

St. Nicholas, Belle River

Immaculate Conception, Osakis

The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion | MARCH 24, 2024

Holy Week. It is a great honor that I may write a message this week. Still, what can I write which can do it justice within such a small space? As the name says, this week is the most sublime, the most holy of all weeks. This is because it is the finale and new beginning; what we have been preparing for all of Lent – the origin of new life in Christ. We may start Lent thinking of ourselves (let's be honest, we're more likely not even thinking of ourselves, but our immoderate attachments which cry out and complain as we fast and abstain). We think of our sinfulness one way or another, but by now, here at the end of Lent, we hopefully have at least used some of God's grace to make an opening for more.

The purpose of Lent isn't to lose weight, or save money, or even be a good person. As Archbishop Sheen says, "Jesus did not come to make us nice people, He came to make us new men!" Thus, having required us to confront our weakness and sinfulness for weeks, we come to better know the terrifying scope and scale of our need: as humans we are good, but we are not good at being human, and even our most strenuous efforts cannot fix that -- but rather than leave us to despair, the Church shows us the Gospel, the good news, that Jesus can.

And not only does she show us, as though it were an old story in a book or a play on a stage, real in our imaginations but not in fact; she opens not only our minds but the mysteries, for us to enter into, and be changed.

We begin today, of course, with Palm Sunday. We are not play acting when we read the gospel of Jesus' triumphal entry and then his Passion, we are hearing the words of the Apostles who witnessed it, the story that began then of which we are now a part. Our sins are the reason He came to die. But that's not all.

On Holy Thursday, and throughout Holy Week, we do not see Our Lord losing control, but decisively choosing to love. The Last Supper is not something that is interrupted by the Passion, nor is it a bittersweet, sentimental attempt to make himself feel better before it. It is the beginning of the greatest longing of His heart, "with great desire I have desired to share this Passover with you." And it was a Passover like none other. At the same time he kept and fulfilled the old covenant, He established the new with the new sacrifice in his Blood, and ordaining the new priesthood to offer it until the end of time. Thus, by sharing his priesthood, we may have life everlasting. This unity of us with Him is the 'joy for which he endured the Cross.'

The way we become united is in and through the sacred mysteries, the Sacraments. The first of these is baptism: the Blood and water which poured forth from his side wash us and raise us to new life, and thus the Church is born by redeeming sinners, His life for ours, so that ours are His; "no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

The Easter Vigil and the whole octave following is centered around this wondrous portal, this rebirth. Catechumens become Christians and we, the Church, the Bride of Christ, renew our vows. These mysteries are called such not because they are dark or need solving, but because they are infinite light and we cannot ever completely comprehend them; they do not fit in us, we enter into them, like entering a cloud; we cannot grasp the cloud, but we breathe it in; we cannot see everything, but we can hold His hand and follow him on the greatest adventure as He leads us home through it

~Fr Rick Aubol Parochial Vicar

Mass Schedules and Intentions



9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319

3/27	Wednesday	8:30 am	Intention of Juliette Emmert
3/29	Friday	3 pm	Good Friday Passion
3/31	Sunday	8:30 am	For the People of our Parishes



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

3/26	Tuesday	10 am	at Galeon
3/28	Thursday	9 am	No Mass (Holy Thursday at St. Mary's)
3/29	Friday	1 pm	Good Friday Passion
3/30	Saturday	8:30 pm	† Judy Buhl
3/31	Sunday	10:30 am	† Jerry Olson



420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

3/25	Monday	5:30 pm	† Pat Roers
3/26	Tuesday	8:30 am	† Char Berglin
3/27	Wednesday	8:30 am 1:30 pm	† Char Berglin at Edgewood Vista
3/28	Thursday	1:30 pm 7 pm	at Grand Arbor † Laverne Woidylla
3/29	Friday	9 am 12 pm 8:30 pm	Good Friday Morning Prayer Good Friday Passion Tenebrae
3/30	Saturday	9 am 8:30 pm	Morning Prayer Easter Vigil, † Laverne Woidylla
3/31	Sunday	8 am 10 am	† Frances Didier 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: Good Friday, March 29, 12:15 pm

ACC-WIDE PARISH DIRECTORY

Sign up to get your photo taken for the ACC-wide parish directory! Sign up after Mass, or go to cometothewater.org. For additional help or questions contact:

St. Nicholas - Margaret Zidon, 701-330-6009 Immaculate Conception -Sharon at the parish office, 320-859-2390

MISSION QUILTING

Mission Quilting Monday, March 25, 12:30-3:30 pm in the St. Mary's Great Hall. Questions, call Joyce, 320-219-0055 or Gwen, 218-791-3768. Thank you to all who donated quilt tops and fabric!

