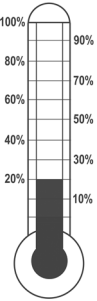


St. Mary Calvary Cemetery Maintenance and Beautification Projects

For more details on these projects, please see the display boards at the entrances of the church.

To give to this project we have placed envelopes in the church entrances. Your donation can then be dropped in the Sunday collection basket or at the Parish Office. If you don't have a cemetery giving envelope, you can indicate on your check memo line "Cemetery Project" or place in an envelope marked the same. Feel free to indicate if you'd like your donation to go to the statue or the roads or both. Gifts of any amount are welcome - Thank you!

Total Cost of Projects: \$32,664.00
Raised to Date: \$ 8180.00



The work of your Church continues; in fact, intensifies. Nobody can stop the Mass: the perfect Holy Sacrifice for the salvation of the world is being offered by your priests. In addition, our office staff is still here for you. We are working from our homes in response to the efforts underway to slow the spread of the coronavirus. With the absence of taking up our Sunday collections, we ask that you mail your contributions to Churches of St. Mary/St Henry, 165 N Waterville, Ave, Le Center, MN 56057 or give electronically. If you chose to mail in your offering, to save yourself time and stamps, consider placing several weekend envelopes in one mailing. Also, Parishioners can place envelopes/checks in the night depository or at the drive-up at either bank in Le Center.



If you would like to give electronically, visit our website www.stmarysthenry.org and see "Vanco Online Giving" on the right hand side of the page, click on: "Give Online Now - St. Mary" or "Give Online Now - St. Henry"

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY SUNDAY - This year the theme is, "...I was blind and now I see" (Jn. 9:25).

This is a unique opportunity to share the light of the Lord in solidarity with your brothers and sisters overseas. We are invited to offer gifts of support by contributing to this collection for four global initiatives designated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops: Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able and support your brothers and sisters overseas. **For your convenience we attached an envelope to last weekend's bulletin for you to place your contribution. The envelopes can be mailed to the Parish Office at 165 N Waterville, Le Center. If you did not receive an envelope simply indicate "Global Solidarity Sunday" in the memo line of your check. Thank you!**



Serve the Poor Support Life Strengthen the Faith 2020 How will you give alms this Lent? Help those in need – go to GiveCSAF.org and donate today! Thank you from the 20 Designated Ministries of the CSAF!

For those who have not received a CSAF mailing we are providing informational flyers and envelopes in the church entrances. **When using the envelopes provided by the church be sure to use an envelope marked for St. Mary or St. Henry according to which parish goal you want your contribution to go toward.** These envelopes can be placed in the collection basket. You can also give directly at GiveCSAF.org using your phone, tablet, or computer.

Our parish goal this year is: St. Mary \$14,270 Collected \$7645 (54%) St. Henry \$2,655 Collected \$3170 (119%)

Liturgical Ministers May 1 - August 31, 2020 Ministry Schedule

Please contact Gloria, gloriagw@frontier.com (or call the parish office 357-6633) by Monday, March 23 with dates that you are unable to serve for the May 1-August 31, 2020 ministry schedule. This schedule includes Mother's Day (May 10), Memorial Day (May 25), Father's Day (June 21), Parish Festival (June 28) & July 4. August 15, The Assumption of Mary, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. However, we will have a 9AM Mass on Saturday, August 15. **Dates that you cannot serve are entered into the ministry scheduling software.**

Without that information you may be scheduled on dates that you are not available. If you are able to serve on any of the above dates, that is also very helpful. Thank you!

If you have been thinking about joining the Liturgical Ministry Team as a Lector, Usher, or Eucharistic Minister, now would be the time as we put together the May-August schedule. If you should have any questions or would like some training, feel free to contact the parish office or talk with one of the priests. What talent has God given you to serve His Church?

