthner COLDWELL BANKER 320-760-2291 CROWN REALTORS mari.coldwell@gmail.com www.coldwellbankercrown.com</p>
<p>10 Minute OIL CHANGE 1318 Broadway, Alexandria, MN 320-763-5259</p>		<p>Made you look! Call 320-763-5781 to advertise!</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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