

# The Church of St. Mary

420 IRVING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, MN

320.763.5781 | [STMARY@STMARYALEXANDRIA.ORG](mailto:STMARY@STMARYALEXANDRIA.ORG)

*Our Mission is to know, love and serve God by living the Eucharist.*

**JANUARY 24, 2021**

**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

# BOAT



They left their father Zebedee in  
the boat along with the hired men  
and followed him.

MARK 1:20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## St. Mary's School KINDERGARTEN

"SEE US IN ACTION"  
TOURS

Private tours available  
Jan 18 - Feb 5  
Call 320-763-5861  
To Schedule Your Tour!

Parent Informational Meeting  
Monday, February 8  
6:30 PM, School Gymnasium

Kindergarten... Here I Come!



## FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of St. Mary's,

I am writing this before I leave for a vacation...after the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus...and with my mind still reeling after the events in Washington DC and various reactions to it, and as we approached the inauguration of a new president. Jesus' baptism was the first among many profound acts of humility in his public life and ministry, a deep moment of teaching us all how to live together without the trappings of power and privilege and domination. Yet today at the Jordan River on the Jordanian side, where archeology is finding early evidence that this could very well be the baptismal site of Jesus, there's something of a *Cathedral contest* playing out among Christians: whose church building can be biggest and most expensive and most dramatic? Jesus' baptism – which he never needed in the first place since he is the author of baptism – was intended to tell us that **life isn't all about me and us and our institutions.** And some 2,000 years later, we're still trying to figure that out. We keep missing the point of it all. **To follow Jesus is about self-giving for the sake of the most vulnerable others around us. It's what he did for us.**

To admit this is not meant to be an exercise in self-loathing or of beating ourselves up needlessly. But it is meant to expose our constant temptation to pride, and to making even religion into something that is merely self-serving. That's not necessarily our fault; it just is. But *when we choose to ignore that, it is then that it becomes our fault.*

Among the flag bearers that stormed into our Nation's Capital with deadly force was at least one whose banner proclaimed, "**Jesus Saves.**" This is what at least some of us are capable of when we turn the Scriptures into a proclamation of "what I want." Thankfully, most Christians are not that unhinged – but it would be very unwise for any of us to completely ignore that temptation to install *personal preferences or political platforms* into the place where only God belongs.

Here's what the Prophet Isaiah said: "*My chosen one, with whom I am pleased and upon whom I have put my spirit, will bring forth justice to the Nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street.*"

So whenever we hear of threats and violence and alleged justice brought about by bloodshed or physical harm that is dressed up in the veneer of Jesus or Christian faith, let us **call that out for the sin that it is** – the utter warping of the gospel, and the betrayal of Jesus that it is. We don't need to go into combat about that, but we can acknowledge the lie that it presents, and **we can choose to live in a different way.** In fact, Isaiah said exactly that: "*I the Lord have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand, I formed you, and set you as...a light for the Nations.*"

Wherever there are people or angry mobs who shout out something otherwise, **it is our Christian responsibility to witness to a better way, to God's truth.** This time in our country is exactly such a time. Jesus is *not* and *has never been* about domination. Jesus is about a witness to peace. Our country was founded as a haven for those who escaped oppression. A democracy was formed and a rule of law was established. Let us use the democratic system to bring about real peace and real justice. As we begin to listen to each other, we will find that, in the end, we all need and want the same things – the way to get there may vary. Here is where we need to compromise and meet.

Fr Steve

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Ed Quinn.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 23,932	\$ 23,904	\$ 28
Electronic	2,977	9,769	(6,792)
Other	612	1,058	(446)
<b>For Jan. 17</b>	<b>\$ 27,521</b>	<b>\$ 34,731</b>	<b>\$ (7,210)</b>
<b>YTD Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 894,193</b>	<b>\$ 1,007,199</b>	<b>\$ (113,006)</b>

\* 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., 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, Pat Osterberg, Martha Roth, Sofi Quigley, Margaret Komes, Bev Bernholtz, Taryn Smith, Annette Revering, Earle Brown and Vicki Revering.

#### STEWARSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." — Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

**THANK YOU** to St. Mary's Church and all the blood donors who participated in The American Red Cross Blood Drives on January 11 & 12. We sincerely appreciated St. Mary's allowing us to gather in the Great Hall for our blood drives and are grateful to all the wonderful people who so generously donated blood during this drive.

-The Alexandria Gray Ladies of the American Red Cross

**THANK YOU**

### Marriage Encounter

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**-2020 has been incredibly difficult on all of us and marriages have suffered! Commit to 2021 being the year you find enrichment, joy, and hope in your relationship! Register for the February 13-14 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit [www.marriages.org](http://www.marriages.org) for additional information or call 651.454.3238.

### ABOUT LIFE

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Visit [HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://HopeAfterAbortion.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)** - As Christians committed to a more just and peaceful world, we are called to take a clear stand for creative and active non-violence and against all forms of violence. We live in a time of tremendous suffering, widespread trauma, fear, and a myriad of other specific forms of violence. Those of us who stand in the Christian tradition are called to recognize the central message of non-violence – prolife – in the vision and message of Jesus; to the life and practice of the Catholic Church; and to our long-term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and the planet.  
(taken from an appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-Commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence)

# FAITH FORMATION

stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-9202

## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



### “Virtual” Middle School Youth Rally **Christ Among Us!!**

Sunday, January 31

1:00 – 4:00 PM in the Great Hall

Students in **Grades 6 – 8** are invited to join us here at St. Mary's in the Great Hall for a virtual youth rally! We will join the rally through Zoom on the big screen! Our day will include games, keynote speakers, prayer, music and fellowship. **This event is FREE!**

To sign up, please contact the Faith Formation office at 763-9202 or [bbecker@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto:bbecker@stmaryalexandria.org)



NOTHING  
IS SO STRONG  
AS GENTLENESS;  
NOTHING  
IS SO GENTLE  
AS REAL STRENGTH.

—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

©LPI

## 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).

Wednesdays: 12:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Thursdays: 3:00 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!

Thursday, January 28, Webinar presentation from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. **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

## Kindergarten

### Parent Information & Registration Meeting

The St. Mary's School Kindergarten Parent Information and Registration Meeting for the 2021-2022 school year has been set.

All parishioners with children who will be five (5) on or before September 1, 2021, are invited to attend our meeting on Monday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m in the school gym. The purpose of this meeting is to share information about our kindergarten program and provide you with a kindergarten registration packet as well.

Prior to our meeting, families are invited to tour St. Mary's School to see and feel what we have to offer. Our "See Us In Action" tours will take place January 18 – February 5. Contact Mr. Sladek to schedule your tour.

If you are not registered or have family members or friends who may be interested in St. Mary's School, contact the school office so we can get additional information sent to them.

Before you decide on your child's future, make certain you have explored all your options.

- Average class size for grades K-2 in 2020-21 was 18
- 5th Grade Buddies
- We learn and grow in our Faith every day and celebrate Christmas and Easter
- Parent involvement is encouraged and welcomed
- Tuition assistance is available... no child has ever been turned away from St. Mary's School due to financial concerns

Come and check us out to learn more!

Mr. Sladek

## Kindergarten... Here I Come!



### SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

**No School** - Monday, January 25

**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

1/17	Justin Wallin, Merrifield	\$35
1/18	Mark Sagedahl, Alexandria	\$20
1/19	Reenie Elkington, Alexandria	\$20
1/20	Carol Porter, Alexandria	\$20
1/21	Justin Dummer, Alexandria	\$20
1/22	Dee Minnerath, Alexandria	\$20
1/23	Audrey Spengler, Albany	\$20

Support St. Mary's School by Participating in:



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stmarysschoolalexandria



St. Mary's School Alexandria

## LITURGICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES

### FISHERS OF MEN

*Jesus encounters Andrew and Peter by the sea, fishing for their livelihood. He invites them to become his first apostles. As Jesus travels further on the beach, he sees James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and invites them to drop their nets and join him.*

Before Jesus begins his public ministry he gathers a group of men to walk with him. He understands that he will need support and even encouragement if he is to accomplish his mission. Jesus realized how big the job was going to be, and he knew he would need help if he wanted his message to reach as many people as possible.

