

St. Nicholas, Belle River

Immaculate Conception, Osakis

The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

Palm Sunday | APRIL 13, 2025

Administrative Update:

The primary focus in administration at this time is on the annual plan for 2025-26 (budget) and the diocesan strategic planning process of All Things New. The diocese has identified 5 **Guiding Principles** to lead us through this planning process, they are:

- **1. Missionary Discipleship** we are guided by a desire to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world by living and sharing a life of faith.
- 2. Sacramental Life we are guided by an invitation to encourage the full, conscious and active participation of the faithful in sacramental life and prayer of the Church.
- 3. Engaging the Laity God has given each person a unique set of gifts. We are guided by our strengths to stimulate renewal in the Church.
- **4. Listening as a Way of Being Church** The Holy Spirit calls us to pray, listen, and discern together what God is asking of us today. We are guided by learning to best respond to the spiritual needs of all people.
- 5. Prudent Stewardship All our resources are gifts from God. We are guided by the use of resources to achieve our shared mission in a healthy and responsible way.

The diocese has also identified 19 design parameters to serve as a framework for updating our strategic plan. They cover 6 major areas: 1) Accessibility to Sunday Mass, 2) Budgeted Ministries, 3) Pastors/Priests, 4) Buildings, 5) Governance, and 6) Finances. Our ACC is doing very well with nearly all of these parameters, but there are a few parameters that we will need to address,

and it will be challenging. I ask you to pray for our ACC planning team and our diocese as we work through the process. I encourage you to stay educated on the process by spending some time on the webpage, https://stcdio.org/all-things-new/ and paying attention to the monthly Central MN Catholic magazine. As we wrap up this year's Lenten journey and look forward

with hope and joy to the Easter season, I encourage you to participate in a 2-hour shift to pack nutritious meals at

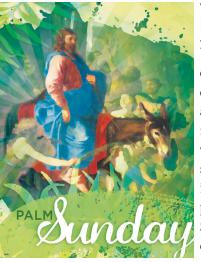
our *Harvest Pack* food packing event on Friday, April 25. We came together as community for the fish fries. Any net profit from the fish fries, along with a budgeted portion of our regular sacrificial offerings, will go to purchase ingredients for the 75,000 meals we plan to pack. Cost of ingredients is \$22,500! As a Church we once again come together, sharing our God-given strengths and time, to pack nutritious

meals for those who are hungry or otherwise struggling.

I encourage you to invite others (family, friends, or coworkers) to join you. Even better, form a team of up to 10 members from your work or golf league to share your time and talents as you kick off Easter. May you be intentional and make this Holy Week and Triduum most impactful in your lives and thus, in the lives of all whom you meet on a daily basis. May they know Christ, because they encountered you.

With Gratitude,

Todd Wentworth - Business Administrator



Announcements

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

ST NICHOLAS COFFEE & ROLLS

Coffee and rolls will be served after Mass April 13. Come for food and fellowship!

HARVEST PACK DATE

Please consider helping with the annual Harvest Pack effort on Friday, April 25. We hope to put together 75,000 oatmeal packages to be distributed in the Alexandria Area, as well as other places throughout MN. Monetary donations are accepted, but your presence during the pack itself is important. If interested in helping, there will be two-hour shifts starting at noon through 8:00 pm. Encourage friends,

co-workers, and service groups to sign up on the parish website or use this QR code.



SPRING MISSION RALLY IN ALEXANDRIA

The Church of St. Mary in Alexandria will host the Spring Mission Rally on Wednesday, April 23. Light breakfast and registration begins at 7:30 am, followed by Mass with Bishop Neary at 8:30 am. Hear from missioners and receive other updates from the mission office. To register, contact and pay the Mission Office at 320-251-1100 by Monday, April 14. Cost is \$10.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The Daughters of Isabella will meet Thursday, April 24, at 5:10 pm for Rosary and 5:30 pm for Mass. Meeting is in the Commons Area. Lunch will follow in the Great Hall. All Catholic women in the area are welcome to join in the fellowship. Contact Maxine at 320-815-4296 with questions.

