

# 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.*

**JANUARY 10, 2021**  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

# BAPTIZED



“I have baptized you with  
water; he will baptize you  
with the Holy Spirit.”

MARK 1:8

## FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear People of St. Mary's Parish,

One of the fundamental affirmations of the Second Vatican Council in its document on liturgical reform, the very first document that it produced in 1962, is that **Christ is made present to us in more than one way when we gather for Eucharist**. For centuries before, Catholics had understood that Jesus is present sacramentally in His body and blood at the altar, the so-called "elements" or "species." That remains true today, and thus the consecrated bread and wine *are* worthy of respect and veneration. What the Council awakened us to is that **there are at least three other discrete ways that our Lord comes to us when we gather for Mass**.

One way is in the proclaimed **Word of Scripture**. This had been a sometimes reluctant path for some because it was the trumpet that the Protestants had been sounding since the Reformation, but the Council acknowledged that the Holy Spirit comes among us whenever the gospel is rightly proclaimed, and thus the hearing of the Word is no less to be honored in our liturgies.

But perhaps the most challenging "presence" that our church still labors to understand is the **presence of Christ in the assembly**, in the gathered People of God. **This gathered group is to be given the very same reverence as are all of the other "presences" of Christ at liturgy**. Our brothers and sisters whom we can see across the sanctuary are not "*distractions to my personal prayer to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament*" but are also—and every bit as well—the presence of Christ. Indeed, Christ gave us the Eucharist as a gift to *consume*. Why? So that we BECOME the Body of Christ and carry Christ into the world.

Vatican II made no attempt to establish a priority of importance for these presences of God among us while we pray together. And we are only too well aware of our fallible human condition. Yet **together at Eucharist, we are a communion of "Christ-bearers,"** not of our own account. This is why the honoring of a brother or sister at church is an honoring of Christ, and the dishonoring of another is the opposite.

Today, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we welcome our Candidates for full communion in the Catholic Church: Kymberli Wenzel, Faith Annis, Josiah Altman and Susan Wenzel. We also welcome Matthew Gregersen, who is seeking a deeper relationship with Christ in his Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

Fr. Steve

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Lee Hockert and Agatha Thoennes.

### — BAPTISMS —

**Emily Ann  
Child of Jamie & Miranda Wendlandt**

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 29,931	\$ 23,904	\$ 6,027
Electronic	6,477	9,769	(3,292)
Other	513	1,058	(545)
<b>For Jan. 3</b>	<b>\$ 36,921</b>	<b>\$ 34,731</b>	<b>\$ 2,190</b>
<b>YTD Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 833,602</b>	<b>\$ 937,737</b>	<b>\$ (104,135)</b>

*\* 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., Marie Peterson, Virginia Schultz, Sally Bellicot, Kathy Bellicot, Mary Waldorf, Dianne Otto, Brett Rima, Ronnie Le Grange, Jerry Sacre, Lawrence Cline, Dan Radford, Ken Volk, Linda Rakowski, Jesse Zens, Jody Koubsky, Kathy Moriarity, Chris Berg, Joan Norman, Pat Osterberg, Martha Roth, Sofi Quigley, Margaret Komes, Bev Bernholtz, Taryn Smith and Annette Revering.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM and Tuesday, January 12, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM in the Great Hall. For appointment/info call Janet at 320-763-3381.



**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree this year. We were able to help 150 children and seniors with your generosity.  
Brad & April Brejcha and the Parish Life Committee



### January Is Respect Life Month

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual **Respect Life Novena**, 9 Days for Life, **Thursday, January**

**14 – Friday, January 22.** Click on “9 Days for Life” on [stmaryalexandria.org](http://stmaryalexandria.org) or pick up a flyer in the Commons Area.



## ABOUT LIFE

Did You Know? Friday, January 22, the Church in the United States observes the annual “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” We are called to observe this day through prayer and fasting. For more information go to [www.stmaryalexandria.org](http://www.stmaryalexandria.org)

Visit St. Mary’s Sanctity of Life online at [sanctityoflifestm.org](http://sanctityoflifestm.org) for information and resources.

**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC)** - A recently published book entitled **CASTE: The Origins of our Discontent** by Isabel Wilkerson, “examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. She points a way forward for America to move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.” Wilkerson provides us with new insights, language, and dialogue topics rather than argumentative stances. An eye opening story of a people and their history.

