

# 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.*

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

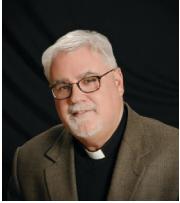
# BELIEVE



Repent, and believe in  
the gospel.

MARK 1:15

## FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of St Mary's Parish,

We have embarked on another Lenten Journey. I have been guilty of forwarding untruth on FaceBook when I didn't do any fact-checking. It happened to agree with "my truth" or better—that which I wanted to be true. There are so many lies out there; it is hard to know what is true or untrue. That, my friends, is our modern dilemma. Recently, my favorite popular theologian—Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI—wrote this article. He addresses this phenomena--lying. I found it insightful. I have permission to reprint it for our bulletin. He writes an article every week.

Find it at [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com) - Fr Steve

Fr. Steve Binsfeld

### GOD CANNOT TELL A LIE by Fr. Ron Rolheiser

Lying is the most pernicious of evils, the most dangerous of sins, the worst of blasphemes, and the one sin that can be unforgivable. Perhaps we need to be reminded of that today, given our present culture where we are in danger of losing the very idea of reality and truth. Nothing is more dangerous.

There's a line buried deep in scripture that is too seldom quoted. The Letter to the Hebrews (6: 18) states simply: *It is impossible for God to lie*. It could not be otherwise. God is Truth, so how could God lie? For God to lie would be a denial of God's very nature. Consequently, for us to lie is to go directly against God. Lying is the definition of irreverence and blasphemy. It is an affront to the nature of God.

If we are aware of that, we haven't taken it seriously lately. Everywhere, from countless social media tweets, texts, and blogs to the highest offices of government, business, and even the church, we are seeing an ever-deteriorating relationship with reality and truth. **Lying and creating one's own truth have become socially acceptable** (to a frightening degree). What's changed? Haven't we always lied? Who among us can say that he or she has never told a lie or falsified information in one way or another? **What's different today?**

What's different today is that, until our generation, you could be caught in a lie, shamed for telling it, forced to accept your own dishonesty. No longer. Today our relationship with truth is fracturing to a degree that we no longer distinguish, morally or practically, between a lie and the truth. **A lie, now, is simply another modality of truth.**

**What's the net effect of this? We are living it. Its effects are everywhere.** First, it has broken down a shared sense of reality where, as a community, we no longer have a common epistemology and a shared sense of right and wrong. People no longer relate to reality in the same way. One person's truth is the other person's lie. It is becoming impossible to define what constitutes a lie.

This doesn't just destroy trust among us; worse, it plays with our sanity and with some of the deeper moral and religious chromosomes inside us. As I wrote in this column several months ago, we believe that there are four transcendental properties to God. We teach that God is One, True, Good, and Beautiful. Because God is One, whole and consistent, there can never be any internal contradictions within God. This might sound abstract and academic, but this is what anchors our sanity. We are sane and remain sane only because we can always trust that two plus two equals four, ever and always. God's Oneness is what anchors that. If that should ever change, then the peg that moors our sanity would be removed. Once two plus two can equal something other than four, then nothing can be securely known or trusted ever again. That's the ultimate danger in what's happening today. We are unmooring our psyche.

**The next danger in lying is what it does to those of us who lie.** Fyodor Dostoevsky sums it up succinctly: "People who lie to themselves and listen to their own lie come to such a pass that they cannot distinguish the truth within them, or around them, and so lose all respect for themselves and for others. And having no respect, they cease to love." Jordan Peterson would add this: "**If we lie long enough "after that comes the arrogance and sense of superiority that inevitably accompanies the production of successful lies** (hypothetically successful lies – and that is one of the greatest dangers: apparently everyone is fooled, so everyone is stupid, except me. Everyone is stupid, and fooled, by me – so I can get away with whatever I want). Finally, there is the proposition: 'Being itself is susceptible to my manipulation. Thus, it deserves no respect."

Jesus' warning in John's Gospel is the strongest of all. **He tells us that if we lie long enough we will eventually believe our own lies and confuse falsehood for the truth and truth for falsehood, and that becomes an unforgiveable sin** (a "blaspheme against the Holy Spirit) because the person who's lying no longer wants to be forgiven.

Finally, **lying breaks down trust among us.** Trust is predicated on the belief that we all accept that two plus two equals four, that we all accept there is such a thing as reality, that we all accept that reality can be falsified by a lie, and that we all accept that a lie is falsehood and not just another modality of truth. Lying destroys that trust.

Living in a world that plays fast and easy with reality and truth also plays on our loneliness. George Eliot once asked: "What loneliness is more lonely than distrust?" So true. **The loneliest loneliness of all is the loneliness of distrust.** Welcome to our not-so-brave new world.

