

# STEWARDSHIP

# Our Way of Life



Living  
a Life  
of  
Stewardship

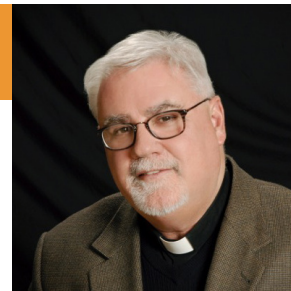


The Church of  
**St. Mary**

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## A FAREWELL NOTE FROM FR. STEVE



When a call to ordained priesthood is coupled with an attraction to being with the People of God in a given place, then the call points to diocesan priesthood. Diocesan priests are not only called from the laity; they also live among them so that they can focus their ministry on the mission and spirituality of the laity. I chose diocesan priesthood over religious order priesthood because I wanted to serve the laity and live among the laity rather than in a monastery or religious community.

I have been blest to have lived among God's people in these places: St. Joseph Church in Waite Park, St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud, Cathedral High School, Immaculate Conception Church in St. Anna, Sacred Heart Church in Arban, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Opole, St. Pius X Church in Zimmerman and here, St. Mary's Church in Alexandria. Living among you has been a constant source of blessing, strength and insight as I observe you, participate in your life and learn from you. I find people with whom I live and work to be people of simple goodness. Being able to live "with you" has made me more compassionate toward the very people I have been called to serve, making me a better and more effective diocesan priest. It has, saying it simply, been a privilege.

I notice the simple goodness of people. When in St. Cloud, I went out for breakfast with various groups to local restaurants near the church after morning Mass. Each

group knew what I liked to eat and would have the order waiting for me when I arrived. In St. Anna I would announce, "Your pastor is running low on coffee cake!" and 8-10 frozen coffee cakes would be in my freezer the next day. It was their local Polish specialty and they loved to share the work of their hands. Here I loved walking downtown where people knew me. I loved going into Roers Bakery—the smell of it and with their great breads and knowing the folks

"God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good."  
Genesis 1:31

behind the counter...and visiting Rory making lefse in the back. I would eavesdrop when kids were waiting for the bus. I learned what they thought about their parents, or stepparents or teachers and friends and what they liked and disliked. I learned how hard some of the kids struggle to cope with the world in which they live.

I have come to appreciate what parents have to go through all day as they wrestle their brood from one event to another while trying to get to work themselves. I have come to appreciate garbage truck drivers, police men and women, firemen, laborers and professionals who go to work day in and day out, struggling to keep their heads above water.

I treasured being part of your lives at pivotal moments: marriage, the birth and baptism of your children, their first communion and confirmation, as you stand watch as a parent or spouse dies. All these are sacred moments that are part of my life as a diocesan priest. I thank you for letting me be part of your lives.

I chose to be a diocesan priest because I wanted to live with you so as to serve you because you are good people, God's holy people, people who can teach me a thing or two about God as you go about your daily lives. Thank you for that privilege.

As I am being assigned to retirement, I look forward to being more spontaneous. I look forward to having brunch with my family, being a member of my home parish of Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids, where I will be living in the priest retirement apartments at Speltz House. I look forward to developing other aspects of ministry as well as developing my painting skills, playing the guitar again, maybe forming a musical group, reading more and doing replacement work. Know that you will always be in my heart as you welcome your new pastor, Fr. Matthew Kuhn. Welcome him as you welcomed me. Make him part of your lives too.





## INTRODUCING FR. MATTHEW KUHN

Father Matthew Kuhn, son of Greg and Mary Kuhn of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was born in Alexandria, Minnesota, in 1981. Father Matthew has called many places home due to his father's military career. He attended Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota for undergraduate

studies in music and education, then entered the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity to study philosophy in preparation for priesthood. Bishop John Kinney sent him to Rome for four years to study theology and ordained him a priest for the Diocese of Saint Cloud in June of 2010. Father Matthew then spent two years as a parochial vicar at the Church of Saint Michael in Saint Cloud and the Church of Saint Joseph in Waite Park. In 2012, Father Kuhn was appointed as pastor of the Church of the Holy Cross in

Butler and the Church of Saint Henry in Perham and has enjoyed nine wonderful years in this assignment. He now looks forward to coming home to the people of The Church of Saint Mary.

