

The Church of St. Mary

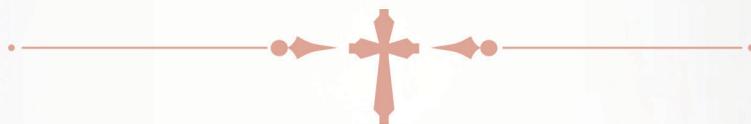
420 IRVING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, MN
320.763.5781 | STMARY@STMARYALEXANDRIA.ORG

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

MARCH 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

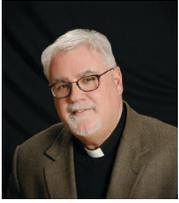
SPREAD



Many people spread their
cloaks on the road, and others
spread leafy branches that
they had cut from the fields.

MARK 11:8

FROM OUR PASTOR



Fr. Steve Binsfeld

Dear Members of St. Mary's Parish,

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. On Thursday we begin "the Triduum" or "The Three Days"—the heart of the liturgical year. Some liturgies are more attended by Catholics. But again, we ask that you **reserve seats for the Holy Week Liturgies you plan on attending** at www.stmaryalexandria.org or by calling the office during office hours. We do this *not* to be 'selective' but to accommodate as many people safely with the current restrictions due to the pandemic. People have been calling to ask that if they reserve a place, will they get seated? On Ash Wednesday many people came without reservations who were seated. This led to some with reservations *not* able to be seated. We don't want to turn *anyone* away, but we are limited to only about 325 people in a church that seats 1500 and an additional 100 in the Great Hall. So, we will honor those who took the time to reserve their places first. At this writing, the 10:00 AM on Easter Sunday is full. **If you have reservations, please arrive early with the people listed on your printed reservation to be seated.** Those who walk up *without* reservations will be asked to wait outside or in their cars until a few minutes before the start of the liturgy. So, **we will honor people who made reservations first...**then people who walk up without reservations if there is space available in the church or Great Hall. All liturgies are recorded and are still found on our website.

Holy Week Liturgies are as follows:

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at **7:00 PM**. (No 5:30 PM Mass)

Holy Thursday Night Prayer at **10:00 PM**

Good Friday Morning Prayer at **9:00 AM**

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion (with veneration and communion) **12:00 PM**

Good Friday Liturgy of the 7 Last Words of Christ with veneration at **5:30 PM**

Holy Saturday Morning Prayer at **9:00 AM**

Holy Saturday—The Great Easter Vigil at **8:30 PM** (an Easter Mass) No 5 PM Mass

Easter Sunday Masses at **8:00** and **10:00 AM**

We will be using incense at these liturgies: Holy Thursday-7 PM, Good Friday 12 noon, Easter Vigil Mass.

It is the responsibility of the hospitality ministers to seat as many as they can at a safe capacity. For these holy days, they are asked to be present 35 minutes before for instructions. Regarding seating: the colored strips in the pews simply mark the *beginning* of a 6-foot distance. Go into the pew **as far as you can** and **sit directly on that marker**, not in the middle of a section. This helps to maximize the space so that one or two more people may be seated. So, always think "*What can I do to make sure at least one or two more people have a place to sit?*" As more people are vaccinated, more are coming to Mass. Please help the ushers make room for them. It is so good to see them again.

Fr. Steve

— BANS OF MARRIAGE — I Brenton Douglass & Kristi Kopel

† We wish to offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of LeRoy Poetz.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
Envelope	\$ 20,624	\$ 23,904	\$ (3,280)
Electronic	5,297	9,769	(4,472)
Other	1,031	1,058	(27)
For March 21	\$ 26,952	\$ 34,731	\$ (7,779)
YTD Offerings	\$ 1,199,952	\$ 1,319,778	\$ (119,826)

* 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, 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, Sofi Quigley, Bev Bernholtz, Taryn Smith, Annette Revering, Vicki Revering, Gary Winters, Ben Smith, Kathy Ostrom, Paulette Bachman, Jessi Johnson, Vicki Bump, Carol Zacher, Alan Smoley, Emily Lambert, Rose Gibson, Betty, Randy, Rick, and Tony Strasser.

