

St. Nicholas, Belle River

Immaculate Conception, Osakis

The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | JANUARY 21, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

The Gospel of Mark wastes no time, and the rapid pace of Mark's narrative forces us to slow down and prayerfully consider the big impact of small passages. This Sunday's Gospel shows us the beginning of Jesus' public preaching after the arrest

of John the Baptist. Jesus proclaims "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel." Immediately after this general call for repentance, Jesus begins personally calling disciples to join Him in His mission. The general invitation to repentance and the personal invitation to mission go hand in hand.

Jesus called the brothers Andrew and Simon together, and moments later added the brothers James and John. Their calling was personal, but also communal. What do we learn from this pairing of callings? I see two important lessons: first, the necessity of conversion after repentance, and second, that our specific vocations exist within the context of the Church community. Jesus does not want us to live our vocations in isolation.

When we are discerning our calling from God, we can rely on the Church to assist us. Just like the four first Apostles had each other's mutual support in their callings, so can we rely on our brothers and sisters in faith to help us discern and then live out our vocations. We all exist within the context of family and community; those who know us best can help us to see God's gifts at work in our lives and how those gifts can point us to one particular vocation or another.



In my own discernment, I had several family members who saw potential priesthood in me long before I recognized that reality. I am grateful to them for their gentle nudges in the right direction. Likewise, when we step out of line in our vocations, our peers in life and ministry can correct us and aid us in returning to

our proper path. This is one of the benefits I enjoy in sharing a household with Father Rick. Even though we are very different people, we can assist each other and call each other to holiness because we share a common calling, first as baptized Christians, and then more specifically as parish priests.

The other lesson I take from this Gospel passage is the necessity of change in our lives after we encounter Christ. Turning away from sin and selfishness requires us to turn toward something else lest we fall right back into the same sin and selfishness! Even some good things must be left behind in pursuit of greater goods. Here again the mutual support of Christians comes to our aid. By word and example, we can call one another back to the straight and narrow path. I doubt that James or John, Simon or Andrew would have had as easy a time leaving their old lives behind if they had not had their brothers and friends traveling along with them. Our companions on the journey are external consciences, serving to keep us focused in our vocations, both general and specific. Thanks be to God for those companions on the journey that make our vocations stronger and more joyful. May God grant us all good Christian friendships and mutual support in our missions.

Peace in Christ, Father Matthew Kuhn, pastor

Mass Schedules and Intentions



9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319

1/24	Wednesday	8:30 am	
1/27	Saturday	9 am	No Mass
1/28	Sunday	8:30 am	For the People of our Parishes



306 W. Oak St., P.O. Box F, Osakis, MN 56360

1/23	Tuesday	10 am	at Galeon
1/25	Thursday	9 am	
1/26	Friday	8 am	No Mass
1/27	Saturday	4 pm	† Richard Daas
1/28	Sunday	10:30 am	



420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

1/22	Monday	5:30 pm	† Estella Zavadil
1/23	Tuesday	8:30 am	† Audrie Kraemer
1/24	Wednesday	8:30 am 1:30 pm	† Elisabeth Messel at Edgewood Vista
1/25	Thursday	1:30 pm 5:30 pm	at Grand Arbor † Pat Pederson
1/26	Friday	8:30 am	† Audrie Kraemer
1/27	Saturday	5 pm	† Pat Roers
1/28	Sunday	8 am 10 am	† Elisabeth Messel For the People of our Parishes

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION

By appointment at St. Nicholas.

Saturdays at 3 pm before Mass or by appointment at Immaculate Conception. Saturdays from 3–4:30 pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at The Church of St. Mary.

BAPTISM

All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course. Call Laurie Bienias at 320-460-5325 to sign up and to schedule a baptism date.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Members of the parish (or children of members) must arrange for marriage at least six months in advance. Contact your parish office for more information.

ALL OTHER SACRAMENTS

Please contact your parish office.

Announcements

Bulletin submissions due by Tuesday at noon. Please send submissions to stmary@stmaryalexandria.org.

FAITH STUDY

Please join us in Osakis for a faith study on the Eucharist. Tuesday nights at 7 pm at St. Agnes School. This study will continue through Lent. Come any time you can!

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MARCH FOR LIFE

provided, but request in

advance. Contact Aaron at

akorynta@stmaryalexandria.org.