Music and travel remain lifelong passions for Father Matthew. He is known for cooking and teaching others to cook Italian food. He is also an avid reader, an amateur writer and composer, and a horrible fisherman.

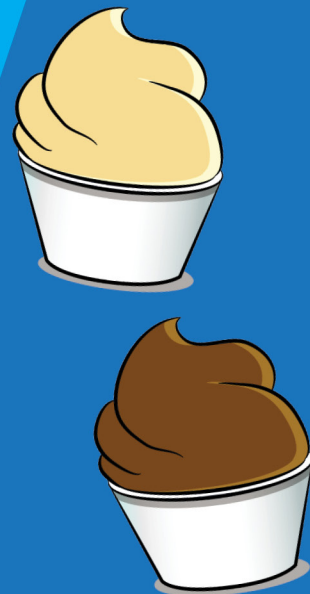
Father Matt will begin his pastoral service at St. Mary's on June 29. Please join us in welcoming him to Alexandria!

# Ice Cream

**JOIN US IN THE COURTYARD  
FOR AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
AFTER ALL MASSES**

**JUNE 12 & 13**

\*If inclement weather, will move to the school gym.



# TOP 10 REASONS TO RETURN TO CHURCH

- 10 **Your pew is now available.**
- 9 **Bedroom slippers are acceptable. (Father wears them)**
- 8 **We can sing!**
- 7 **Live Mass will not freeze up like your computer.**
- 6 **Your couch would like you to.**
- 5 **See your friends, face to face.**
- 4 **Catholic Calisthenics.**
- 3 **The bats miss you! (they can't wait to dive-bomb)**
- 2 **The Eucharist is real!**
- 1 **It hasn't been the same without you! We just plain miss you, and can't wait till we see you again!**

## A THANK YOU TO THE HELPERS

As the beloved television personality Mister Rogers famously said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

In this past year, the helpers have been everywhere. We thank you for reaching out with positive and powerful affirmations, for the many words of encouragement, for your faithfulness, and for the love and prayers for all those who could not and still cannot be with us in person. You have been faithful to this community as we have experienced something none of us had ever expected. Living through this pandemic taught all of us the importance of community and we thank you for supporting us through the worst of this pandemic.

And, as life returns to "normal," we continue to be grateful and blessed by your support, generosity, and continued dedication to The Church of St. Mary.

- The Staff of The Church of St. Mary

# TECHNOLOGY IN LITURGY

The liturgical act of offering praise and thanksgiving to God requires attentive and engaged eyes, ears, voices, and hearts. When our use of technology in the liturgy aids our attentiveness and active participation, its use is worthwhile.

As we begin the next chapter of integrating the use of technology in our liturgies, a Technology Committee has been created to address the areas of technology

integration, appropriate use of technology during liturgies, and to answer questions. Technology is playing an increasing role in worship and communal prayer. However, it is important to remember that while visual display systems and presentation software can be used to encourage participation, they have to be used carefully with a clear understanding of proper liturgical use.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the committee members:

Cathy Kinney  
Jason Rauk  
DJ Johnsrud  
Bruce Becker  
Kathy Ballou  
Erin Takle  
Laurie Youngers

\*Call the Parish Office for committee members' contact information.

## Audio Visual Q & A

**Q: WHAT IS COPYRIGHTED IN CATHOLIC LITURGY?**

**A:** Bible translations, Liturgical texts, Hymns, Religious images

**Q: WHY IS COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE IMPORTANT?**

**A:** It is important because it's the right thing to do. Not only does it uphold the law, which we are called to do as believers whenever possible, but it also honors the people who created those works - Christians who were called and moved by God to invest their time and talent into expressions of art.

**Q: WHY AREN'T THE READINGS BEING PROJECTED DURING MASS?**

**A:** The New American Bible translation is used for the readings at Mass and the USCCB (copyright holder) has not granted permission to project the readings or other Mass texts. The Introduction to the Lectionary (#4) states: "The Word constantly proclaimed in the liturgy is always, then, a living, active word through the power of the Holy Spirit. It expresses the Father's love that never fails in its affectiveness towards us." Again, the role of the assembly is to listen.

**Q: WHAT IF I WANT TO FOLLOW ALONG?**

**A:** Families and individuals are encouraged to bring their own participation aids (hand missals, seasonal or monthly booklets, etc.) to Mass. We are happy to make recommendations for a yearly missal.