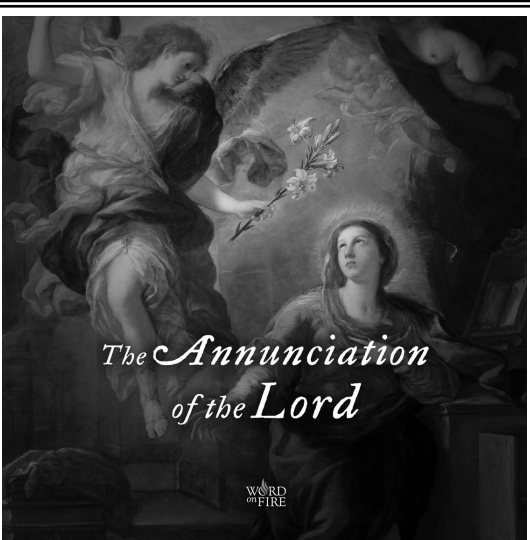
Churches of St. Mary & St. Henry

165 N. Waterville Ave., Le Center, MN 56057
Phone: 507-357-6633 Phone/Fax: 507-357-4838
www.stmarysthenry.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 22, 2020

The archbishop has made the decision to suspend the public celebration of all Masses for the present time. This decision was made with the utmost care and with significant consultation. The reality is that public gatherings for Mass not only put attendees' health in danger, but also those whom they come into contact with and society at large. Please be assured that the graces of the Mass will not end. Masses will still be celebrated daily by Fr. Stiles and Fr. Sandquist for you and for the world. Whenever you hear the church bells ring, know that Mass is about to be offered for you and that you can spiritually unite your own prayers and petitions to it. We will be in solidarity with many Catholics throughout the world who already experience a lack of access to the sacraments due to persecution, war, the absence of priests, etc.

- Parish Staff**
Pastor: Fr. James Stiles (ext 306) fr.stiles@frontier.com
After Hours Emergencies: 507-456-8473
Associate Pastor: Fr. Timothy Sandquist (ext 307) ftsandquist@gmail.com
Trustees St. Mary: Clarence Mager 357-4338 Pete Plut 357-6222
Trustees St. Henry: Dan Germscheid 357-4923 Jim Selly 357-4898
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Jean Boothby (phone ext 304) jeanrb@frontier.com
Secretary/Receptionist: Gloria Wolf (phone ext 301) gloriagw@frontier.com
Accounting/Bookkeeping: Tara Robinson (phone ext 302) tarar@frontier.com
Maintenance: Joe Holicky (phone ext 305) jholicky1@frontier.com
Music Ministry: Terri McMillen mcmillen752@gmail.com
Office Hours - Parish office is closed until further notice
Bulletin Deadline - articles need to be submitted to Gloria by noon on Wednesday.
For use of meeting rooms or Social Hall - contact Gloria
Thrift Store - 507-357-6942



Solemnity ~ March 25

“God put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God’s freely given love. The marvel of Mary—even in the midst of her very ordinary life—is God’s shout to us to wake up to the marvelous creatures that we all are by divine design.”

~Franciscan Media

Mass Schedule & Intentions

In the absence of public Mass the priests will continue to say daily and Sunday Mass and will offer these intentions.

Monday, March 23

Tuesday, March 24

Mass Intention Mary Wood†

Wednesday, March 25

Mass Intention Living & Deceased of George Welckle & Ralph Blaschko families

Thursday, March 26

Mass Intention Joe & Edith Tambornino††

Friday, March 27

Mass Intention J.T. O'Meara †

Saturday, March 28

Mass Intention Jack McCourtney†

FIFTH Sunday of LENT, March 29

Mass Intention Joe Connolly†

Mass Intention Richard Cauley†

Mass For the Parish

This Week in the Parish

Monday, March 23

Tuesday, March 24

Wednesday, March 25

Thursday, March 26

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

FIFTH Sunday of LENT, March 29

*****As part of the effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we have closed the Parish Office & Building. We are still here for you working from the safety of our homes! Please continue to call the office (numbers on bulletin cover) with any needs you may have. We will be checking our messages frequently and making our cell numbers available to you.*****

St. Mary's Thrift Store Closed

The Thrift Store is closed at this time during this Covid-19 Pandemic. We will not be accepting donations or be open for sales until further notice.