SIGN UP FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD

The Church of St. Mary is going to be helping to build a home at 1508 Summer Ln, Alexandria. To sign up to help, pick either the morning shift from 8:00 am to Noon (lunch 12:00-12:30) or the afternoon shift from 12:30 to

4:00 pm through this QR Code. The date for the St. Mary's build is **May 22** and the group registration code is **"mary25"**.



HABITAT BUILD WITH ST. NICKS AND ICC

Immaculate Conception and St. Nick's are also going to be helping to build a home at 1507 Summer Ln, Alexandria. The date for this build is **April 30**. Please contact Bob Brillhart at 320-217-3292 for available AM or PM shifts.

EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR SOUGHT

St. Nicholas Church is looking for a part-time Evangelization Coordinator for this summer. The key responsibilities will include helping with volunteer coordination, ministry support, hospitality, and being a contact person for new parishioners. Hourly wage is \$19/hr. If you are an active, practicing Catholic member of St. Nicholas Church, and feel a calling for this kind of work, please contact Mike Ponicki at 763-238-7334 for more information. Thank you!

PICTURE DIRECTORIES ARE

HERE! The picture directories have arrived! If you had your picture taken or submitted a photo, please pick up your copy in the Commons Area.

ACC PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Thank you to all currently discerning their nomination to the CTTW Pastoral Council. The the time for the Discernment Process speeches and the candidates for each parish are listed below:

St Mary's: APRIL 27 - At 9:15 am (After the 8:00 am Mass.)

Candidates:
Dan Eckstein
Cindy Gulbrandson
Maria Lopau
Julie Meyer
Mike Sponsler
Ben Summer

St. Nicholas: APRIL 27 - After the 8:30 am Mass.

Candidate: Darcy Thesing

Immaculate Conception:

MAY 4 - After the 10:30 am Mass.

Candidates: Iris Krebsbach Mary Kay Pederson Marianne Shrode.

GUATEMALA MISSION PARTNERSHIP - SAN JUAN MIRADOR HOUSES

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, two houses were built in San Juan Mirador, our mission partner in Guatemala. Please see the email blast for photos and information. Mr. Herrera Menchu and the Perez Blanco family now have safe, healthy, and dignified housing. Please pray for them and the community of San Juan Mirador.



Announcements

Bulletin submissions due by Tuesday at noon. Please send submissions to style="style-type: center;">style="style-type: center;">style="style-type: center;">style="style-type: center;">style="style-type: center;">style=type: center; submissions due by Tuesday at noon.

HANDICAPPED PARKING DURING HOLY WEEK

The Church of St. Mary Parish Office parking lot will be reserved for our handicapped guests for the following Masses:

Palm Sunday - 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Thursday - 7:00 pm Easter Sunday - 8:00 & 10:00 am

FLYERS/BROCHURES IN COMMON SPACE

Thanks for your passion on your events and happenings, but please do not leave brochures and flyers lying about at the hospitality desk, or on the bench in the Parish Library outside of the Chapel. Please contact our Communications Coordinator if you have information you want parishioners to know about. Contact Joe at ikorkowski@ stmaryalexandria.org or call 320-460-5336. Help us communicate your message while also keeping our worship spaces clean and welcoming. Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT



ICC

During Holy Week Immaculate Conception Church in Osakis will hold Stations of the Cross services on Wednesday at 6:30 pm and on Good Friday at 12:30 pm.



Bans of Marriage

- II Alexander Lawyer & Emma Kedrowski
 - II Kyle Middendorf & Miranda Haug

ST. MARY'S EMAIL BLAST

Our email blast is bi-monthly and contains information for our whole ACC. To sign up, go to stmaryalexandria.org, and scroll down and fill out form.

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:

Paulette Baumgartner Gene Burghardt Jill Borrell Bruce Campbell Danielle Carver Darlene Chermak Jane Doherty Mary Earle Ron Goracke Gene Grave Mary Ann Kack Doug Karsky Brad Knollenberg Becky Kraker
Wayne La Fore
Jeff Larson
Nick Matteson
John McHugh
Mary Lou Michel
Tyler Pomorin
Greg Retzlaff
Michael Russell
Alicia Salfer
Karen Samek
Betty Schlosser
Jim Schoeberl

Carl Shaskey-Setright Ann Smidt Anna Solheid Betty Stroh Ostlund Tammy Tolifson Julie Tully Ken Volk Mary Volk Richard Wagner Edith Waller Marbee Willis

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PLANS

Celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, which concludes the Octave of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday was originally



based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her visions of Jesus. It is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Catholic Church.

