

St. Nicholas, Belle River

Immaculate Conception, Osakis

The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

3rd Sunday of Lent | MARCH 3, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

We have come to the middle of our Lenten Journey; it is crunch time! How are you doing on making your Lent a sacred season? Are you cleansing your personal temple like Jesus?

Too easily we can focus on the violence of Jesus' cleansing of the temple and lose focus on Jesus' motivation: to keep the temple from becoming a worldly marketplace. We can too easily fall prey to distractions and earthly concerns. Our hearts must occasionally be cleansed and renewed in our dedication to God. Some earthly concerns will need to be redirected towards our heavenly goal; others will have to be driven out of our lives completely, even

forcefully. Those things which are most harmful-serious sins, addictions, etc.--must be removed so that our bodies, minds, and souls may be true temples of the Holy Spirit.

The Ten Commandments, which we heard in our first reading this Sunday, can serve as a guide for our self-assessment. Are we truly putting God first by our choices? Are we actively making holy God's name? God's day? As easy as it can be for us to focus on the "Thou Shalt Not" Commandments, we do

well to meditate on the first three Commandments during this Lenten season. Keeping our focus on building the Kingdom of God in our own hearts will bear fruit in more heavenly choices and less focus on earthly concerns.

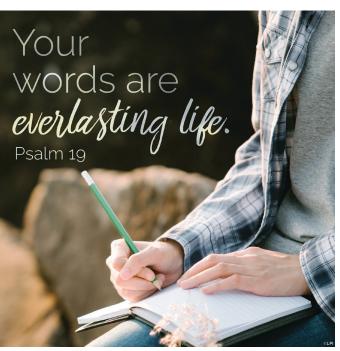
Above all other things, I urge you to make time for

private prayer in your daily life. Begin with then fifteen, then twenty. Holy Hour, you will have established a strong day, your week, and your time. May this Lenten

giving God five minutes of your time. Carve out a little sacred space for God in your day, then expand this "temple time" to ten minutes, When you have worked your way up to a full place for God in your whole life of faith. All of us could benefit from more dedicated prayer

season be for us a time of renewal, cleansing, and rededication to God as individuals and as families.

Peace in Christ, Father Matthew Kuhn, pastor



Mass Schedules and Intentions



9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319

-	3/6	Wednesday	8:30 am	Intention of Charlotte Hauer
3	3/9	Saturday	9 am	No Mass
3	3/10	Sunday	8:30 am	For the People of our Parishes



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

3/5	Tuesday	10 am	at Galeon
3/7	Thursday	9 am	
3/8	Friday	8 am	No Mass
3/9	Saturday	4 pm	†† Mervin & Velma Eischens
3/10	Sunday	10:30 am	



420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

3/4	Monday	5:30 pm	Intention of Debbie Sharp & Sharlene Jennissen
3/5	Tuesday	8:30 am	† Cheryl Castillo
3/6	Wednesday	8:30 am	† Char Berglin
3/7	Thursday	1:30 pm 5:30 pm	at Knute Nelson, † Tony Strasser † Hank Wessel
3/8	Friday	8:30 am	† Julie Hovel
3/9	Saturday	5 pm	tt Bob & Helen Gorghuber
3/10	Sunday	8 am 10 am	Parents of Sheldon & Harriet Sibell 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Mary's Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 5:15 pm in St. Mary's Great Hall.

Immaculate Conception

Stations of the Cross schedule: Wednesday, March 13, 5:15 pm Wednesday, March 20, 7 pm Good Friday, March 29, 12:15 pm

St. Nicholas

Stations of the Cross schedule: Friday, March 22, 6:30 pm

FRIDAY FISH FRY

St. Mary's has 1 more Friday

Fish Fry: March 15, 4:30-7 pm in the St. Mary's School Gym. Many hands are



needed to help, so please sign up with your family and friends at <u>stmaryalexandria.org</u>, scan the QR code or call 320-763-5781.

Immaculate Conception is hosting a Friday Fish Fry on March 8, 4:30-7 pm at the Osakis VFW. Adults \$13, seniors \$12, age 12 and under \$6.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

KC breakfast on Sunday, March 3, 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. Everyone welcome for good food and fellowship!

EASTER CHOIR

Come sing with the St. Mary's seasonal Easter Choir at the 10 am Easter Mass on Sunday, March 31. Rehearsals will be each Tuesday, 5:30-6:45 pm beginning March 5 in the church space. Contact Luke to sign up at 320-460-5339 or lvanoverbeke@stmaryalexandria.org.