PARISH OFFICE

The Immaculate Conception parish office will be closed Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, March 26 & 28-29.

ST. MARY'S PARKING LOT

The chapel/parish office parking lot will be completely reserved for handicap parishioners and guests on the following upcoming Holy Week Masses:

Holy Thursday, 7 pm Easter Sunday, 8 am & 10 am

RESURRECTION PARTY

Immaculate Conception Resurrection Party will follow the Holy Saturday Mass, March 30 in the church basement.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

KC breakfast on Sunday, April 7, 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 for good food and fellowship!

PARISH OFFICE

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

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!

HOLY OILS BONFIRE

Do you have broken rosaries, ripped bibles or other blessed items you don't know what to do with? Bring them to the Holy Oils Bonfire at St. Nicholas on Friday, April 5 at 7 pm where we will give thanks for and repectfully dispose of last year's holy oils and other sacramentals that have finished their service.

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 Vigil

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 (incense will be used and all 9 readings will be read)

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 am Easter Sunday

ST. NICHOLAS:

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

BANS OF MARRIAGE

I Jordon Baas & Sara McGinness

SYMPATHY

† We offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Melvin Klimek.



Announcements

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

RED CROSS THANK YOU

Thank you St. Mary's Church for hosting the Red Cross Blood Drives on March 11/12. We had a very good turnout both days and appreciate and thank all the blood donors as well as St. Mary's Church for their hospitality. With gratitude, Alexandria Gray Ladies of the American Red Cross

HARVEST PACK 2024!

Come pack meals with your family, friends and neighbors to help those in need!



Friday, April 19, 10 am-8 pm at St. Mary's. Scan the QR code to register or

stmaryalexandria.org.

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.

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.

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE

St. Mary's is offering a pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis this July. The Congress will



July. The Congress will include faith inspiring talks, adoration, and the National Shroud of Turin exhibit. We have less than 30 tickets left. For more info/registration, scan the QR code or go to stmaryalexandria.org. For those who'd like to attend on their own, discounted tickets are available for \$299. Scan the code to purchase.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2024

Have you attended a baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, wedding, or ordination? All of these sacraments are supported through the ministries funded by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Help continue to support these vital milestones of our faith through a gift at stcdio.org/annualappeal.

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
Jill Borrell
Vivian Annen
Betty Stroh Ostlund
Nancy Suneson
Judy Snowberg
MaryAnn Kack
Paulette Baumgartner
Rita Wille

Nick Matteson

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

Michael Russell

Margaret Kirkey

Brad Knollenberg Richard Wagner Jeff Larson Jim Schoeberl

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, March 25, 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 STUDY

Priests take on the role of father for spiritual children. Though not biological fathers, they model God's Fatherhood by nourishment through the sacraments, offering sacrifices for His children, leading souls to God, extending mercy, and speaking truth in all circumstances. Now more than ever, the world needs loving spiritual fathers to help reveal the true love of God the Father. Join us this week as we focus on Priestly Fatherhood in our study of "My father's Father". Choose either Wednesday at 9:15 am or Saturday at 8 am in the Lighthouse. We'll have a seat ready for YOU!

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

Thursday: noon-1 pm

Friday: several afternoon and evening times 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 from 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 you are able.

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.

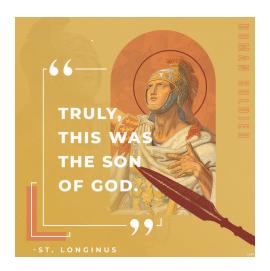
PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US EACH MORNING!

Our prayers are united via conference call and it's very 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 past three years! Questions: Judy Clayton 320-333-9892 or Diane Gay 320-766-7036

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

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

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



Faith Formation

YOUTH

No Faith Formation Classes this week due to Holy Week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THANK-YOU

St. Mary's Sunday School had their last class on March 17. Thank you to the following people who so generously shared their time and talent with our young children of the parish: Rachel Bowen, Addison Gulbranson, Ashley & Seth Lardy, Ellen Sansted and Ashlyn Violette. We appreciate you so much!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NERF NIGHT

All ACC students in grades 6-8 are invited to a Nerf Game Night on Friday, April 12, 6:30-8:30 pm at Alexandria Martial Arts located at 415 Fillmore St., Alexandria. Pizza, snacks and drinks provided. Bring your own nerf or one will be provided. No cost! Parents can drop kids off. Scan the QR code to register your student(s) to help us plan.