It was the disciples who seemed to do most of the negotiating for the everyday necessities (a place to stay, food for the crowds, etc.). There is a great lesson in this Gospel for all of us. If even Jesus needed people to nurture and encourage him, consider how important the support of a loving community is for us, and our children. Staying committed to Christian values is not always easy in today's society. This is why it is essential to surround your children and yourself with people who share your values.

Christians are not theists. We do not believe in a "me and God" approach to religion. We are Christians; we find God all around us, especially in other people. A faith community is essential for Christians. Become involved in your church, get to know people socially so your children have other role models to look up to.

Our children also need to see that Mom or Dad sometimes needs help. Parents make mistakes and messes that have to be fixed or cleaned up too. Children need to see that even their parents, on occasion, need their help. All of this is part of teaching our children to be interdependent, a crucial learning if they are going to understand what it means to be a Christian.

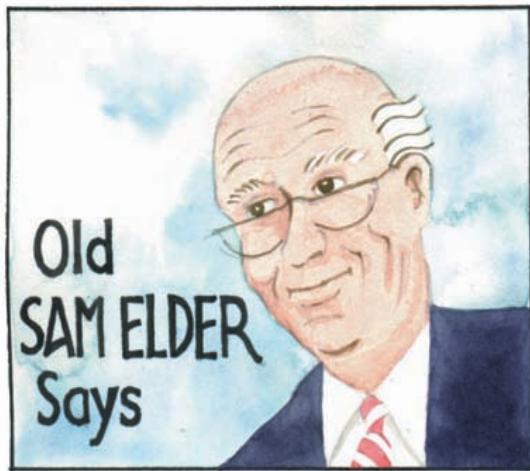
### FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss who the people are who support and nurture your family. Decide on a way to thank them.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Outside of your immediate family, what group of people is your greatest support? How can they help you? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

## STEWARSHIP



Old Sam Elder remarked to Pastor Don Goodly, "I have concluded that the rich and poor have something in common. Take Bob Rich, he has repeatedly risked his inheritance on questionable investments, hoping to make a killing. Conventional investments are too mundane! With his expensive lifestyle, he wants to make a quick fortune so he can retire handsomely. Bob is always thinking of money and looking for that fabulous deal. Bob also loses a lot of sleep."

"On the other hand, Paul Poor is fighting the battle of minimums. In our community, you can't find a rent for less than the minimum. Food tends to cost a certain minimum per week. Old shabby clothing and shoes eventually wear out. Paul lives in "genteel poverty" without enough income to live adequately; yet, too well off to receive assistance. A health crisis or an accident could mean bankruptcy or going on welfare. Paul dreams of how just a few extra dollars would ensure his paying his way.

Pastor Goodly asked, "What can they have in common? They are as far apart as the poles!"

"Yes, pastor," began old Sam, "but both are thinking about money or the lack of it or the related problems of taxes, inflation or insurance, to the point that they rarely think about God; rarely think about spreading the Good News or never think about the needs of their fellow man. For both men, preoccupation with their treasure, or the lack of it, has shut God out of their lives.