THANK YOU! The Alexandria Gray Ladies of the American Red Cross wish to thank all the St. Mary's parishioners who donated at our blood drives at the Viking Plaza Mall on March 15 and 16. As always, your generosity in taking time from your busy schedules to donate at our blood drives is so very much appreciated - thank you each and everyone of you! In May we will be back to having our blood drive in the Great Hall and we hope to see you again at that time.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL, APRIL 15 – On Mission for Life and Dignity! There's no time more important than now to speak up for life and dignity. Join Catholics from across Minnesota for this year's Catholics at the Capitol, a special day of prayer, education, and advocacy in St. Paul.

Be formed in the faith beginning the day with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Be informed on the issues as we hear from inspiring speakers like international pro-life advocate Obianuju Ekeocha and Archbishop José Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the archbishop of Los Angeles. Be sent on mission, joining a Eucharistic procession from the Cathedral to the Capitol before sharing your Catholic convictions with your elected officials.

The big day is April 15, but registration is already open. Visit catholicsatthecapitol.org to learn more and secure your spot. Together, we can protect life and dignity.

March is a Let's Bag Hunger Month

Due to continued precautions because of the pandemic, we will not have a food collection in March. However, the Outreach Food Shelf continues to distribute food, and the best way to help is to give financial donations with which food can be purchased. Contributions can be sent to or dropped off at: 1205 Lake Street, Alexandria, MN 56308 or in the Parish Office drop box. Please be sure to indicate on a check that it is for the Church of St. Mary March Food Campaign. Thanks in advance for your willingness to share!

ABOUT LIFE

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC) -

“Physically, emotionally, spiritually, we share basic needs for food, shelter, safety and love. Each of us has hopes, worries, fears and dreams. Each of us wants the best for our families and loved ones. **On this fundamental level our religion, ethnicity, culture, and language make no difference. Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.**” - *Dalai Lama*



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

First Communion Preparation

Our Candidates for First Communion recently had a special lesson which involved a church tour. The children discovered...

The Sacristy and the items stored there. Many people use this room to help get ready for Mass. It contains a very special sink called a "Sacrarium" which drains straight into the ground. When we clean dishes or dispose of blessed material, they are put down this sink to return it to the earth. They also discovered the meaning behind the different colored vestments Father wears during the Church Year.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel - This is a special place we can pray. The lit Sanctuary Candle tells us that Christ is present in the Tabernacle. To show our respect to Christ we genuflect before the Tabernacle. Sometimes you can see the Consecrated Host within a special vessel called the Monstrance. This is displayed during Adoration. Reconciliation Rooms are also found here.

The Church where we come together and celebrate the Mass. To help the children prepare for their First Communion they listened and learned about how to properly receive the Body of Christ from some of our Eucharistic Ministers and had a chance to practice receiving Communion.

It takes a lot of people to prepare and minister at each Mass. I want to thank **Emily Cash, Dawn Houska, Therese Peck and Jason Rauk** for taking the time to teach our children and sharing their ministries with us.



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, April 9

Webinar presentation 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

The Gathering

A Celebration of St. Mary's School

13th Annual
St. Mary's School Fundraiser
THE BIG RAFFLE
Raffle Tickets \$50 each
Only 1,500 tickets sold

GRAND PRIZE



John Deere Gator 2021
(XUV 560E 4X4: MSRP \$10,075)
or \$6,000 cash

1ST PRIZE



Matrix Indoor Cycle ICR50 with IX Console

2ND PRIZE



\$1,000 Gift Card to Elden's Fresh Foods

3RD PRIZE



iPad
(8th Generation;
128 GB with WiFi)

4TH PRIZE



Inflatable Water Park with Blower
(Over 8' high for ages 3 to 10)

TICKETS AVAILABLE:

- SMS Family
- School Office
- Parish Office

THANK YOU TO OUR RAFFLE SPONSORS:



Drawing: April 9, 2021 | The Gathering Virtual Event

Sponsored by: St. Mary's School, 421 Hawthorne, Alexandria MN 56308

Need not be present to win. Prizes will be awarded during The Gathering Live Virtual Event, April 9, 2021.

