

St. Nicholas, Belle River

Immaculate Conception, Osakis

The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

## 4th Sunday of Easter | APRIL 21, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

The Good Shepherd is one of the most commonly portrayed images of Jesus. Jesus as shepherd was

subtle enough to use as a secret Christian symbol during the early persecutions of the Church. Jesus the Good Shepherd remains one of the most appealing images for us today. As much as we would not like to be compared to sheep, we do love our Good Shepherd.

Jesus used images that were accessible to all people. Everyone can picture a shepherd surrounded by his flock. But the people of Jesus' time knew that the

life of a shepherd was one of constant vigilance; not every pastoral scene is peaceful. They would also have pictured the Good Shepherd fighting off lions and wolves to defend His sheep. Jesus loves us and protects us like the best of all shepherds, and we can take comfort in that imagery.

Jesus goes beyond any human shepherd, however, by His Death and Resurrection for us. A human shepherd, having died to protect the sheep, cannot protect them any longer. Jesus, being God as well as Man, is able to die for us and continue to care for us. He can even save us from the ultimate predator: sin and death itself.

I would like to see someone paint an image of Jesus the Good Shepherd fighting off the Grim Reaper, His rod and staff clashing with the Reaper's scythe. We have images of St. Michael the Archangel stomping



on Satan and St. George slaying the dragon. We even see Mary, Our Lady of Peace, crushing the serpent's head with her heel, but we rarely see Jesus portrayed as a shepherd in action against our greatest enemies. Why is this? Jesus is the Good Shepherd Who is willing to lay down His life for the sheep, so why do we hesitate to call upon Him to protect us from evil? Why do we not trust Jesus to conquer even the evil within our own hearts?

Jesus has conquered sin and death; He feeds us with His Body and Blood; He has given us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in holiness. He is our defender, protector, and loving savior. He has already won the battle; our enemies have no power over Him. Even our desire to call upon God's grace begins with the inspiration of His Holy Spirit. We have every reason to take comfort in His words: "I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." May we have the courage to cry out in every need: "Jesus, Good Shepherd, save me!"

Peace in Christ, Father Matthew Kuhn, pastor

#### Announcements

Bulletin submissions due by Tuesday at noon. Please send submissions to <a href="mailto:stmary@stmaryalexandria.org">stmary@stmaryalexandria.org</a>.

# 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. Mary's - Cathleen Nordling, 612-889-2198 St. Nicholas - Margaret Zidon, 701-330-6009 Immaculate Conception -Sharon at the parish office, 320-859-2390

# ST. NICHOLAS PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION

Sunday, April 21 after the 8:30 am Mass. Come and listen to the ACC Council candidates, cast your vote and enjoy beverages, rolls and fellowship.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH OFFICE

The ICC office will be closed Monday, April 22 and Friday, April 26.

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST, OSAKIS

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

#### **PARTIES OF 1 - NEW!**



Are you a party of 1 by choice or by a life event? Would you like to meet other parties of 1 to socialize and make new friends? We'll meet every Saturday at 6:15 pm in the St. Mary's Commons Area by the couch and then depart for a dinner reservation. Sign up prior to Mass or up to one week in advance at the podium by the sitting area. All ages are welcome! Please join us!

#### PLANT A TREE - TREE SEEDLINGS WILL BE HANDED OUT

The St. Mary's
Stewardship Committee
will be handing out tree
seedlings after all St. Mary's
Masses on April 27/28. Be a
good steward and plant a tree!

#### **NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

April 28 is New Member Welcome Sunday at St. Mary's. Please help us welcome our newest members by joining us at coffee and rolls after both 8 am & 10 am Masses!

#### MISSION QUILTING

Mission Quilting will meet on Monday, April 29, 12:30-3:30 pm in the St. Mary's Great Hall. For questions call Joyce at 320-219-0055 or Gwen at 218-791-3768.

#### **GRAVE MATTERS**

Spring is here at last and it's time to prepare the St. Mary's Cemetery for Memorial Day Mass. Weather permitting, we will hold the spring cemetery cleanup on Saturday, May 18, 9 am-3 pm. Cleanup includes removing decorations, backfilling graves, filling low spots, seeding grass, raking leaves, picking up rocks, cleaning monuments, sweeping

roads, picking up branches, trimming trees and washing windows. Many hands make light work and we sure could use your helping hands! Come join us for the fun!