ACC-WIDE PARISH DIRECTORY

Get your smile on! Photos for a new parish directory for all 3 parishes of our ACC will be taken in May and June. Sign up after all Masses on March 2/3. More information to follow for online sign-ups.

PENS & PALS

A ministry to love and serve persons in our community with disabilities through a shared supper and table top activities. Next session is Tuesday, March 5, 5-7 pm, St. Mary's Great Hall. For questions, contact Barb at 320-766-6106. Pens & Pals will be canceled if schools close due to weather.

ST. NICHOLAS COFFEE & ROLLS

Coffee & Rolls served after the 8:30 am Mass at St. Nicholas on March 10 by St. Ann Sodality. Join us for fellowship and find out more about the new pictorial directory scheduled to begin this Spring!

PALM SUNDAY TIME CHANGE

Please note that Mass on **Sunday, March 24** at St. Mary's will be at **10:30** am instead of 10 am.

ACC PASTORAL COUNCIL

Nominations for positions on the ACC Pastoral Council for all 3 of our ACC parishes will be accepted at all Masses the weekend of March 9/10.

FOOD SHELF MONTH

March is Let's Bag Hunger Month. Food shelf envelopes and the blue food bags are at the St. Mary's entrances. Return filled food bags to St Mary's Commons Area. Monetary donations can be sent to the Outreach Food Shelf at 1205 Lake St, Alexandria or put in the collection baskets. Indicate on your check memo that it is for the St. Mary's Food Drive.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE ST. MARY'S:

Thursday, March 28, 7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Friday, March 29, 9 am Morning Prayer, 12 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 8:30 pm Tenebrae Service Saturday, March 30, 9 am Morning Prayer, 8:30 pm Easter

Sunday, March 31, 8 & 10 am Easter Sunday

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

Friday, March 29, 1 pm Good Friday Passion

Saturday, March 30, 8:30 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 am Easter Sunday

ST. NICHOLAS:

Vigil

Friday, March 29, 3 pm Good Friday Passion Sunday, March 31, 8:30 am Easter Sunday

SYMPATHY

t We offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of John "Jack" Klinkhammer.

Announcements

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

PARISH OFFICE

The St. Mary's parish office is closed every Tuesday, 12-1 pm for a staff meeting. Thank you!

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

We have a group participating in a Mission Trip to San Lucas, Guatemala and invite others in our ACC to join us, May 31-June 6, 2024. We will also visit San Juan Mirador, St. Mary's partnership mission. We have many interesting activities planned. Call Joe & Betty Roers 320-808-7183 for information.

CARING & SHARING ROOM NEEDS

The Caring & Sharing Room is in need of: gently used Queen & Full mattresses/box springs/ frames, blankets and sheets, and kitchen items

ACC PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE

- There are a few more seats on the bus to the National Eucharistic Congress.
- Discussion for a new crucifix

for St. Mary's has begun and has included the Diocesan Liturgy Office.

- A group representing our ACC will make a Pastoral Visit to the Cathedral on Feb 28. They will share a presentation, attend Mass, and collaborate with 2 other ACCs throughout the day. In March, our presentation will be posted on the diocesan website – we will communicate again once it is posted.
- Council members will begin a book study on "Radical Hospitality"
- Father shared that St. Mary's is the largest parish in the St. Cloud Diocese and is the regional hub in the western two-thirds of our diocese

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE

This summer, thousands of passionate Catholics will travel from every corner of the U.S. to

experience the healing power of Jesus Christ. Why? Because the Holy Spirit has promised to revive his Church, and we believe in a God who keeps his promises! Soak in the Presence of Jesus alongside cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laypeople of all ages and backgrounds—a vivid image of the universal Church. Together, we will participate in beautiful liturgies, lift our voices in prayer alongside world-class musicians, hear from the most influential Catholics of the modern age, and make history as a part of the first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly a century. Reserve your seat on our bus to Indianapolis leaving July 16! Check it out at stmaryalexandria.org or scan the QR code.

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 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
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
Joe Tegels

Carl Shaskey-Setright Thomas Gerlach Judy Hedstrom Brad Knollenberg Richard Wagner Jeff Larson Jim Schoeberl

A Lenten Mission with VALLIMAR JANSEN



"Jesus Loves the Little Children" MINI CONCERT

> MARCH 16-18 6:30-8:00 PM

Join us for a Lenten Mission that will inspire a renewed, passionate love of our faith through Scripture, song, story and movement led by ValLimar Jansen!

ValLimar will speak at all weekend
Masses on March 16 & 17.