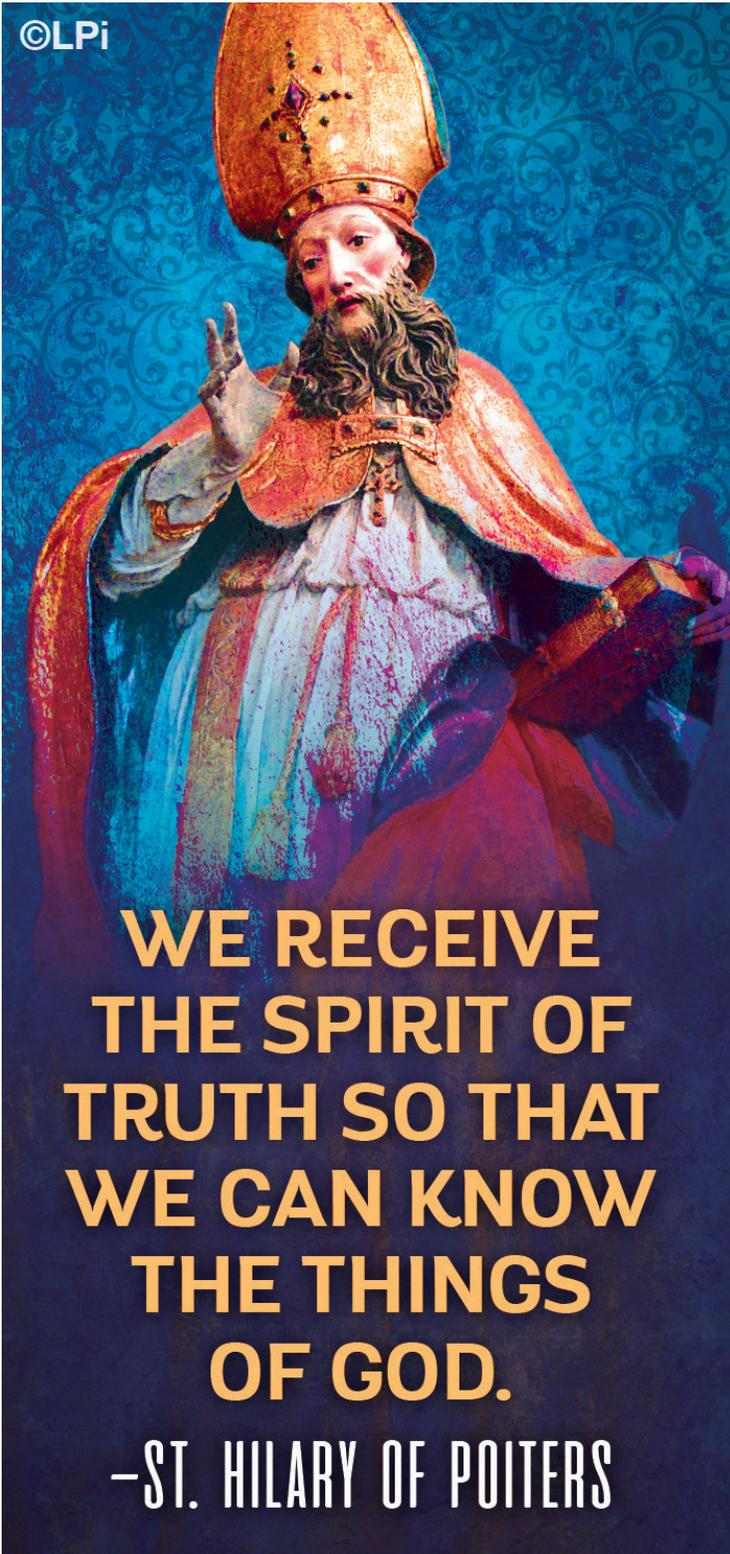
# FAITH FORMATION

stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-9202

## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



©LPi



**WE RECEIVE  
THE SPIRIT OF  
TRUTH SO THAT  
WE CAN KNOW  
THE THINGS  
OF GOD.**

**—ST. HILARY OF POITIERS**

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### NEED SOME QUIET TIME WITH OUR LORD?