Readings for next Sunday, March 29, 2020

Ezekiel 37:12-14 Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My dearest parishioners,

By now many, if not all of you have heard that the Archbishop has suspended all regularly scheduled public celebrations of the Mass until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak. I can already feel the weight of sorrow that many of you are experiencing in dealing with this reality. Indeed, it is a great sorrow for me as well not to be able to publicly celebrate the Mass with you. Despite the pain, I do believe that the Archbishop made the right decision.

I see it as a great act of charity that all of us are being invited to embrace during this Lenten season as we seek to slow the spread of this coronavirus. We are foregoing something which we truly love not only to reduce the chance of us or others contracting the virus but also to increase the probability that proper medical care can be given to those that do. For, if we don't take serious action on our part to help reduce the rate at which this virus spreads, health experts tell us that the medical care facilities will be overloaded and unable to treat all who need it as has already happened in Italy. I ask you to join me in this great work of charity to take seriously and implement in to our daily lives the precautions and practices that the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are recommending at this time: see <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>; or <https://www.archspm.org/covid19>

On the recent Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, I began my day by praying the rosary while looking at a crucifix. It came to me that as we endure these days away from our Lord's presence in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we, the Body of the Christ, are united now in a special way with our Lord on the cross. We join Him in the cry He made to His heavenly Father from the cross, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" (Ps 22). Yet, if like Jesus, we *choose* in humility to remain on the cross out of love for others, it will lead to new depths in our spiritual life we did not know could exist for us. We will come to discover that our Lord, in fact, never abandoned us.

Someone recently said to me, "Father, the Mass is our greatest protection against this virus..." I couldn't agree more. Although we're not able to publicly celebrate the Mass for some time, be assured that everyday Fr. Sandquist and I will be offering the Holy Mass for you and all your intentions. The Mass continues! Therefore, the saving effects of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection will still be applied to your life. Have confidence in this! I encourage you to make a spiritual communion everyday by reverently reciting this prayer or something similar:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy Eucharist. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

In addition, as our 'hunger pains' grow for the Lord's sacramental presence, I encourage you to make your prayer life more fervent. This is for sure a wonderful time to be reading scripture (especially the Gospels), reading spiritual books, and making more time for the needs of others... I can't insist enough on praying to our Blessed Virgin Mary during this time. She is always our protectress, and she loves us more than we can imagine. *I would particularly encourage praying the rosary for the end of this virus outbreak.*

I know so many of us are experiencing a good deal of stress, feeling out of control, as so many aspects of our lives (employment, recreation, social life, church...) are disrupted. I empathize with you. Yet, as I wrote in last weekend's bulletin article, we must grab ahold of our Lord's hand who will see us through this storm. Remember how Jesus immediately reached out His hand to save Peter who was sinking into the stormy waters (Mt 14:31). Remember the words the Lord spoke while the Apostles were terrified of dying as their boat was sinking in the midst of the storm: "Be still!" (Mk 4:39). Jesus is master of all things, both natural and spiritual realities.

We pray, then, for deeper faith in these days of uncertainty. Join me in this prayer every day and soon enough we will be celebrating together again around the altar, gazing on Him whom we love in the Holy Eucharist.

God bless you all!
With paternal love, Fr. Stiles

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Classes were held online this past week. **Family Formation** will also be sent home through email, Facebook, or Remind. Please plan on learning more together as a family about the Stations of the Cross and how we can relate to Jesus' suffering by bearing our own cross.

