

STEWARDSHIP

WINTER 2023

Our Way of Life



Living
a Life
of
Stewardship



The Church of
St. Mary

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IN THIS ISSUE

A Note from Fr. Matthew	2
Stewardship: Responding to God's Call.....	3
Aspiring Deacons	4-5
Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage.....	5
St. Mary's Parish Library	6
Christmas Liturgical Schedule	7
Lenten Mission with ValLimar Jansen	8



A NOTE FROM FATHER MATTHEW

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

The first Pillar of the Stewardship Way of Life is *Hospitality*. We strive to make our parishes places of welcome for all people. We acknowledge that we have to welcome people in before they can be formed in the practice of our faith, before we can pray with them, and before we can call them to works of service, they must first be here! We bring them into our lives of faith so that they may adopt a life of faith in Jesus Christ as well. We want them to have the same relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church that we enjoy.

Hospitality involves caring for the needs of the person; the word “hospital” comes from the same root word. Often our credibility as witnesses to Christ depends on first offering our works of service in care of others. When those receiving our care know that we love them, then this knowledge opens their hearts to receive the message of Jesus Christ. We care for them

because Jesus cares for them, but it is only after giving them this care that they will even ask: “Why are you doing this?”

Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Mother Teresa, famously spent time in Eucharistic Adoration before beginning her service. “I find Jesus first in the Eucharist, and then I go and find Him in the poor.” When she went out into the streets of Calcutta and found the lost and forsaken of society, they would ask her: “Who sent you?” She would reply; “Jesus sent me to you.” Having experienced the love of Jesus in her, they would then ask to meet Jesus. This is the perfect expression of the *purpose* of hospitality. We are not merely welcoming people into the community of the Church, we are inviting them into *relationship with Christ Jesus*. We offer them not

merely human community, but full Communion with Jesus, eventually leading them to the Sacraments, and ultimately Full Communion with Jesus.

Hospitality usually begins with providing for the physical needs of our neighbors, but it also demands that we care for their spiritual needs. We care for the whole person. We call them into relationship with Jesus by sharing our own relationship with Jesus. We give witness to how Jesus has made us for love, how Jesus has redeemed us from *our* sins, how Jesus has changed our lives and given us purpose within the mission of His Church. Most importantly, we call them to heaven by showing how we are living in the joyful expectation of heaven ourselves. If we fail to invite them into prayer, we have not completed our mission. If we only welcome them into our buildings without also inviting them into conversion of heart and freedom from sin, we have not shared with them the whole of our Christian joy. Until we welcome them into our lives of faith, how can we expect them to adopt a life of faith themselves?

*Peace in Christ,
Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor*

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STEWARDSHIP: RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Our travels to Wichita, Kansas for the Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conference created blessed memories and fashioned strong connections between ourselves and other Catholics from within our Diocese and throughout the country. The miles (and hours) driven were spent in prayer, reflection, and creating new memories and friendships. The conference focused on Stewardship as a way of life, with each parishioner living a discipleship role through the sharing of the individual gifts God graciously bestowed upon them. If we all live the lives that God calls us to live, not only will our individual lives flourish, but the life of our church will also. Heartfelt, spiritual hospitality within our church will allow God to accomplish great things as we share our time, talent,



and treasure as true Stewards of Christ. The 'It's always been

Stewardship is to recognize and **receive** God's gifts gratefully, **tend** them faithfully, **share** them generously, and **return** them to the

Lord with increase.

(Paraphrased from USCCB Pastoral Letter, Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, page 9)

done that way' mindset must be set aside to allow change and growth of all parishioners within our congregation, which will in turn create a stronger, more united, and abundantly prosperous church.

Stewardship is truly a Christian lifestyle, a response to God's call within the Liturgy to go forth and spread the good news to all the earth. A life of Stewardship truly makes alive the reign of God on earth, as is meant to be.

We thank you for allowing us to represent The Church of St. Mary in Wichita!

-Luke VanOverbeke,
Vanessa Mensen,
and Randy Meyer



ASPIRING DEACONS

TWO PARISHIONERS START THE PATH TO BECOMING DEACONS

After a process of discernment and application, The Church of St. Mary is happy to share the news that two parishioners have begun the process of spiritual, pastoral and intellectual education to become a permanent deacon. This step requires a huge commitment, spirit of sacrifice, and much time and energy, along with the support and sacrifice of their families. These men will one day serve our Come to the Water Area Catholic Community in many different ways. Their ministry will bear fruit known only to God at this early stage, but their lives already stand as witness to generosity and faith. Please pray for Aaron Korkowski and Adrian Panther as they begin their journey.