This year we are happy to announce two speakers at the event. Our first speaker is Leah Brix. She is a published author of St. Joseph's Hammer and the co-founder of Catholic Country Chronicles. She is passionate about the Catholic faith and making it accessible to everyday people. The second speaker is Director of the Office of Vocations, Fr. Doug Liebsch, from the All Called to Christ ACC.

Divine Mercy Sunday will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, **April 27**, from 1:00 - 3:30 pm. There will be adoration and an opportunity for reconciliation.

MEN'S AFTERNOON STUDY

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.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENAS

In preparation for the upcoming Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus has asked us to pray The Novena to the Divine Mercy from Good Friday for 9 days to the Saturday leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday. Diary of Saint Faustina 1209:

"I desire that during these 9 days you bring souls to the Fountain of My Mercy, that they may draw therefrom the strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death. On each day, you will bring to My Heart a different group of souls, and you will immerse them in this ocean of My Mercy, and I will bring these souls into the house of My Father. I will deny nothing to any soul whom you will bring to the fount of MY Mercy."

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR OCIA CANDIDATES

Please continue to pray for our candidates coming into the Catholic church this Easter Vigil: Nicole Colegrove (catechumen), Travis Brutlag, Dana Gorghuber, Anna Maxwell, Brian Reese, Ashley Shrode, Riley Sigdahl, and Erik Spangrud

ROSARY AT GRAND ARBOR

Every Monday at 10:30 am, Mike Sponsler will lead a praying of the rosary in the chapel at Grand Arbor on the lower level. To get to the chapel, take the stairs at the main entrance to the lower level and turn left. Everyone is welcome to join.

ROSARY LEADERS NEEDED

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

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.

Questions: Judy Clayton 320-333-9892 or Diane Gay 320-766-7036

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 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

MEN'S MORNING STUDY

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

Youth Faith Formation

PALM SUNDAY PAINTING

Open to 12 young ladies in grades 8-12 on Palm Sunday, April 13, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Lighthouse. Artist LuWanna Johnson will guide

you through creating an art piece exploring mixed media art techniques. In the end you'll have a prayerful and unique piece of art. Open to the first 12 girls who apply. Scan QR Code to sign up. No charge as the supplies are provided for you.



NCYC Embark on a three-day transformative journey at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis November 20-22, 2025. Early Bird registration deadline April 12, \$310 down payment

CONSUMED 2025- STEUBENVILLE

Students in grades 8-12 are encouraged to register for the Steubenville Consumed Conference in Rochester, MN July 11-13.

Registration closes April 21. Contact Cassie at 320-460-5338 or go online to the youth ministryhigh school page on the parish website for more details.

BREAKFAST WITH FATHER

Enjoy a free breakfast with Father on Wednesday, April 16, from 7:00-8:00 am in the Great Hall. Bring a Bible and a friend and enjoy time together with other 8-12 grade students in our ACC.

MORE YOUTH EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

https://www.stmaryalexandria.org/religiouseducation/youth-ministry-high-school/



Educating the whole child within a nurturing Catholic Christian environment. 320-763-5861 | stmaryss@stmaryalexandria.org

stmaryalexandria.org/stmarysschool | O f/stmarysschoolalexandria



NOW ENROLLING!

Attending a Catholic school is a significant financial investment, but one that pays lifelong dividends. Not only will your child receive a high-quality education rooted in strong academic principles, but they will also be immersed in a community that values faith, integrity, and moral development. Surrounded by staff, families and peers who share these values, your child will grow in an environment that fosters both academic and spiritual growth, preparing them for success in every aspect of life. St. Mary's School, in collaboration with parents, is helping build a solid foundation that will help students succeed in middle school and beyond.

Along with small class sizes, St. Mary's School also offers:

- •Learning and growing in our Faith every day and the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and Easter
- •A commitment to the Arts and Music

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Easter Break - April 17-21

- Science Technology Education (3D printers, coding, computer science, robotics)
- •Reading instruction that aligns with the Science of Reading
- •Service learning opportunities for all grade levels (local community and abroad)
- •Student collaboration with Veterans groups and nursing homes
- Parent involvement is encouraged and welcomed

Tuition assistance is available... no child has ever been turned away from St. Mary's School due to financial concerns.