Monday, January 22, join the March for Life at the state capitol! A bus will be departing the Aagard parking lot (old Kmart building) at 7:30 am in Alexandria, arriving at the Cathedral for a prayer service followed by walking to the capitol to march for life 12-1 pm. The bus will return to Alexandria at 4:30 pm. Free will offering and families welcome! For more info and to sign up, call Jim or Judy at 320-219-7470.

GRILL THE PRIEST - JUST DESSERTS

All are welcome to Grill the Priest night on Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 pm at Immaculate Conception. Join us for a fun night of grilling the priest and enjoy some desserts too!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

KC Breakfast on Sunday, January 28, after the 10:30 am Mass at Immaculate Conception in Osakis. Serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, caramel rolls, coffee, juice, and milk. Free will offering. All are welcome.

YOUNG COUPLES/YOUNG FAMILIES

This newly formed group is intended to provide warm Catholic support during the busy years of dating, marriage and parenthood. The next gathering is Sunday, January 28, 2-4:30 pm in the St. Mary's School staff lounge. Look for signs to direct you. Info and to RSVP for child care, contact Samantha at 320-808-5850.

MISSION QUILTING

The Mission Quilting Group will meet Monday, January 29, 12:30-3:30 pm in St. Mary's Great Hall. No sewing skills needed; if you can tie a knot, we need you. Questions, call Joyce 320-219-0055 or Gwen 218-791-3768.

ST. ANN SODALITY

Calling ALL St. Nicholas women to attend our St. Ann Sodality meeting Thursday, February 8. Coffee/hot chocolate social at 6:30 pm with meeting starting at 7 pm.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come to the organizational meeting and sign up to join on Sunday, January 28, at St. Mary's after the 10 am Mass.

FR HERB GAPPA

Fr Herb Gappa, formerly of Urbank, passed away on December 22, 2023. Fr Gappa was a Maryknoll Missionary priest. For funeral arrangements, go to lindfamilyfh.com.

DAY OF PRAYER

January 22 is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The St. Mary's Sanctity of Life Group invites all to pray in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel 4:30-5:25 pm, followed by Mass.

BAPTISMS

Jack Randy Child of Alex & Kristin Jenniges

Walker Charles Child of William & Haley Lund

Ivy Marie
Child of
Kyle & Danielle McCourt

SYMPATHY

t We offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Fr Herb Gappa.



Announcements

Bulletin submissions due by Tuesday at noon. Please send submissions to stmary@stmaryalexandria.org.

FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES

Don't miss out! Registration is filling fast. Join hundreds of others to celebrate the family and enjoy activities specifically designed for you! Get to know other families from the diocese and grow in faith as a family. Join us at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids on February 11, 10:30 am- 3 pm. Cost is \$20 for your entire family. For more information and to register: stcdio.org/event/festival-of-families/

ACC DIRECTORY

We are looking for someone to help coordinate the Spring church directory for our ACC. Hospitality/check-in volunteers are also needed. If you can help, or would like more info, call Laurie at 320-460-5325.

PASTORAL LETTER OF BISHOP NEARY

St. Cloud Bishop Patrick

Neary, C.S.C., was moved by the Holy Spirit to write his very first pastoral letter, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." To download the letter, scan the QR code or

stcdio.org/bishop-nearys-2023-pastoral-letter. A limited quantity of hard cover books of the pastoral letter are available. Contact the St. Mary's Parish Office if you would like one.

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE



entire family. Speakers include Fr. Mike Schmitz, Fr. Rocky, Chris Stefanick, and just added....a prayer experience with nationally known musician Matt Maher! Join us for this historic event, the first of its kind in 83 years! Register before January 31 for the best price. We have less than 50 tickets left. For more info/registration, scan the QR code or go to stmaryalexandria.org.

VALLIMAR JANSEN IS COMING BACK!

Join us for a Lenten Mission at St. Mary's March 16 - 18, 6:30 pm-8 pm and a mini concert on March 15, 7:00-7:45 pm with ValLimar Jansen. ValLimar will help to renew love of our faith through Scripture, song, story and movement. She will also speak at St. Mary's Masses on March 16/17. All are welcome!