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Lawrence Boisclair and Dennis Edwin Becker.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 26,198	\$ 23,904	\$ 2,294
Electronic	6,181	9,769	(3,588)
Other	295	1,058	(763)
<b>For Feb. 14</b>	<b>\$ 32,674</b>	<b>\$ 34,731</b>	<b>\$ (2,057)</b>
<b>YTD Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 1,048,561</b>	<b>\$ 1,146,123</b>	<b>\$ (97,562)</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, Martha Roth, Sofi Quigley, Bev Bernholtz, Taryn Smith, Annette Revering, Earle Brown, Vicki Revering, Gary Winters, Ben Smith, Kathy Ostrom, Linus Huver, Tony Strasser, and Paulette Bachman

**BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL:** Thank you to everyone who responded to Commitment Weekend with a gift for ministries supporting our lives. If you haven't yet made a gift, you can bring your envelope to Mass, visit [www.stcdio.org/annualappeal](http://www.stcdio.org/annualappeal) or mail a gift to: Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 1538, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

**GRIEF SEMINARS** - The seminars will be Monday evenings, February 22 - March 29, at 6:00 PM. Day seminars will be Tuesdays, February 23 - March 30, at 10:00 AM. These seminars are for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, and if you want to attend a seminar for the second time, please do so. Call Jeri to register at 320-491-5409 or email [jeridawson@andersonfuneral.net](mailto:jeridawson@andersonfuneral.net).

Feel free to share this information with others. The seminars will be held online due to COVID-19. If online groups are something new to you, please call Jeri to go through the logging in process. Jeri will do a practice login with everyone prior to the start date.

### ABOUT LIFE

**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC)** - One of the goals of the parish JPIC committee is to encourage the church membership to be conscious of the needs of our **DOUGLAS COUNTY FOOD SHELF**. During the months of March, July and November we sponsor the **LET'S BAG HUNGER** effort to help eliminate food shortage through the local FOOD SHELF PROGRAM. During the past five years Gayle Walz has been the leader of this effort....and through her faithful encouragement has kept us alert to St Mary's LET'S BAG HUNGER campaign. **THANK YOU! NOW WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO FILL THIS POSITION.** You would not be alone in this ministry – no training needed, but lots of help is available.

Please call LeeAnn Sticha, JPIC chairperson: 612-750-0220 or Gayle Walz, 507-261-0964 for information or to sign up for this awesome work of helping to feed the hungry. THANK YOU.



It is rooted in the permanent fact that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, created to share in the very life of God himself. The human person is a "manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory" (EV 34). And we must reflect this truth in how we act and how we treat one another.

# FAITH FORMATION

stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org | 320-763-9202

## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION



### 11th Grade Confirmation Class

Last week we held a "Signing of the Senses" gathering for our Confirmation students, with their leaders representing our community of faith. We are thankful for these individuals who have given of their gifts & time to walk alongside these students on their faith journey, some for the last 6 years!!

A huge thank you to **Joe Korkowski, Katie Sansted, Tom & Jen Klecker, Stacy James, Rychel Larson, Mike Sponsler, Katrina Brault, and Amy Wentworth!!** Please keep our leaders and students in your prayers as they continue their preparation! Each week, we will highlight one of our Confirmation small groups.

Joe Korkowski's group: **Turner, Isabelle, Coltan, Joey, Cheyanne, Reed, Jemma, Callie, Elise, Paige, Greta, and Calen!**



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### GROW IN YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULTS GROUP!

Meets every Tuesday, 6:30 - 9:30 PM at Common Ground Coffee House.

For more info, contact:  
Sammy: 320-808-5850 or Derek: 320-304-2074

### 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).

- 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 320-766-703

### The Common Thread of Holy Saturday:

#### How a Trauma Lens Can Unite and Strengthen our Catholic Church

Many people spend Holy Saturday (trauma's aftermath), by getting ready for Easter Sunday (triumphant new life), which reflects our overall unease with trauma (Good Friday). Trauma and its aftermath are viewed as something to "get over" as soon as possible, otherwise we risk shame and stigma. We forget: the resurrected Christ still carried his wounds. This presentation will explore the aftermath of trauma, and how use of a trauma lens can serve as powerful witness. We will discuss pastoral responses that help or hurt and will close with a look at what a trauma-responsive Catholic Church might look like.