St. Mary's Catholic School



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SUPPORT YOUR SAINT CHALLENGE



As part of our Gathering Fundraiser, we are excited to announce the **Support Your Saint Challenge**! The goal of this challenge is to collect donations from \$1-268. When a donation is made, special pictures will be revealed on our Support Your Saint Challenge picture board. When all 268 donations are received, a final image will become visible. The picture board represents our school, where every single student counts and together we are stronger.

Track our progress! The Support Your Saint picture board will be available to see after all Masses!

Please consider donating to the Support Your Saint Challenge so we can all see the BIG picture! Thank you for your support!

Scan the QR Code to make your online donation.



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

March 28-April 1 - No School

ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS				
3/17	Jon Hilton, Huron, SD	\$35		
3/18	Lyle Berdt, Dickinson, ND	\$20		
3/19	Jennifer Hoaglund, Horace, ND	\$20		
3/20	Nicole Karelis, Brainerd	\$20		
3/21	Chad Perry, Garfield	\$20		
3/22	Jeff Lanoue, Carlos	\$20		
3/23	Sam Horstman, Alexandria	\$20		







9473 Co. Rd. 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319 320-859-2390 stnickbelleriver@gmail.com

stnicholasbelleriver.org

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<u>samonolass caenvenorg</u>	omeceleosakis.org	<u>stmaryatexamana.org</u>			
PARISH STAFF					
Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor Father Rick Aubol, Parochial Vicar Todd Wentworth, Business Administrator Tony Pasko, Deacon (retired)	320	0-460-5332, emergencies 320-815-1230 320-460-5333			
Youth Ministries, Grades 1–12 Ginger Schroeder 612-616-7619	Family Formation, Grades K–6 Terri Anderson, 320-760-9119 Carrie Drevlow, 320-491-7676	Parish Office Janell Eddy320-763-5781			
gingerannschroeder@gmail.com Parish Office	familyformation@icosakis.org Faith Formation, Grades 7-11	Music Coordinator Erin Takle320-460-5337			
Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390 stnickbelleriver@gmail.com	Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390 faithformation7-11@icosakis.org	Director of Liturgy & Music Luke VanOverbeke320-460-5339			
Parish Trustees Dennis Hillmer320-766-8505 Dwayne Waldorf320-219-0409	Parish Office Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390	Communications Coordinator Kathy Ballou320-460-5336			
Dwayne waldon320-219-0409	office@icosakis.org Parish Trustees	St. Mary's School Principal Troy Sladek320-460-5327			
	Bruce Pederson320-491-7835 Bev Paul320-815-2352	Faith Formation Office320-763-9202			
		Youth Ministries, Grades 1–8 Laurie Bienias320-460-5325			
Confidential Prayer Requests	Confidential Prayer Requests	Youth Ministries, Grades 9–12 Tammy Huss320-460-5324			
Contact Anita at 320-852-7792	Contact Rose Julig at 320-859-4170 or 320-808-0365	Pastoral Care Coordinator Patty Marriott320-762-2320			
		Parish Trustees			

\$(430)

				Francie Peterson	
		GIFTS OF GI	RATITUDE		
WEEKLY OFFERINGS F	FOR MARCH 17	WEEKLY OFFERINGS	S FOR MARCH 17	WEEKLY OFFERING	S FOR MARCH 17
Envelope	\$1,503	Envelope	\$2,520	Envelope	\$24,501
Electronic	191	Electronic	732	Electronic	7,057
Other	386	Other	359	Other	1,758
TOTAL	\$2,080	TOTAL	3,611	TOTAL	\$33,316
WEEKLY BUDGET PR	ROGRESS	WEEKLY BUDGET	PROGRESS	WEEKLY BUDGET	PROGRESS
Actual	2,080	Actual	\$3,611	Actual	\$33,316
Budget	2,510	Budget	4,050	Budget	38,496

Variance

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS				
Actual	\$105,933			
Budget	90,360			
Variance	\$15,573			

Variance

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS			
Actual	\$156,845		
Budget	153,900		
Variance	\$2,945		

\$(439)

Variance	\$(5,180)
YTD BUDGET PRO	OGRESS
Actual	\$1,512,172
Budget	1,462,848
Variance	\$49,324

Mark Maloney.....320-491-9165

Bulletin Sponsors

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Scott Jones

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