#### **VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT VBS!**

St. Mary's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 3-6, 9 am-noon at St. Mary's School. To register as a volunteer, scan the QR code or visit stmaryalexandria.org.

#### **EARTH DAY**

Earth Day is April 22. The last 100 years have seen a growing conviction that our planet, earth, is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common

home. Pope Francis asks us to consider: "What needs does the earth have of us? Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us. Our own dignity is at stake."

### Announcements

Bulletin submissions due by Tuesday at noon. Please send submissions to <u>stmary@stmaryalexandria.org</u>.

#### **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 include faith inspiring talks, adoration, and the National Shroud of Turin exhibit. We have less than 20 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.

#### ST. MARY'S ART & **ENVIRONMENT**

The Art & Environment group is asking for someone to be the co-chair of this group and eventually become the chair. For more information, call Bonnie Bromen at 320-763-9429.

#### SPRING MISSION RALLY

Thursday, April 25, 8 am-1 pm at St Rose of Lima Catholic Church in St. Rosa, MN. Hear the story of Fr Rodrigo Ulloa-Chavarry, MM who has spent time in Nepal, Taiwan and China. All are welcome! Call the St Cloud Mission Office at 320-251-1100 for info and to register.

## Bans of Marriage

II Grant Becker & Brenna Skinner

II Allyssa Engfer & Bryan Lashinski



## Prayer Requests

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 320-763-5781. 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 Jill Borrell Vivian Annen

Betty Stroh Ostlund Nancy Suneson

Judy Snowberg MaryAnn Kack Paulette Baumgartner Rita Wille Nick Matteson Michael Russell Margaret Kirkey 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

#### CONFIDENTIAL **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please contact any of the following for prayer requests that will remain confidential:

#### ST. MARY'S

Kelly Wosepka at 320-815-4655 or wosepkak@aol.com.

#### ST. NICHOLAS

Anita at 320-852-7792.

#### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Rose Julig at 320-859-4170 or 320-808-0365.

### Adult Faith Formation

#### **APOLOGETICS BIBLE STUDY**

Join this Bible Study led by Dr. George Jay of Morris. Dr. Jav is a Catholic evangelist and instructor and has taught for many years to both college students and adults in the Morris area. All men, women, and voung adults are welcome. Next meeting is Monday, April 22, 4:05-5:20 pm in the 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**

Our world is desperately in need of a JOYFUL Christian witness. Filmed in the Holv Land, we'll walk through the Joyful Mysteries in 7 sessions. This study is free, has no homework, and you can watch the videos at home if you are unable to be at all the sessions. All women of our ACC are welcome to join us for this powerful series. We'll meet Wednesdays at 9:15 am beginning May 1 and \*NEW" Thursday evenings at 6 pm beginning May 2 in the Lighthouse. Choose the session that best fits your schedule. For more info & to reserve your seat, contact Lori at 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 Tuesday: 6-7 pm Friday: several afternoon and evening times

320-491-7006 or suemcculloch66@gmail.com.

Contact Sue at

#### ROSARY LEADERS NEEDED

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

#### 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 <a href="mailto:sponslermc@gmail.com">sponslermc@gmail.com</a>

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 rjcraigmile@gmail.com.



### Youth Faith Formation

#### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Faith Formation for grades 7-11 will meet Wednesday, April 24 for a family fun night and potluck supper, 6:30-8:30 pm.

#### **EVENING OF WORSHIP & ADORATION**

All students in grades 9-12 are invited to an Evening of Worship & Adoration on Sunday, May 19, 5-7:30 pm at St. Paul's Church in Sauk Centre. Supper provided along with music, adoration, youth testimonials, prayer teams, confession and priest talks. Rides are provided from St. Mary's leaving at 4:15 pm returning around 8:15 pm. Scan the QR code to register.