Limited spots are available, so now is the time to register. Contact Mr. Sladek to learn more and to schedule a tour.

ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS 4/6 Brent Zupan, Alexandria \$35 4/7 Jenna Bryce, Alexandria \$20 4/8 Roger Lyon, Villard \$20 4/9 \$20 Tim Harren, Big Lake 4/10 Joel Goche, Sheridan, WY \$20 4/11 Jay Fiskness, Alexandria \$20 4/12 Missy Moore, Alexandria \$20

Mass Schedules and Intentions



9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319



4/	/16	Wednesday	8:30 am	Poor Souls in Purgatory
4/	/18	Friday	3:00 pm	
4/	/19	Saturday	8:30 pm	
4/	/20	EASTER Sunday	8:30 am	



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

4/15	Tuesday	10:00 am	at Galeon
4/18	Friday	1:00 pm	(Stations of the Cross at 12:30 pm)
4/19	Saturday	4:00 pm	No Mass
4/20	EASTER Sunday	10:30 am	For the People of the Parish



420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

4/14	Monday	5:30 pm	† Oliver Schumacher
4/15	Tuesday	8:30 am	† Tom Hertzog
4/16	Wednesday	1:30 pm 8:30 am	@ Nelson Gables † Louise Daudt
4/17	Thursday	7:00 pm	† Patricia Cavins ACC Mass @ St. Mary's
4/18	Friday	9:00 am NOON 8:30 pm	Morning Prayer (In Great Hall) Passion Liturgy Tenebrae Liturgy
4/19	Saturday (Easter Vigil)	9:00 am 8:30 pm	Morning Prayer (In Great Hall) Intention of Danny Lazares
4/20	EASTER Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am	For the People of the Parish † Marie Kinyon
			·

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION

Sunday at 7:45 am at St. Nicholas.
Saturday at 3 pm and First Fridays at 9 am at Immaculate Conception.
Saturday 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 Brenda Becker at 320-763-9202 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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor	
Father Dan Ruprecht, Parochial Vicar	
Todd Wentworth, Business Administrator	320-460-5333
Tony Pasko, Deacon (retired)	<u>thadeac@aol.com</u>
Tammy Huss, Director of Faith Formation	320-460-5324
Joe Korkowski, Communications Coordinator	jkorkowski@stmaryalexandria.org320-460-5336
Cassie Klimek, Youth Minister	320-460-5338
Troy Sladek, School Principal	320-460-5327

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

Parish Office Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390

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

Parish Office Sharon Marthaler, 320-859-2390

Parish Trustees Mike Helwig......303-887-9079 Bev Paul......320-815-2352 Director of Liturgy & Music Luke VanOverbeke 320-460-5339

Music Coordinator Erin Takle 320-460-5337

Pastoral Care Coordinator Patty Marriott......320-762-2320

Faith Formation, Grades 1-5 Laurie Bienias320-460-5325

Faith Formation, Grades 6-10 Jodi Vanderheiden.....320-460-5324

Parish Trustees

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

Giving

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GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APR. 6		
Envelope	\$4,434	
Electronic	701	
Other	2,185	
TOTAL	\$7,320	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS Actual \$7,320

3,017 Budget Variance \$4,303 YTD BUDGET PROGRESS

Actual \$129,053 **Budget** 120,680 Variance \$8,373

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APR. 6		
Envelope	\$2,755	
Electronic	840	
Other	767	
TOTAL	\$4,362	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS

Actual

Budget 4,242 Variance \$120 YTD BUDGET PROGRESS Actual 174,537 Budget 169,680 Variance \$4,857

\$4,362

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR APR. 6		
Envelope	\$24,595	
Electronic	7,759	
Other	2,823	
TOTAL	\$35,177	

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS		
Actual	\$ 35,177	
Budget	46,300	
Variance	\$(11,123)	
VTD DUDGET DDGGDEGG		

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS				
Actual- Revised	1,700,726			
Budget	1,741,216			
Variance	\$(40,490)			

The fiscal year runs from July 1 thru June 30. Detailed financial reports may be viewed at each parish office.

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1017 Broadway, Alexandria, MN



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