Eucharistic Adoration is available in our parish church during the day. Below are a few open times if you would like to sign up for a scheduled Holy Hour. If you have any questions, please contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006 (text or call).

Tuesdays: 1:00 PM

Wednesdays: 12:00 PM & 6:00 PM

### PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US EACH MORNING!

Our prayers are united via conference call and it's very easy to do. Please unite your prayers with ours and join us daily.

At 7:55 AM each morning dial: 712-775-7465 and enter access code 653790#. You may introduce yourself if you would like. You will be asked to mute your phone when the rosary begins at 8:00 AM.

Questions:

Judy Clayton 320-333-9892

Diane Gay 320-766-7036

### WHAT MASS MEANS: HOW SACRIFICE AND REAL PRESENCE ARE LIFE-CHANGING

We tend to think of “sacrifice” and “real presence” as doctrines to believe in – perhaps with some vague awareness of complicated medieval terms such as “transubstantiation”. But the logic of the liturgies of the various Christian traditions, and the whole point of the Vatican II renewal, is that our liturgical sharing in Christ’s dying and rising is meant to transform us individually and communally. The implications are huge!

Friday, January 22, 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](http://www.collegevilleMN.com/theologyday),  
320-363-3560, or [theologyday@csbsju.edu](mailto: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

**Deadline to Purchase is Coming Soon!**

Dear Parishioners,

The Calendar Raffle is one of our two major fundraisers conducted at St. Mary's School and all the proceeds go directly towards the school's operating expenses.

Being one of our major fundraising campaigns, it is important to our school that the calendar raffle is a success. With generous support from all of you, I am confident we will exceed our fundraising goals for the year.

Best of luck and thanks for supporting St. Mary's School.

Mr. Sladek



If you haven't purchased your Calendar Raffle tickets yet, please consider doing so in the next couple weeks. The deadline to purchase tickets is January 17th!

### WAYS PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS:

#### **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](mailto:stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org)

### **SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

**Magazine Sales and Renewals** are taking place now  
@ [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com)  
Use ID # 2582419

**Substitute Teachers Wanted** Contact Mr. Sladek for more information

### **CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS**

1/3	Genevieve Murphy, Alexandria	\$35
1/4	Mandy Larum, Alexandria	\$20
1/5	Kurt Hansberry, Alexandria	\$20
1/6	Bobbi Sellnow, Alexandria	\$20
1/7	Caden Serda, Savage	\$20
1/8	Jeremy Geris, Alexandria	\$20
1/9	Kevin Kopischke, Carlos	\$20

Support St. Mary's School by Participating in:



**Elden's** Tapes for Education

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



St. Mary's School Alexandria

## LITURGICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*It is the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and John baptizes Jesus. Once more we discover that Jesus is someone incredibly special. When he comes out of the water a dove appears and a voice is heard from heaven that proclaims Jesus as God's Son.*

Before Abraham and Sarah, people believed in gods who were capricious. The people saw themselves as simple pawns. Abraham chose to worship one God, and his God was not fickle. God made a covenant with Abraham and the Jewish people. God would always be with them, and they would be his chosen people. With Jesus, God has entered into a new covenant with all those who believe.

There is a new order, a new covenant. God is not only with us; God is in us. We are not only the chosen people; we are the children of God. In this Gospel, even before Jesus begins his ministry, we hear him named the Son of God. Jesus will spend his whole lifetime trying to convince the people around him that they too are God's children.

As Christians we realize we have received new life. God is in us, and nothing, absolutely nothing, not even death, can overcome us. This doesn't mean Christians do not suffer the normal troubles of our mortal world. It means that those troubles are bearable and less cumbersome because we know they cannot destroy us. We know that with God as our Father, and Jesus as our brother, we will do more than survive, we will flourish forever. This is something to celebrate.

Make sure your life reflects the joy-filled contentment of what it means to be a Christian, a child of God. Let your children know that believing in Jesus is an upbeat, life-giving experience.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss what it means to be a child of God. What special privileges and responsibilities do we have?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Write down how you would feel if you heard God say to you, "You are my son/daughter, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." 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 Durlap. 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.

