

St. Nicholas, Belle River

Immaculate Conception, Osakis

The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

5th Sunday of Easter | APRIL 28, 2024

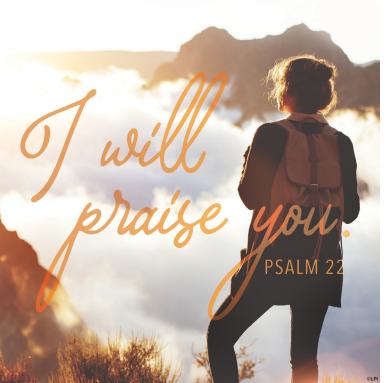
LUKE'S LATEST LITURGICS

I traveled to Arizona for a week back in January to visit my grandparents. I brought back a few souvenirs, my favorite one being a tiny golden-barrel cactus plant. Three months later, even after not having watered or repotted it (yet), it is still going strong. Looking back, I think one of my motivations for bringing back the cactus plant was to have another memento that could last a lifetime. Where even fifty-some

years later I could derive some sort of comfort from something familiar. Life can change fast. Cactus plants don't (I think)?

There is a similar sentiment in this weekend's readings. If we remain in Christ and do his will, we will bear much fruit in our lives. If we remain as close and familiar to Christ as vines and branches do to each other, we will truly live and thrive. But like plants, we can really only thrive by remaining rooted. As Jesus says, plants that are not rooted wither and are thrown into the fire. One of the primary rules of

gardening is that you better do something fast if you accidentally uproot something other than weeds. At first glance the words of Jesus might seem harsh. I'm



not sure it really is harsh as much as it is fact and reality. God created us, as part of our human nature, to strive towards good. To strive towards a deeper relationship with him and others. If we want to continue growing in goodness, it would make sense that we would need to look to someone else who is more good than us.

And still, Jesus knows how hard this can be. The most important thing is to keep seeking; to try,

try again. Find others who are seeking the same good and journey with them. Bear much fruit together. Pray every day and reflect on the gifts and talents that God has given you to use. Adopt a cactus near you.

The world more than ever needs your gifts. Happy continued Easter!

~Luke VanOverbeke Director of Liturgy & Music

Announcements

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

ACC-WIDE PARISH DIRECTORY

Sign up to get your photo taken for the ACC-wide parish directory! Sign up after Mass, or go to <u>cometothewater.org</u>. 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

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!

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 Tuesday, May 14, 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.

CELEBRATION!

Juice, coffee and rolls will be served after Mass at St. Nicholas on Sunday, May 5, in honor of our 2024 Graduates, Newly Confirmed and First Communicants. Plan to join us for fellowship and celebration!

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

May 12 following 8:30 am
Mass at St. Nicholas. Pancakes,
Sausage and the works.(Gluten
free pancake option available)
** Husbands, sons and all
men are encouraged to cook
and serve mom! To volunteer,
contact: Missy at 320-4912003 or Veronica via text or
message at 320-491-2132.
Sponsored by St. Nicholas
Parish Life Committee

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.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION

On Sunday, April 21, Leon Breun and John Loomis were elected as St. Mary's ACC council members, and Evan Koering was elected as an ACC St. Nicholas council member. Mary Gorghuber and Randy Kinney of St. Mary's and Margaret Zidon of St. Nicholas will complete their terms and be leaving the council. Thank you to all who accepted the nominations for the Pastoral Council Discernment process!

THANK YOU

Huge thank you to the many who are volunteering for new ministries with the recent renewal at Immaculate Conception. It's rewarding to see more involvement in our parish. THANK YOU!!

EARTH DAY

Earth Day invites us to promote awareness of the health risks of plastics. The world's plastic problem is more pervasive than we fully grasp. Earthday. org provides a series of visual learning experiences entitled "How Much Do You Know About Earth". Creation is God's idea - we are asked to care for God's creation, our common home, planet Earth.

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ACC PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The ACC Pastoral Council met on April 16 and discussed: Introduction regarding Chris Stefanick; Reboot Program. When: Oct. 23, 2024 @ 7-9 pm. Who: All ACC and surrounding churches. Where: St. Mary's

- Pictorial Directory:
 St. Mary's, St. Nick's & Immaculate Conception
 ALL ACC families are invited to SIGN UP to get your family picture in the directory. The directory is very important to our staff and priests to help get to know you.
- Book discussion on Radical Hospitality continued
- The Pastoral Council consented to a larger crucifix for St. Mary's. Since this was not part of our current planbudget and is of significant dollars, the finance council is required to approve the expenditure. They will review

- at future meeting.
- Committee reports were shared, including administrative update on Faith Formation restructuring (hirings), and progress on facility projects. In addition, committee representatives are asked that, when they submit their minutes to Janell at the St. Mary's parish office, they also email them to Kathy Ballou so they can be uploaded to our website for all parishioners to view. This will be a work in progress.

Bans of Marriage

III Grant Becker & Brenna Skinner

III Allyssa Engfer & Bryan Lashinski

I Rodney Johnson & Kimberly Meyer

Baptisms

Savannah Marie Rose Campbell Skylar Stella Star Campbell Children of Stella Asani

> Violet Pearl Child of Matthew & Addie Verant

> > Raleigh Jean Child of Ryan & Kayla Walsh

Sympathy

t We offer our sympathy and promise of prayers to the family and friends of Jerry Glisky, Phyllis Kern, and Linda Evander.