Must be 18 or older to purchase ticket or win prize. Winners responsible for tax, title and license fee. (License #: X-21001)

Purchase your tickets at St. Mary's School or the Church Office, Elden's, and Creative Touch Boutique



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

3/21	Leslie Kirscht, Alexandria	\$35
3/22	Luis Rodriguez, Alexandria	\$20
3/23	Melissa Moore, Alexandria	\$20
3/24	Gail Jasken, Long Prairie	\$20
3/25	Maxine Fromm, Fort Ripley	\$20
3/26	Jeff Doherty, Alexandria	\$20
3/27	Kathy Baudrau, Alexandria	\$20

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



St. Mary's School Alexandria

THE PASSION

Once again we hear the reading of Jesus' passion. This year we read Mark's version. Like the other Gospels, it is a long, well-staged narrative that covers Jesus' last days from his anointing with oil to his crucifixion on Good Friday.

The Palm Sunday reading from Mark's Gospel is unlike the other Gospel narratives of Jesus' last days. Mark's Gospel begins in Bethany with Jesus being anointed. There is no procession of palms in Mark, but he does take us through the Last Supper, the blessing of the bread and cup, right on to Jesus' death and burial.

Sometimes I think we know the story of Jesus' passion so well that it has lost its drama. We listen to it without really hearing it. Yet those two days in the history of the world had more impact on who we are as a people than the hundreds of millions of years that preceded it.

Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we can reclaim our heritage as children of God. This is good news. This is big news.

Take some time this week to pick up your Bible, and read the story of Jesus' last days yourself (Mark 14:32–72, 15:1–39). Imagine you are hearing it for the first time. Put yourself in the drama. Stop reading once in a while, close your eyes, and listen for Jesus' voice or the voice of one of the disciples. Read slowly and purposely. Remember the sequence of events.

If you have older children, read the story together. Pause once in while to ask questions. Ask for their questions. If you have younger children, tell them the story. Be as dramatic and compelling as possible. This is the story of our faith, and we each need to claim it as our own.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Read the story of the passion. If you have time this week, go to church and go through the stations of the cross together.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What are your thoughts and feelings as you read the story of Jesus' passion and death? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

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NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

Kidneys work hard to keep you healthy!

- Filter waste from your blood
- Regulate fluid levels
- Keep blood minerals in balance
- Regulate blood pressure
- Activate Vitamin D to keep bones healthy
- Make red blood cells

Every day, kidneys filter 200 liters of blood. When blood enters the kidneys, it is cleaned and returned to the body while toxins and waste are removed and turned into urine.

Kidney disease can disrupt these vital functions. Kidney disease occurs when the kidneys become injured or damaged. This can cause serious problems such as: heart disease and heart attacks; stroke; anemia; nerve damage; weak bones; high blood pressure and kidney failure.

High blood pressure and diabetes are the two leading causes of kidney disease and kidney failure. Some groups are at greater risk for developing kidney disease including: Individuals 60 and older and those with a family history of kidney disease.

Protect the health of your kidneys!

- Monitor your blood pressure and blood sugar
- Maintain proper weight
- Quit smoking
- Exercise regularly
- Avoid excessive pain medication
- Eat less salt and fat
- Drink plenty of water



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 †† Aloysius & Marie Sobiech
Wed.	8:30 AM †† Lester & Veronica Yell
Thurs.	7:00 PM † Jerry Marthaler 10:00 PM Night Prayer
Fri.	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:00 PM The Lord's Passion 5:30 PM 7 Last Words of Christ
Sat.	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 8:30 PM † JoAnn Zenzen
Sun.	8:00 AM † Yolanda Ayala 10:00AM For the Parish

WEEKLY READINGS - MARCH 28

Mon.	Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
Tue.	Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wed.	Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
Thurs.	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Fri.	Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42
Sat.	Gn 1:1—2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32--4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7
Sun.	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

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>512 30th Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 320.762.5330</p>	<p>NORTHWOODS CONSTRUCTION LLC Mike Klimek 320-766-8709 Dan Klimek 320-766-8690</p>	 <p>KNUTE NELSON Guided by our <i>Christian heritage</i> to serve you with innovative senior care. knutenelson.org</p>
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 <p>www.zimnyinsuranceagency.com 320-762-2124 Auto Home Business Life Health LTC Ins. 1103 Broadway, Alexandria, MN</p>	 <p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 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 & Sundays 7:00 PM</p>	<p>1210 Broadway St. S 320-763-3040 </p> <p>The UPS Store ALEX RUBBISH & RECYCLING 320-763-4712 "START SEEING RED"</p>	
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