**Q: WHY AREN'T MORE IMAGES DISPLAYED DURING LITURGY?**

**A:** The Technology leadership team with the Liturgy Committee has made a concerted effort to not use images as a substitute for liturgical symbols or elements in the church. To achieve this goal, the visual display system will be seen as secondary, rather than a primary focus when we celebrate Mass. The focus must remain on the mysteries that are celebrated, with any visual display system serving to support us in our worship only when required, respecting the unique nature of liturgical celebrations. The goal is to encourage praying, singing, active listening, and sitting in both audio and visual silence. Used without due care and consideration, the overuse of visual display systems can create a ritual behavior over time where the assembly will not respond or participate unless prompted on a screen.



# State of the School Report

## 2020 - 2021

What a school year it has been! I am so proud of our school family for the amazing amount of work, sacrifice, and commitment that was required to keep us learning in-person the entire year. Even though we had to follow many mitigation strategies throughout the year, we did not let those challenges keep us from having a successful school year. School staff were required to be creative in modifying or finding new and unique learning opportunities and experiences. They met those challenges with a positive and can do attitude that inspired our students and parents to do the same!

## 2020-21 SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**ENROLLMENT TRENDS** This year's enrollment was up 32 students from the previous year and next year's enrollment is projected to be up an additional 20 students! Next year's kindergarten class is full with an additional 8 kindergarten students on our waitlist. The sixth grade class is projected to be at 24, which will be the largest class since the realignment of grade levels at Discovery Middle School.

**SERVICE** During Lent the students participated in the Penny Challenge. All of the proceeds, \$1,785.38, from the challenge were donated to Hospice of Douglas County.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY** Over Christmas break, a vetting system was installed at our main doors. We now have every entry into the school locked throughout the day. All visitors are required to ring the call button and identify themselves before gaining access to the building. This new system added another layer of safety and security for our students and staff.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD TRIP** For over 30 years, students from St. Mary's School have always been provided the opportunity to attend an extended day field trip to Long Lake Conservation Camp. Due to COVID, that camp was closed for the year and we were forced to find another option. We were blessed to find a camp that was faith-based, had an open spot in their schedule and provided similar memorable outdoor learning experiences as Long Lake. In early May the students attended Camp Foley near Pine River, MN. The students enjoyed the climbing wall, canoeing, axe throwing, archery, holding snakes, and geocaching. They also got to experience the responsibilities of keeping their cabin's wood stove going throughout the night to ensure a warm night's sleep!







# State of the School Report 2020 - 2021

**SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH** With the help from a grant from the Catholic Foundation, we were able to enhance our STEM learning opportunities and meet a long-range plan goal by purchasing Sphero learning robot kits. The programmable robot kits inspire creativity and curiosity through coding and play. Our 5th and 6th grade Math Masters teams did an amazing job representing our school this year. Our grade 6 team placed 9th, and our grade 5 team placed 2nd against teams from all over central Minnesota.



5th Grade Team (pictured) L-R. Shelby Nelson, Mila Warzecha, Lucas Klimek, Jacobo Ramos, Connor Hawkins

6th Grade Team – Patrick Kleck, Brooke Nelson, Andrew Rauk, Zander Rohloff, Jackson Waltzing

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

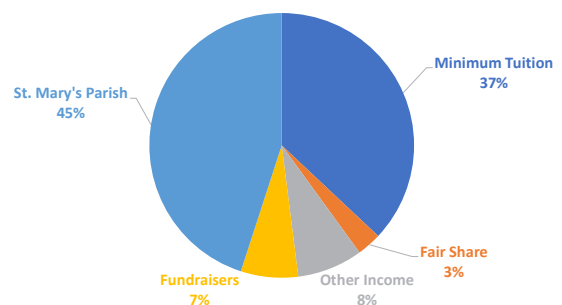
All schools, including St. Mary’s School, rely on fundraising to off-set educational expenses. Without the fundraising income at St. Mary’s School, the tuition costs per pupil would increase by \$580.00 per student! As we reflect on this school year, we are excited to report that (thanks to the efforts of the Parent Advisory Council, our generous parents and parishioners) we met our fundraising goal for the 2020-21 school year. Listed below is the breakdown of the fundraising projects and profits for the year.