All are welcome! stmaryalexandria.org



The Church of St. Mary



LIVE

Stewardship

nne Frank, the young Jewish girl put to death by the Nazis, said many wise things in her diary. "No one," she wrote, "has ever become poor by giving." That may seem strange, but it is quite true. We actually find that we become rich when we give.

Jesus himself said: "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6:38) How can it be so?

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

We become rich when we give!

First of all, God honors the good steward. God is not about to neglect a servant who uses his or her talents and resources in a wise and generous manner.

Secondly, the giver who gives freely soon finds that life takes on a joy not known before. He or she sees that the time, money, and effort given to do God's work brings incalculable rich rewards. One man started his habit of giving by slipping money into the coat pocket of a homeless man whom he heard ask a restaurant owner for a meal. The giver felt so good about his secret gift that throughout the years he responded positively to many people and causes in need of a helping hand. He says that he has had many rich experiences. He also says that each year income seems to increase, thus giving



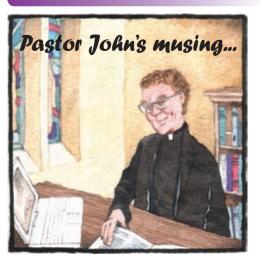
him more with which to make the world a better place.

Thirdly, those who discover the joy of giving freely also learn that they become richer in their knowledge of how to get the most from their time, talent, energy, and income.

Lastly, the good steward has the satisfaction of knowing that he or she is becoming what Jesus called "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). Yes, it is true that no one has ever become poor by giving.

What could be more strange than the attitude of those who claim their right to "own," denying any substantial obligation to give. God is the true and unchallenged owner, yet giving is his life. We are but temporary holders of a title with rights limited by time and other factors.





"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality."

2. Corinthians 8:13

Paul held up the generosity of the Macedonian churches to those in Corinth (2 Cor. 8). It seemed his desire was that they show some kind of proof for their appreciation of the Lord's blessing and sustaining power to them. He urged them, therefore to bring to completion the great work begun earlier in their ministry. It seemed apparent they had forgotten, like we often do, with what fervor and fire they had started to serve the Lord with.

We, too, could use this urging of Paul's periodically. He wanted to bring the churches in Corinth from their relaxed attitude toward giving and sharing, and found it necessary to remind them of their oneness in the body of Christ. The Corinthians had begun to take pleasure in what others were doing for God's kingdom and the sustaining of the earthly churches, and forgotten their own part.

Strive For Equality

"Strive for equality," was Paul's urging to the Corinthians. Since Christ bore the total weight of our salvation on himself, could we not at least share in the earthly ministry as a body so that "He who gathered much does not have too much and he who gathered little does not have too little?" (2 Cor. 8:15)

Stewardship Prayer

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life.

Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love.

Open your hearts to the love God instills in them. God loves you tenderly. What he gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared. The more you save the less you will be able to give. The less you have, the more you will know how to share. Let us ask God, when it comes to ask God for something, to help us to be gener-ous.

Mother Teresa

During this Lenten season and for the rest of the year we have a chance to give back a little of what has been given to us. There are a number of ways to show our love by giving our time, our money, or our talents. We must learn to give every day to add our little bit to that which Christ gave to us during that Easter season long ago.



he stewardship of all of life will lead some to enter full time Christian service. To all, it will mean an on-the-job witnessing, no matter what our abilities, our bank accounts, or our jobs. Christian stewardship means the glad contribution of time and abilities to the work of the local church and church-related causes around the world.

Because our gifts and circumstances differ, we cannot all be ministers or missionaries, teachers or nurses. We cannot all witness to Christ in the professions, like Albert Schweitzer, or in the business world, like a "Golden Rule" Nash.

But we can all give of our time and energy right where we are. This is where such gifts are most needed and most appreciated.

And the answer that the Christian steward will make, will include voluntary service in some of the opportunities in his or her church.

Of course, we do not all have the same abilities or the same material resources. Not all of us can do the same things. But all of us should do as many of them as time, abilities, and circumstances will allow.

Tithing is More

hy is it that so many of us are unfamiliar with the idea of tithing? It's one of mankind's oldest customs, reaching back to the beginnings of recorded history. The Bible mentions tithing 39 times. Christians have always tithed.

Yet, we modern Christians seem vague and uneasy about it. We are familiar with Christian concepts that ask us "to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God." And we accept that. But how much should we give?

One suggestion comes from the gospel of Luke: "Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required." Fine. But that's not very specific. St. Paul suggests a weekly offering, that tells us how, but not how much.

How Much?