Prayer Corner

exhibit and many events for the

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 The Church of St. Mary at 320-763-5781. In order to print the bulletin in a timely manner, names must be submitted by noon on Tuesday to be added to the upcoming Sunday bulletin. Names received after will be added the following week. **Names will be published for six weeks and renewed for an additional six weeks upon request.**

Please remember these people in your prayers:

Betty Schlosser Jim Ripka Jack Lewis Tyler Pomorin Ben Smith Julie Tully Mark Petersen John McHugh Jodi McShane Jane Doherty
Ruth Molloy
Paxton Lee
Tim Cullen
Jill Borrell
Vivian Annen
Mara Duscher
Betty Stroh Ostlund
Nancy Suneson

Judy Snowberg
MaryAnn Kack
Paulette Baumgartner
Rita Wille
Nick Matteson
Michael Russell
Margaret Kirkey
Wesley Ray
Doug Karsky

Alan Tyler
Mary Lou Michel
Tammy Tolifson
Lance Schoeberl
Joe Tegels
Carl Shaskey-Setright
Thomas Gerlach
Judy Hedstrom

Faith Formation

ADULT

APOLOGETICS BIBLE STUDY

Join this Bible Study led by Dr. George Jay of Morris. Dr. Jay is a Catholic evangelizer and instructor and has taught for many years to both college students and adults in the Morris area. All men and women are welcome, as well as young adults. Next meeting is Monday, January 22, 4:05 - 5:20 pm in St. Mary's Great Hall. This group meets on select Mondays and there is no homework and no fee! For more information or to sign up, contact Connee Thorstad at 320-808-0465.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S STUDY

St. Mary's has Wednesday and Saturday morning groups that meet throughout the year. Our next study will be announced soon. All women are welcome to join us! If you'd like to stay in the loop with studies and events around the region of interest to Catholic women, please send a request to Catholicwomenstudy@gmail.com.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS IN OUR BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL...ALL ARE WELCOME!

Open Scheduled Holy Hours:

Monday: 8-9 am; 2-3 pm; 11-midnight

Wednesday: 8-9 pm Thursday: 3-4 pm

To sign up, contact Sue at 320-491-7006

or suemcculloch66@gmail.com.

ROSARY LEADERS NEEDED

Volunteers to lead the rosary 25 minutes before weekday Mass begins are needed. Sign up at the tables by the Sacristy.

PRAYER LINK

If you have a prayer request, contact Kelly Wosepka at wosepkak@aol.com or 320-815-4655. All prayer requests are confidential.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Join the Young Adult Group on Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 pm at the St. Mary's Lighthouse. All are welcome! For more info, contact Emily at 320-287-1169 or Anna at 320-733-0081.

POWER HOUR FOR LIFE

Every Monday, 4:30-5:30 pm in the St. Mary's Chapel. This is a Holy Hour of silent prayer specifically for life intentions. Join for a few

minutes or the entire hour any Monday!

TUESDAY EVENING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm, to study the upcoming Sunday readings. For more information, contact Mike Sponsler at sponslermc@gmail.com.

DIVINE MERCY HOUR

Every Monday, 3-4 pm in the St. Mary's Chapel. Questions, contact Barb Nei at 320-846-0022.

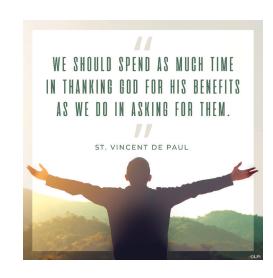
PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US EACH MORNING!

Our prayers are united via conference call and it's easy to do! Please unite your prayers with ours and join us daily. Dial 667-770-1484 at 7:55 am each morning and enter access code 653790#. Introduce yourself if you'd like. Mute your phone when the rosary begins at 8 am. Over 23,340 Rosaries have been prayed over the last three years! Questions: Judy Clayton at 320-333-9892 or Diane Gay at 320-766-7036.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Thursday mornings at 6:30 am in St. Mary's Great Hall. Come any time! For information, contact Mike at sponslermc@gmail.com.

Wednesdays at 2:30 pm in St. Mary's Commons Area. Join our discussions on the upcoming weekend Mass readings. Contact Russ Craigmile at ricraigmile@gmail.com.



Faith Formation

YOUTH

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Grill the Priest - Just Desserts - Grill the Priest night on Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 pm at Immaculate Conception. Join us for a fun night of grilling the priest and enjoy some desserts too!