Thursday, March 4, Webinar presentation from 6:30-8:30 p.m. 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
- email [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

# Lent 2021

## Footsteps to Jesus



**Pray, Fast, Give**

### SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

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

### Substitute Teachers Wanted

Contact Mr. Sladek for more information

**Week 1**  
**Prayer Service:**  
**Reconciliation:**  
**Activities:**

**Week 2**  
**Prayer Service:**  
**Reconciliation:**  
**Activities:**

**Week 3**  
**Prayer Service:**  
**Reconciliation:**  
**Activities:**

**Week 4**  
**Prayer Service:**  
**Reconciliation:**  
**Activities:**

**Week 5**  
**Prayer Service:**  
**Reconciliation:**  
**Activities:**

**Week 6**  
**Prayer Service:**  
**Reconciliation:**  
**Activities:**

**February 23-26**  
Tuesday 8:15  
Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30  
Penny Challenge for Hospice of Douglas County Good Deed Beads

**March 1-5**  
Monday 8:15  
Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30  
Penny Challenge for Hospice of Douglas County Footsteps Craft

**March 8-11**  
Monday 8:15  
Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30  
Penny Challenge for Hospice of Douglas County Cross Craft

**March 17-19**  
Wednesday 8:15  
Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30  
Penny Challenge for Hospice of Douglas County Praying Hands Craft and Prayer Cards

**March 22-26**  
Monday 8:15  
Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30  
Penny Challenge for Hospice of Douglas County Cards for Hospice and Easter

**March 29 - April 1**  
Monday 8:15  
Wednesday 11:00 - 11:30  
Penny Challenge for Hospice of Douglas County Stations of the Cross

### CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

2/14	Cathy Norman, Eagan	\$35
2/15	Tim Boesl, Parkers Prairie	\$50
2/16	Nancy Bergo, Morris	\$20
2/17	Mary Gregoire, Marshall	\$20
2/18	Diane Olson, Brandon	\$20
2/19	Kathy Baudrau, Alexandria	\$20
2/20	Jason Christianson, Alexandria	\$20

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stmarysschoolalexandria



St. Mary's School Alexandria

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

February 21, 2021 • 1st Sunday of Lent • Mark 1:12–15

## Believing in the Good News

*Mark's account of Jesus being tempted in the desert is very short, only two sentences long. However, it is just as clear from this telling of the story as it is in the longer versions that Jesus leaves the desert with a strong message.*

Jesus' words, "repent, and believe in the good news," need to be elaborated on if we want to understand what Jesus is asking of us. "Repent" means more than counting up our sins and saying we are sorry. To repent means to take a serious look at not just what we have done, but the person we have become.

Jesus is asking us to pay attention to how we are living our lives. How do we see ourselves? What are we all about? Why do we go to work, clean the house or shuffle the kids to scouts and soccer? What is our purpose?

In this world, we are often identified by what we do and what we have. We are a success if we have a good job, make a lot of money, have a house full of things. Jesus asks us to see ourselves in a different way. He asks us to see ourselves as God created us—a much-loved child, uniquely gifted, created to love as God loves. God considers us a success if—with Jesus' help—we become the person we were created to be, bringing God's love to the world.

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; they were part of God's covenant with the chosen people.

In the new covenant Jesus tells us we are God's children. He lets us know that we are expected to do more than just follow God's law. Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, a new attitude to life. As God's children we are not only rooted in the Commandments; we are expected to carry Jesus' light and his loving, forgiving attitude to the world. That is the gospel Jesus proclaimed. This is the Good News.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk about what the world would be like if all Christians lived as God wants them to live.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

What can you do to create greater peace and harmony in your home? What do you want to remember from last week? 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).

## 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 † Lester & Veronica Yell  
**Wed.** 8:30 AM † Joe Thoennes  
**Thurs.** 5:30 PM † Joel Wosmek  
**Fri.** 8:30 AM † Ryan Beers  
**Sat.** 5:00 PM For the Parish  
**Sun.** 8:00 AM † Jenny Muzik  
10:00AM † Hildegard Loeffler

## WEEKLY READINGS - FEB. 21

**Mon.** 1Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19  
**Tue.** Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15  
**Wed.** Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32  
**Thurs.** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12  
**Fri.** Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26  
**Sat.** Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48  
**Sun.** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;  
Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

## 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>
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 <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</p> <p>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> <p>Life Insurance Annuities &amp; IRAs Medicare Supplement Retirement tools</p> <p>provide for</p> <p>Scholarships Grants and Programs Member support Service opportunities</p> <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>	<p>1210 Broadway St. S <b>320-763-3040</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>The UPS Store</b> <b>ALEX RUBBISH &amp; RECYCLING</b> <b>320-763-4712</b> <b>"START SEEING RED"</b></p>
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