One time-tested guide available to us is the tithe. When we tithe, we return a tenth of our annual income for the work of God and his church. We are to plan for it ... just as we plan for the rent or mortgage payments, for food, for clothing, for school expenses. The same way, we can set aside ten percent for the Lord.

It's Not Easy

Not everyone will find this easy, or even possible. It can require much sacrifice, considerable pulling back from your other expenditures. But you can have tithing in mind, and consider seriously how you can move toward it in the years to come.

Tithing is not just pledging money; it is another step in the spiritual journey that brings you closer to God and God's love.

Don't shudder when someone says you have no talents, for every one of us has been given talents by God, which are to be used partially in his specific work. It does not take a great deal of talent to visit an elderly person, but only the will to do so. We must make the decision to invest our talents in the services of Christ.



Congratulations to these young people of our Area Catholic Community who received the sacrament of Confirmation on March 3!

St. Nicholas

Alex Aldis Hailey Becker Reese Bostrom

Eva Eisel

Lucas Hoekstra Simon Jahner Hunter Meyers

Immaculate Conception

Kole Bogenrief Zackery Bruder Taylor Dirkes Reece Euerle Greta Faber

Addison Froemming
Asiah Froemming
Aubrey George
Reggie George
Gabe Giesler
Bryler Gustafson
Wyatt Klimek

Gavin Muenzhuber Trista Sandgren Noah Wallace Grant Winkle Jerrald Witt

The Church of St. Mary

Eva Boesl
Rowan Boesl
John Botzet
Rachel Bowen
Abigail Brault
Grace Bugher
Abby Faber
Ashton Feeks
Olivia Gervais
Mason Gorghuber
Addison Gulbranson

McKayla Hendricks Dasha Hohn Aubrie Johnson MaKenna Kleven Ellyse Knott Katherine Korynta

Kian Kramer

Alison Krasky

Christian Lopez

Brannaugh Magallanes

Heather Marquardt

Carson Melby Camree Miller

Madalvn Moe

Madalyn Moe

Dane Olson

Emily Olson

Ryan Pesta

Bryce Pilgrim

Ella Regnier

Sydni Rehovsky

Lauren Revering

John Sanden

Ellen Sansted

Logan Schmitt

Madison Schwartz

Hunter Sellnow

Ashton Sladek

Tayler Treat

Addison Twa

Ashlyn Violette

Steven Wagner

Caden Zelasko

Congratulations to these candidates who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation at a later date.

Kaleb Helberg Lauren Hornstein Dylan Nathe

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you."

Faith Formation

YOUTH

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Faith Formation for grades 7-11 will have a Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, March 6, 6:30-8:30 pm with a lesson following.

Family Formation (grades K-6) will meet Wednesday, March 6. 4:30 pm rosary, 5 pm meal, 5:30 pm lesson.

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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ST. MARY'S SCHOOL 16TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Our 6th grade Math Masters Team will compete on Friday, March 8 in Osakis

Scan the QR code to purchase your event tickets!



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ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

2/25	Lisa Chisholm, Osakis	\$35
2/26	Brandon Johnson, Alexandria	\$20
2/27	Shan Flatt, Alexandria	\$20
2/28	Chad Roquette, Elbow Lake	\$20
2/29	Milo Bristow, Nelson	\$20
3/1	Kaye Beuning, Sauk Centre	\$100
3/2	Nathan Krick, Sauk Centre	\$20









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stnicholasbelleriver.org

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PARISH STAFF

Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor	
Father Rick Aubol, Parochial Vicar	320-460-5332, emergencies 320-815-1230
Todd Wentworth, Business Administrator	320-460-5333
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

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Dwayne Waldorf320-219-0409

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

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

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Bev Paul......320-815-2352

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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
Troy Sladek......320-460-5327

Faith Formation Office 320-763-9202

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 FEB. 25		
Envelope	\$2,310	
Electronic	71	
Other	261	
TOTAL	\$2,642	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	2,642	
Budget	2,510	
Variance	\$132	

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$98,037
Budget	82,830
Variance	\$15,207

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR FEB. 25		
Envelope	\$3,182	
Electronic	516	
Other	885	
TOTAL	4,583	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$4,583	
Budget	4,050	
Variance	\$533	

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$149,507	
Budget	141,750	
Variance	\$7,757	

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR FEB. 25		
Envelope	\$41,748	
Electronic	16,067	
Other	2,641	
TOTAL	\$60,456	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$60,456
Budget	38,496
Variance	\$21,960

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$1,397,274
Budget	1,347,360
Variance	\$49,914

Bulletin Sponsors

Thank you for your support. To add your business, email office@icosakis.org



Scott Jones

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ijones@catholicunited.org



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