MIDDLE SCHOOL TUBING

All ACC students in grades 6-8 are invited for tubing at Andes Tower Hills on Sunday, February 25, 4-6 pm. This is a free event but please bring snacks or money



to purchase snacks. Parents need to provide transportation. Scan the QR code to register so we know how many students will be there.

CASTAWAY 2024 RETREAT FOR GRADES 9-12

Friday-Sunday, March 22-24 at Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes. To register, scan the QR code. For more info, call the Faith Formation Office at 320-763-9202.



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KINDERGARTEN, HERE I COME!

All parishioners in our ACC with children who will be five (5) on or before September 1, 2024, are invited to attend our Kindergarten Parent Informational and Registration meeting on February 12 at 6:30 pm in the school gymnasium.

Prior to our meeting, families are invited to tour St. Mary's School to see and feel what we have to offer. "See Us In Action" tours will take place January 16 – February 9. Contact Mr. Sladek to schedule your tour.

If you are not registered in the parish or have family members or friends who may be interested in St. Mary's School, contact the school office for more information.

Come and check us out to learn more!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

All proceeds go directly towards the school's operating expenses. Being one of our major fundraising campaigns, it is important to our school that the raffle is a success. Tickets are available at the Hospitality Desk and the School Office until January 28!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Catholic Schools Week begins on January 28.

ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS			
1/14	Nancy Patrick, Nelson	\$35	
1/15	Andrea Biele, Alexandria	\$50	
1/16	Jon Ballou, Alexandria	\$20	
1/17	Amy Nguyen, Alexandria	\$20	
1/18	Aaron Stern, Nelson	\$20	
1/19	Abby Kinney, Minneapolis	\$20	
1/20	Clair Angland, Alexandria	\$20	







9473 Co. Rd. 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319 320-859-2390 <u>stnickbelleriver@gmail.com</u> <u>stnicholasbelleriver.org</u> 306 W. Oak St., PO Box F Osakis, MN 56360 320-859-2390 info@icosakis.org | icosakis.org 420 Irving St., Alexandria, MN 56308 320-763-5781 stmary@stmaryalexandria.org stmaryalexandria.org

PARISH STAFF

Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor	
Father Rick Aubol, Parochial Vicar	
Todd Wentworth, Business Administrator	
Tony Pasko, Deacon (retired)	thadeac@aol.com

Youth Ministries, Grades 1–12 Ginger Schroeder 612-616-7619 gingerannschroeder@gmail.com

Parish Office Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390 strickbelleriver@gmail.com

Parish Trustees
Dennis Hillmer320-766-8505
Dwayne Waldorf320-219-0409

Family Formation, Grades K–6 Terri Anderson, 320-760-9119 Carrie Drevlow, 320-491-7676 familyformation@icosakis.org

Faith Formation, Grades 7-11 Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390 faithformation7-11@icosakis.org

Parish Office Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390 office@icosakis.org

Parish Trustees Bruce Pederson320-491-7835 Dana Hetland320-760-8361 Parish Office

Janell Eddy320-763-5781

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Erin Takle......320-460-5337

Director of Liturgy & Music

Luke VanOverbeke.....320-460-5339

Communications Coordinator

Kathy Ballou.....320-460-5336

St. Mary's School Principal

Youth Ministries, Grades 1–8

Laurie Bienias320-460-5325

Youth Ministries, Grades 9–12

Tammy Huss......320-460-5324

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Patty Marriott.....320-762-2320

Parish Trustees

Mark Maloney......320-491-9165 Francie Peterson......320-360-0325

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR JAN. 14	
Envelope	\$1,430
Electronic	71
Other	345
TOTAL	\$1,846

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$1,846
Budget	2,510
Variance	(\$664)

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$81,446
Budget	67,770
Variance	\$13,676

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR JAN. 14	
Envelope	\$2,005
Electronic	292
Other	583
TOTAL	\$2,880

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$2,880	
Budget	4,050	
Variance	(\$1,170)	

	YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
	Actual	\$125,475
	Budget	117,450
	Variance	\$8,025

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR JAN. 14		
Envelope	\$26,550	
Electronic	2,917	
Other	1,557	
TOTAL	\$31,024	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGR	.ESS
Actual	\$31,024
Budget	38,496
Variance	(\$7,472)

YTD BUDGET	PROGRESS
Actual	\$1,114,963
Budget	1,116,384
Variance	(\$1,421)

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