Aaron & Zulema Korkowski

My wife Zulema and I have been members of St. Mary's for about 10 years. I first received my calling into ministry when we were at our goddaughter's baptism. Right during the sacrament, the Lord spoke to me telling me that "You would like to do this work." I was really surprised when the Lord revealed this news to me and I said back to him in my mind,

Lord "Are you serious?" Realizing I am married confirmed that I cannot become a priest; however, I could become a Deacon. Since I just joined the Catholic Church, I was told to pray and discern of what this type of ministry might be. In the meantime, I decided to pursue my RN degree and achieved that goal in 2017. Now, 10 years later in the Catholic Church, there is still that

burning passion in my heart to obtain the Permanent Diaconate position in the Catholic Church. Being a nurse and a Deacon in the Catholic Church will be such a fulfilling ministry for me! When Father Matthew was calling on his congregation to discern who was being called into the ministry, that became the final push to reach out and

begin this wonderful journey with the Lord. When God wants something to happen, He will move heaven and earth to ensure that His will be done. The process has been going very smoothly for me. With the Lord leading the path in my journey, I am looking forward to the wonderful things to come that I can accomplish in His name. Thanks to the Lord, my wife, Father Matthew, the Diocese of St. Cloud, my family and St. Mary's for your kind thoughts and prayers as I continue my studies at Saint John's University. Amen.

God's Blessings to all of you,

Aaron Gilbert Korkowski,
Diaconate Aspirant

My name is Adrian Panther and I've been a parishioner at St Mary's since 2014 when my family and I moved to Alexandria. About 8 months ago I got a nudge to attend an informational meeting about the diaconate program. For many years I had contemplated this very thing, so was grateful for the invitation to check it out. I went to the meeting and was certain afterwards this was something I felt called to pursue. I applied, and Bishop Patrick accepted me as a candidate to the program this past summer.

I started my first semester at Saint John's University last month and am now on my way studying for a Master's of Arts in Ministry. It's been 40 years

since I graduated from college the first time around, and I'm proud to say I'm probably the oldest 'first year student' on the SJU campus!


I am grateful to our Heavenly Father, and to Bishop Patrick and Fr. Matthew for giving me this opportunity. I ask for your prayers during this time, and I look forward to serving the parishioners of Come to the Water ACC in the years to come.



Adrian & Pam Panther

July 16-22, 2024
Indianapolis, IN

will YOU
be there?



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

The Church of St. Mary is offering a pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. The Congress includes five days of talks, Mass, Eucharistic procession, Adoration and much more. This is the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years!

For a complete schedule:
stmaryalexandria -or- scan the QR code

Scan the QR code to register!
Price is \$1125 (*\$300 Deposit due at registration*)
**Cost increases after 12/31/2023*



Limited to 60 people!

ST. MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY

The Parish Library provides adult and young adult materials to educate and inspire parishioners to build God's Church across generations by living the Eucharist, which is the mission of The Church of St. Mary.

The Parish Library began as a section of the St. Mary's School library. During the 2006-07 school year, Jeanne Nelsen cataloged materials donated by Fr. Victor Kinzer, Fr. Al Ludwig, and Fr. Steve Binsfeld. As titles were added to the school library system, a form was made for parishioners to check out materials.

Few people made use of the Parish Library since the St. Mary's School library was not open during convenient hours for parishioners. At the request of Fr. Steve Binsfeld, a committee was formed to improve access to the Parish Library. Some of the materials were then placed on a movable cart in the Great Hall.

In 2023, the Parish Library was relocated to the Adoration Chapel entrance and is open during chapel hours: 7 am–8 pm (Monday through Friday)

and 9 am–5 pm on Saturday. The Parish Library has a great collection of DVDs, CDs, and a variety of books on topics central to our Catholic faith. These can be used for personal spiritual enrichment or group Bible studies.

To check out materials, you must be a member of the Come to the Water Area Catholic Community and be age 13 years



or older. Please complete a new patron form with your contact information. Use the self-checkout clipboard to record your name and the bar code of the materials

being checked out.

Donations of materials are not being accepted at this time due to the large number of items to be cataloged and limited space. The Parish Library committee has established criteria for selection of new and used materials.

Please explore the Parish Library in the Adoration Chapel entrance. As the Parish Library continues to grow, more space will be needed, and it may be expanded to include a dedicated space in the Great Hall.

"I retired a couple of years ago and got involved with the library committee by cataloging materials for the Parish Library."

- Karla Lovaasen

"I'm a former school librarian and volunteer at the St. Mary's School library. There I became aware of the wonderful collection of materials in the Parish Library and decided to get involved."

- Sandi Hoffman

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm

(incense used at Mass)

Christmas Day

9:00 am

Note: Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday.

The regular weekend Mass schedule will be in effect for the weekend of December 23 & 24.

Penance Service

Sunday, December 3, 4:00-6:00 pm



The Church of
St. Mary

SAVE THE DATE!

**VALLIMAR IS
RETURNING!**

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY
LENTEN MISSION
WITH VALLIMAR JANSEN

MARCH 15 - 18, 2024

More information
coming soon!



420 Irving Street
Alexandria, MN 56308

The Church of
St. Mary