Magazines/Box Tops	\$1,184
Calendar Raffle	\$24,180
The Gathering	\$104,843

We are very grateful for everyone’s support and participation in this year’s fundraising projects. We could not have reached our goal without your help. We look forward to another successful fundraising campaign next year!

The St. Mary’s School annual budget is developed in collaboration with the Board of Education, Finance Council, the Parish Administrator and the School Principal. St. Mary’s School is blessed to have strong parish support and an annual parish subsidy of approximately \$750,000.

### ST. MARY’S SCHOOL TUITION PER PUPIL





# State of the School Report

2020 - 2021

## CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR 2021 GRADUATES

This year 22 talented, respectful and compassionate young leaders graduated from St. Mary's School. This group of students is a true reflection of God's blessings. The diversity of talents and special gifts has been easily noticeable throughout the course of the year. Our graduates possess a variety of skills that will allow them to achieve excellence. They live their faith and inspire others to do the same. I thank them for all of their hard work, leadership, and service to our school, parish and community. I am confident they are fully prepared for junior high and know they will have the same influence on the next school they attend as they had here at St. Mary's School.



Avery Boesl



Leah Brittain



Aubrey Branstad



Clare Buttweiler



Ethan Buysse



Alex Flaten



Landon Gay



Isaac Henry



Kaden Holt



Kyle Jahner



Patrick Klecker



Anna Korynta



Brooke Krasky



Brooke Nelson



Grady Olson



Andrew Rauk



Zander Rohloff



Ryan Sanden



Tyler Schmitt



Gunner Sellnow



Derek Waltzing



Jackson Waltzing

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

**6TH GRADE  
GRADUATES**

CLASS OF 2021



What would life be like if you could...

Give without obligation...

Share without hesitation...

Live with the generosity of Jesus?



# HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS IN SERVICE A NEW MINISTRY



Throughout the history of the Church, ministry to the homebound has been a major part of the works of mercy in parish life. The mission of The Church of St. Mary; to know, love and serve God by living the Eucharist; also emphasizes that as we celebrate the Eucharist as source and summit of our faith, praying as Christ did, we share the Eucharist so all may be one, whether sick, elderly, or homebound.

In response to the challenge of meeting needs of elderly, sick

and homebound of our faith community; a new ministry of care called Head, Heart and Hands

The goal of this ministry is to gain greater awareness of our homebound parishioners, to recognize their tremendous spiritual contributions to the Church, and to provide opportunities that allow them to experience closer ties with our parish family.

in Service will be starting soon. This outreach group will share their presence, prayer, and deeds

through sacramental, spiritual, and charitable forms of service.

Too often, persons who at one time were visibly active members of our faith community have become isolated and invisible due to being homebound. The goal of this ministry is to gain greater awareness of our homebound parishioners, to recognize their tremendous spiritual contributions to the Church, and to provide opportunities that allow them to experience closer ties with our parish family.

If you interested in learning more about this ministry or are willing to volunteer, please call Kathy Fischer at 762-2320.

## St. Mary's Car Raffle Tickets

Pick up your raffle tickets in the Commons Area or at the Parish Office.

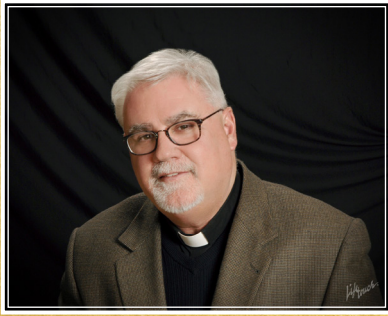
This is our only parish-wide fundraising event. THANK YOU!

**GRAND PRIZE**  
**\$20,000 JUETTNER BUCKS**  
**OR \$15,000 CASH**

Our annual Block Party was canceled due to the pandemic.

See you at the 2022 St. Mary's Block Party!

**DRAWING WILL BE**  
**SEPTEMBER 12**  
**11:15 AM**  
**AT ST. MARY'S**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
*Retirement Celebration*

HONORING

*Fr. Steve Binsfeld*

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Sunday, June 27, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

(Program 2:00 - 2:45)

Carlos Creek Winery

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The event program will be available for viewing on the St. Mary's Facebook page:  
[facebook.com/stmaryalexandria](https://facebook.com/stmaryalexandria)

Alexandria, MN 56308  
420 Irving Street

The Church of  
St. Mary