# 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 † Dorothy Cihlar

**Wed.** 8:30 AM † Verlyn Bruzek

**Thurs.** 5:30 PM †† Lester & Veronica Yell

**Fri.** 8:30 AM † LeRoy Nelson

**Sat.** 5:00 PM † Nikki Meyers

**Sun.** 8:00 AM † Gene Sullivan  
10:00AM For the Parish

## WEEKLY READINGS - JAN. 24

**Mon.** Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18

**Tue.** 2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 3:31-35

**Wed.** Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20

**Thurs.** Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25

**Fri.** Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34

**Sat.** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41

**Sun.** Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

## 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>Better Water: Pure &amp; Simple Sales, Rentals, Salt 763-6586 - 601 Nokomis St.</p>	 <p>512 30th Avenue East, Alexandria, MN <b>320.762.5330</b></p>	<b>NORTHWOODS CONSTRUCTION LLC</b> Mike Klimek 320-766-8709 Dan Klimek 320-766-8690	 <p>Guided by our Christian heritage to serve you with innovative senior care. <a href="http://knutnelson.org">knutnelson.org</a></p>												
 <p><b>320-763-3954</b></p> <p>THORNTON, DOLAN, BOWEN, KLECKER &amp; BURKHAMMER, PA Attorneys At Law  1017 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	<b>AQUARIUS - 84, INC.</b> <i>Plumbing, Mechanical, &amp; Hot Water Heat</i> 763-3636 • 214 6th Ave. East Alexandria, MN	 <p><b>HEARTLAND</b> ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALISTS <i>A Service of ALOMERE HEALTH</i> <b>320.762.1144</b> <a href="http://HeartlandOrthopedics.com">HeartlandOrthopedics.com</a></p>	 <p><b>American</b> Solutions for Business</p>												
 <p><a href="http://www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com">www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com</a> <b>320-762-2124</b> Auto   Home   Business   Life   Health   LTC Ins. 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	 <p><b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</b> 722 6th Avenue East</p> <p>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></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Life Insurance</td> <td>provide for</td> <td>Scholarships</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annuities &amp; IRAs</td> <td></td> <td>Grants and Programs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medicare Supplement</td> <td></td> <td>Member support</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retirement tools</td> <td></td> <td>Service opportunities</td> </tr> </table> <p>Scott Jones (320) 424-9976 <a href="mailto:sjones@catholicunited.org">sjones@catholicunited.org</a></p> <p>Catholic United Financial <a href="http://www.catholicunitedfinancial.org">www.catholicunitedfinancial.org</a></p>	Life Insurance	provide for	Scholarships	Annuities & IRAs		Grants and Programs	Medicare Supplement		Member support	Retirement tools		Service opportunities	<p>1210 Broadway St. S <b>320-763-3040</b></p> <p><b>The UPS Store</b> <b>ALEX RUBBISH &amp; RECYCLING</b> <b>320-763-4712</b> <b>"START SEEING RED"</b></p>
Life Insurance	provide for	Scholarships													
Annuities & IRAs		Grants and Programs													
Medicare Supplement		Member support													
Retirement tools		Service opportunities													
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<p><b>Contact us to advertise in our bulletin:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:twentworth@stmaryalexandria.org">twentworth@stmaryalexandria.org</a> or <b>320-763-5481 ext. 201</b></p>	<p><b>BITZAN/OHREN Masonry, LLC</b> <b>Residential/Commercial</b> <b>320-834-5488</b></p> <p> Member FDIC <b>GLENWOOD STATE BANK</b> <i>We Care!</i> <a href="http://www.glenwoodstate.bank">www.glenwoodstate.bank</a></p> <p>Made you look! Call <b>320-763-5781</b> to advertise!</p> <p> <b>Alexandria</b> <b>MOTORS</b> <b>762-2114</b> <a href="http://www.ALEXANDRIA-CHEV.COM">www.ALEXANDRIA-CHEV.COM</a>  <b>CHEVROLET</b> <b>FIND NEW ROADS.</b></p>	<p><b>HILLTOP LUMBER</b> We help plan, supply and deliver dreams. <a href="http://www.hilltoplbr.com">www.hilltoplbr.com</a></p> <p><b>Mike's IN-OUT OIL CHANGE</b> 10 Minute OIL CHANGE 1318 Broadway, Alexandria, MN <b>320-763-5259</b></p> <p><b>PAPPENFUS</b> <b>PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS</b> Robert H. Pappenfus Thomas J. Pappenfus Alexandria, MN 56308 320-763-6688 web: <a href="http://www.pappenfus.com">www.pappenfus.com</a></p>													