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is both an old and new concept. In the Old Testament, the concept of stewardship is based on man's willingness to recognize God as the provider of all essential elements of life. Then, as people received their harvest or an increase in their herd, they gave God the first fruits of that which they brought in from the fields or vineyards and the first fruits of the increase of the herds. By bringing these tithes and offerings to the storehouse, the religious system was supported. The Levitical group was able to lead in worship and administer the affairs of the law. This kept the nation on an even keel.

The New Testament concept is based upon the idea of grace and not law. The motivation for giving is the love that people have for their Lord and his Kingdom's work. People are to give from their heart because of the change that had occurred in their lives.

There is a great similarity between the old and new concepts of stewardship as they are presented in God's Word. Notice what the Bible says:

**Who is to give?** The Old Testament book of Malachi says "Ye." The New Testament proclaims "Everyone of you". (I Corinthians 16:2).

**What is to be given?** Malachi 3:8,10 states, "Tithes and offerings." Paul says in I Corinthians 16:2, "As God has prospered you."

**When are we to give?** "When the storehouse is open to receive the tithes and offerings," says the writer in Malachi 3:8-10. Paul makes it even more plain. He says, "Upon the first day of the week..." (I Corinthians 16:2).

**Where are we to give?** The instruction of the Old Testament is "into the storehouse." I Corinthians 16:2 tells us, "In store."

**Why are we to give?** The Old Testament (Malachi 3:10) explains the reason as being to supply the needs; so that there would always be a sufficient amount in the storehouse. The New Testament (I Corinthians 16:2) states it plainly, "... that there be no gatherings when I come."

God's financial plan has been in force for more than 3,500 years. It has worked in every generation whenever and wherever people have practiced it. It has never been too demanding or restrictive. When practiced by God's people, it has provided for the work that needed to be done and God has blessed those who followed his plan.

**Something Old ... Something New** God's plan is both. It has worked and continues to work today.

# SACRAMENTS

## RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11:00 AM. Please enter through door A1 (Courtyard Door).

## BAPTISM

All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course. Call the Parish Office to sign up. Contact the Parish Office 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 † Stephan Waller  
**Wed.** 8:30 AM † Ann Ebsen  
**Thurs.** 5:30 PM † Roy Toivenan  
**Fri.** 8:30 AM † Bill Dropik  
**Sat.** 5:00 PM For the Parish  
**Sun.** 8:00 AM † Lorrie Neale  
10:00AM † Dorothy Cihlar

## WEEKLY READINGS-JAN. 10

**Mon.** Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20  
**Tue.** Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28  
**Wed.** Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39  
**Thurs.** Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45  
**Fri.** Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12  
**Sat.** Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17  
**Sun.** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20;  
Jn 1:35-42

## 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](http://www.stmaryalexandria.org)

[stmary@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto: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><b>Culligan</b> Better Water: Pure &amp; Simple Sales, Rentals, Salt 763-6586 - 601 Nokomis St.</p>	<p><b>Made you look! Call 320-763-5781 to advertise!</b></p>	<p><b>NORTHWOODS CONSTRUCTION LLC</b> Mike Klimek 320-766-8709 Dan Klimek 320-766-8690</p>	<p><b>KN</b> KNUTE NELSON Guided by our <i>Christian heritage</i> to serve you with innovative senior care. knutenelson.org</p>
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<p><b>THORNTON, DOLAN, BOWEN, KLECKER &amp; BURKHAMMER, PA</b> Attorneys At Law 1017 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>			
<p><b>ZIMNY</b> INSURANCE AGENCY www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com 320-762-2124 Auto   Home   Business   Life   Health   LTC Ins. 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	<p><b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</b> 722 6th Avenue East Membership: Bob Neale, 320-762-8685 KC Hall Rental: John Leesch, 320-763-3644 Bingo: Wednesdays 2:00 PM &amp; Sundays 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>GIVING to the Catholic Community, by PROVIDING for your Financial Security</b> Life Insurance Annuities &amp; IRAs Medicare Supplement Retirement tools Scholarships Grants and Programs Member support Service opportunities provide for Scott Jones (320) 424-9976 sjones@catholicunited.org Catholic United Financial www.catholicunitedfinancial.org</p>	<p>1210 Broadway St. S 320-763-3040 <b>ups</b> <b>The UPS Store</b> Contact us to advertise in our bulletin: twentworth@stmaryalexandria.org or 320-763-5781 ext. 201</p>
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