#### **RENEW YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT**

All ACC youth in grades 9-12 are invited to movie night on Sunday, April 28, 6:30 pm at

Midway 9 Theater in Alexandria. The movie is Unsung Hero. Meet in the theater entryway by 6:30 pm. Tickets are covered, but bring money for snacks. Scan the QR code to register.



#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024**

Sonrise National Park VBS is scheduled for June 3-6, 2024, 9 am - noon at St. Mary's School for children ages 4 - grade 3. Scan the QR code or visit stmaryalexandria.org to register your child.





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#### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL 16TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 26 | 5:30 PM CROOKED WILLOW EVENT TICKETS: \$50**

Purchase your tickets here or at the school office



#### **Live Auction Items!**

- Principal's Purse
- Paddle North Loon's Nest
- Principal for the Day
- Genesis Bow and Archery Membership to the Alexandria Shooting Park
- Parkapalooza
- St. Mary's Hockey Jersey
- Front Row Seats + VIP Parking for the St. Mary's School 2024 **Christmas Program**
- **Evolve Orthodontic Treament**
- Father Matthew Dinner

#### ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS 4/14 Sandy Lauer, Alexandria \$35 4/15 \$50 Cindy Sponsler, Alexandria 4/16 Jeff Johnson, Alexandria \$20 4/17 Del Rhode, Buffalo \$20 4/18 \$20 Eric Ristvedt, Alexandria 4/19 Brittney Best, Alexandria \$20 4/20 Dawn Crouse, Alexandria \$20

## Mass Schedules and Intentions



#### 9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319

4/24	Wednesday	8:30 am	Intention of C & D Hauer Family
4/27	Saturday	9 am	No Mass
4/28	Sunday	8:30 am	tt Frank & Vivian Murphy



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

4/23	Tuesday	10 am	at Galeon
4/25	Thursday	9 am	Steve & Karen Samek Anniversary
4/26	Friday	8 am	No Mass
4/27	Saturday	4 pm	† Don Dirkes
4/28	Sunday	10:30 am	For the People of our Parishes



#### 420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

4/22	Monday	5:30 pm	† Julie Jenson
4/23	Tuesday	8:30 am	Frank Mareck Family
4/24	Wednesday	8:30 am 1:30 pm	†† Mathilda & Louis Gimpl at Edgewood Vista, † Patricia (Pat) Pederson
4/25	Thursday	1:30 pm 5:30 pm	at Grand Arbor Int of Jamie † Julie Hovel
4/26	Friday	8:30 am	† Char Berglin
4/27	Saturday	5 pm	For the People of our Parishes
4/28	Sunday	8 am 10 am	Intention of Ron Berglin † Brian Kohler

### 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.







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

stnickbelleriver@gmail.com stnicholasbelleriver.org 306 W. Oak St., PO Box F Osakis, MN 56360 320-859-2390 office@icosakis.org | icosakis.org 420 Irving St., Alexandria, MN 56308 320-763-5781 stmary@stmaryalexandria.org stmaryalexandria.org

#### PARISH STAFF

Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor	320-460-5335, emergencies 320-815-1230
Father Rick Aubol, Parochial Vicar	
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 <a href="mailto:strickbelleriver@gmail.com">strickbelleriver@gmail.com</a>

Parish Trustees
Veronica Haavig......320-491-2132
Duane Waldorf.....320-219-0409

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 Office
Janell Eddy ......320-763-5781

Music Coordinator
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 Bienias ......320-460-5325

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 APRIL 14	
Envelope	\$1,920
Electronic	165
Other	298
TOTAL \$2,383	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	2,383
Budget	2,510
Variance	\$(127)

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$119,571	
Budget	100,400	
Variance	\$19,171	

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 14	
Envelope	\$4,007
Electronic	292
Other	325
TOTAL 4,624	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$4,624
Budget	4,050
Variance	\$574

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$175,376	
Budget	170,100	
Variance	\$5,276	

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 14	
Envelope	\$33,899
Electronic	8,391
Other	2,611
TOTAL	\$44,901

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$44,901	
Budget	38,496	
Variance	\$6,405	

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$1,663,277
Budget	1,616,832
Variance	\$46,445

## **Bulletin Sponsors**

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ijones@catholicunited.org



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