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
Carl Shaskey-Setright
Thomas Gerlach

Judy Hedstrom

Brad Knollenberg Richard Wagner Jeff Larson Jim Schoeberl Greg Retzlaff

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

CATHOLIC WOMEN STUDY

"I have told you this so my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." - John 15:1
Join us as we discover how joy is deeply woven into scripture, and how true joy is found in Christ. Our Mysteries of the Rosary study begins this week as we delve into the Joyful Mysteries. Choose either Wednesday, May 1 at 9:15 am or Thursday, May 2 at 6:00 pm and meet in the Lighthouse. We'll have a seat ready for you! For more info, 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

Contact Sue at 320-491-7006 or suemcculloch66@gmail.com.

Youth Faith Formation



Congratulations to these young people of our Area Catholic Community who recently received the sacrament of First Communion!

St. Nicholas of Belle River

Madelyn Harren Ezra Hoekstra Blake Moening

Immaculate Conception Church

Noelle Bjerketvedt Madeline Boogaard

Eden Braatz Xavier Bruder Nathan Drevlow Mikayla Dropik

Ella Gay Quinn Kalpin LilyAnn Messer Gage Olschlager

Olivia Reed Liam Shrode

The Church of St. Mary

Stella Berg Fitzgerald Bristow

Milo Bristow

Addison Byron

Savannah Campbell

Skylar Campbell

Connor Cass

Maelee DelZoppo

Chloe Diede Mataya Feil

Oliver Folkestad

Yaretzy Gomez Barron

Allen Gomez Garcia

Lizbeth Gomez Garcia

Nellie Graham

Zoey Harren Everett Hawes

Matthias Heinrich

Brier Hvezda

Axel Johnson

Sarah Kirscht Evelyn Larsen

Jaime Lopez

Brielle Pasague

Olive Paulson

Christopher (CJ) Roeder

Mason Roeder

Ethan Schutz

Dominic Shiek Sierra Smith

Harrison Steiner

Jacob Summer

Greyson Thoennes

Brooke Trousil

Matthew Wencl

Elizabeth Wiita

Lillian Wiita

Youth Faith Formation

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 and 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, 6:15 pm at Midway 9 Theater in Alexandria. The movie is Unsung Hero. Meet in the theater entryway by 6:15 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 IS HIRING!

Position Available: Third Grade Teacher Effective: 2024-2025 School Year Application Deadline: May 12, 2024



St. Mary's School is accepting applications for a 1.0 FTE in third grade for the 2024-25 school year. St. Mary's is a growing Catholic School that offers competitive salary and benefits. Current Minnesota licensure is required and a practicing Catholic is preferred.

Application Procedure:

Please send a letter of interest, resume, letters of recommendation, current copy of teaching license and transcripts to:

Troy Sladek, Principal St. Mary's School 420 Irving Street Alexandria, MN 56308



ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS			
4/21	Brooklyn Ostlund, Alexandria	\$35	
4/22	Wayne DeCock, Alexandria	\$20	
4/23	Stuart Wood, Alexandria	\$20	
4/24	Brad Roske, Alexandria	\$20	
4/25	Larry Sayre, Alexandria	\$20	
4/26	Brad Haugen, Silver Lake	\$20	
4/27	Maya Perry, Garfield	\$20	

Mass Schedules and Intentions



9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319

5/1	Wednesday	8:30 am	Intention of C. Emmert
5/4	Saturday	9 am	Intention of C & D Hauer Family
5/5	Sunday	8:30 am	Intention of D Hauer



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

4/30	Tuesday	10 am	at Galeon, † Marlene Kreemer
5/2	Thursday	9 am	
5/3	Friday	8 am	
5/4	Saturday	4 pm	For the People of our Parishes
5/5	Sunday	10:30 am	† Kenneth Kulzer



420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

Monday	5:30 pm	† Chuck Hanson
Tuesday	8:30 am	Living Members of Christian Mothers
Wednesday	8:30 am	†† Margaret & John Williams
Thursday	1:30 pm 5:30 pm	at Knute Nelson, † John Burghardt †† Fr Rowan & Fr O'Reilly
Friday	8:30 am	Deceased Members of KC Council #4718
Saturday	5 pm	†† Sr Judith & Sr Alma
Sunday	8 am 10 am	For the People of our Parishes Edlund, Sorenson, Tyler Families
	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	Tuesday 8:30 am Wednesday 8:30 am Thursday 1:30 pm 5:30 pm Friday 8:30 am Saturday 5 pm Sunday 8 am

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

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 strickbelleriver@gmail.com

Parish Trustees
Veronica Haavig......320-491-2132
Dwayne 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 Trustees
Mike Helwig303-887-9079
Bev Paul...................................320-815-2352

Parish Office Janell Eddy320-763-5781

Music Coordinator
Erin Takle320-460-5337

Director of Liturgy & Music Luke VanOverbeke320-460-5339

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 APRIL 21		
Envelope	\$2,651	
Electronic	131	
Other	396	
TOTAL	\$3,178	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	3,178	
Budget	2,510	
Variance	\$668	

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$122,749	
Budget	102,910	
Variance \$19,83		

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 21		
Envelope	\$2,033	
Electronic	855	
Other	443	
TOTAL	3,331	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$3,331	
Budget	4,050	
Variance	\$(719)	

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS			
Actual	\$178,707		
Budget	174,150		
Variance	\$4,557		

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 21		
Envelope	\$26,330	
Electronic	6,986	
Other	2,489	
TOTAL	\$35,805	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$35,805
Budget	38,496
Variance	\$(2,691)

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	\$1,699,082
Budget	1,655,328
Variance	\$43,754

Bulletin Sponsors

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ijones@catholicunited.org



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