For timely updates on classes and church activities, please access these resources:

Please download the **Remind App** for quick and easy Faith Formation updates and information. Our class code for Parents is 7g962b. The class code for Confirmation 202 students is 3b739ee. The class code for Confirmation 2021 is 62h6d3.



Like us on Facebook! For Faith Formation News go to **St Mary & St Henry Faith Formation** (<https://www.facebook.com/lecentercatholic/>). For other news in the parish go to **St. Mary's Church, Le Center** (<https://www.facebook.com/StMaryStHenry/>)

Jean R. Boothby
Faith Formation Coordinator
jeanrb@frontier.com
[941-962-5168](tel:941-962-5168)

ST. MARY-ST. HENRY PRO-LIFE TEAM

President Trump designated Sunday, March 15th as a "National Day of Prayer" to ask God for protection and strength during the coronavirus pandemic.

Let us not stop at one day of prayer, but let us PRAY DAILY. In this troubling situation we need the fatherly protection of St. Joseph whose feast day we recently celebrated on March 19th. His many titles are needed in these uncertain times: Joseph most prudent, Mirror of patience, Support of families and Comfort of the Afflicted.

Joseph, be our guide and pattern,
Faithful to your sacred trust,
Strong protector of the Virgin
And the infant Jesus Christ.

Joseph, firm and faithful, guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.

Faithful to the guiding vision,
Listening to the angel's word;
Shielding Mary from all slander,
Guarding Christ, both Son and Lord.
Joseph, true and trusting, guide us,
Joseph, walk the way with us.

(Magnificat, Vol.20, No.13, March, 2019, p. 286)



ST. HENRY NEWS

Church Cleaning - Terry Blaschko and Charlene Boettcher are scheduled to clean the church by March 29, 2020.



St. Mary's Calvary Cemetery has openings on its board. If you are interested in serving on the board, or have questions on what this entails, you may contact the parish office or any one of the current board members; Bill Collins, Greg Holicky, Darcy Schloesser, Dan Steffen, Sharon Traxler, or Matt Wallskog.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptism & COVID-19

Baptism is not just a ceremony, it makes us adopted children of God and wipes away original and personal sin. For this reason, we ask parents not do delay in requesting this sacrament for their children. Baptisms, however, will need to be highly restricted in attendance.

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact Father Sandquist at the Parish Office to reserve your spot and to schedule a Baptism class. This class will be approximately 1 hour. We encourage you to make contact even before the child is born.

Please Pray Part of our Christian duty is to pray for each other. The following have asked for your prayers:

Myles Genelin Jolene Zell Holden Zell
Dave Farm Tom Boettcher Bob Selly
Tim Simonette Stacy Gersmscheid
Shirley Hrdlicka Dave Krenik Gene Holicky

We also keep in prayer all residents at area assisted living and long-term care facilities and our homebound parishioners.

ST. MARY'S CCW EVENTS

- The Southwest Deanery Clergy Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th has been cancelled.
- The CCW Spring Salad Luncheon scheduled for Thursday March 26 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. This event will not be rescheduled.

The proceeds from the Spring Salad Luncheon are used to support many things in our parish. Some of those things include masses for our deceased CCW Members, altar supplies which include the following: bread, wine, candles, ashes, palms and holy week supplies. The Living Faith books, Missalettes, banners and flowers for the altar, speakers, fellowship opportunities for parishioners and supplies for the Mission Room are additional ways that CCW supports the Church of St. Mary.

As we contemplated canceling the salad luncheon due to safety concerns for those attending, we also realized that we need your financial support to continue to serve our parish community at the same level as we do now. We ask that you consider making a monetary contribution to help us do that. You can place your contribution in the envelope included in the bulletin marked "CCW Spring Salad Luncheon" and mail to our Parish Office, 165 N Waterville Ave, Le Center. If you don't have an envelope indicate "CCW Spring Salad Luncheon" in the memo line of your check made out to the St. Mary CCW. We will utilize your donations for the continued support of our parish.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.