

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptism

The archbishop encouraged baptisms to be delayed to the extent possible until further notice. Due to the great importance of this sacrament, however, parents should not anticipate this delay to be lengthy. When baptisms are celebrated, it is likely that attendance will be limited. In this case, families will still have the option of doing a larger welcoming ceremony for the baptized at a later time to give the extended family a chance to celebrate. *If an infant begins to be in danger in any way, baptism is never to be delayed.* For all baptisms, appropriate safety measures would be taken (for example, the use of fresh, newly blessed water).



Eucharistic Adoration

We will have Eucharistic Adoration from 7:30-9:30 pm each evening Monday-Friday. This will be done "Drive-in" style in our parking lot. The Blessed Sacrament exposed in a monstrance will be placed in the center window. We have scheduled adorers who will cover the hours throughout the week, but all are welcome to come and visit Jesus during this time. **The Archdiocese has instructed that people must remain in their cars, do not park right beside each other, if possible. If it is necessary to do so, please leave your windows closed.** Come and talk with Jesus, listen to Him, pray, bring along a book to aid in your meditation, praise, and adoration.

Opportunity for Confession

"Drive-thru" confessions will be available **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 6-7pm at the Church of St. Mary in Le Center and Saturday, 3-4pm at Nativity in Cleveland** in the parish parking lots. Cones will be set up to direct the flow of traffic. A sufficient distance between the confession area and the line will maintain privacy and the recommended distance of six feet will be maintained between the penitent and the priest. In the case of multiple people in the same car, penitents will exit the car individually and stand or be seated an appropriate distance from the priest. Fr. Stiles intends to be consistently present at St. Mary's on Wednesdays so that Spanish speakers know when they can expect to be able to confess to him.



ST. MARY-ST. HENRY PRO-LIFE TEAM

Coronavirus Vaccine Without Abortion Ties?

In a letter to the Trump Administration, pro-life leaders encourage development of an effective, safe and widely available vaccine for the coronavirus that avoids unethical links to abortion. Dr Stephen M. Hahn, commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, stated in his April 17th letter, "No American should be forced to choose between being vaccinated against this potentially deadly virus and violating his or her conscience." The letter's signers include Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chair of the USCCB Committee of Pro-Life Activities plus the heads of three other bishops' Conference committees and leaders of many other Catholic and non-Catholic groups. The letter's signers urge the federal government to "ensure that fundamental moral principles are followed in the development of such vaccines that the principle of human life is sacred and should never be exploited."

Source: Catholic News Agency, Washington D.C., April 18, 2020

FAITH FORMATION

We wrapped up our Faith Formation year with a Teaching Mass for the families on Facebook. We are still looking at our options for First Communion and Confirmation as we are being updated by the state and the archdiocese on procedures. We will also continue to provide inspiration, family faith formation, and helpful links through our Facebook page, Remind, and email. Thank you to all the parents who have been keeping up with the lessons at home!

As we continue to stay safe at home, we are also monitoring the possibilities of our summer programs. More decisions and information will be available in the upcoming weeks. Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon. Stayed tuned!

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 2020 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/>)

Lasagna Take & Bake

Our Lasagna Take & Bake has been postponed until a later date. We will continue taking orders by messaging, emailing, or calling Jean.



"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Jean R. Boothby, Faith Formation Coordinator
jeanrb@frontier.com 941-962-5168

ST. HENRY NEWS

Church Cleaning - Mary Lynn Genelin-Sycks & Shelly Genelin are scheduled to clean the church by May 3, 2020.

No Salad Luncheon this year. Asking that if you can, you will send a free will donation to our treasurer, Ann Selly in lieu of this fundraiser. It would be much appreciated. We do have ongoing expenses. We know that each of you are under different circumstances, but all donate greatly when it comes to bringing salads. We are hoping that you would think about how much that normally would cost you and donate appropriately. Thank you for considering this.

Check to: St. Henry Altar Society
c/o Ann Selly
26772 Le Sueur Creek Rd
LeSueur, MN 56058

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2020



Fray Juan Battista de Maino,
"St. Catherine of Siena," Spanish, 1612-1614,
Madrid, Museo Nacional del Prado

"Start being brave about everything. Drive out darkness and spread light. Don't look at your weaknesses. Realize instead that in Christ crucified you can do everything."

-St. Catherine of Siena
April 29 - Memorial

The archbishop has suspended ordinary public celebrations of the Mass for the present time. The reason for this suspension is that during the current pandemic, public gatherings put the health of the attendees in danger as well as those whom attendees come into contact with and society at large. Please know that the graces of the Mass have not come to an end. Fr. Stiles and Fr. Sandquist continue to celebrate Masses privately for your intentions and for the whole world. If you happen to hear the church bells ring, know that Mass is about to be offered for you inside and that you can unite your own prayers and intentions to it. We are now in solidarity with many Catholics throughout the world who also 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 Closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

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, April 27

6:00-7:00 pm Confessions - drive-thru (parking lot)
7:30-9:30 pm Adoration - drive-in (parking lot)

Tuesday, April 28

Mass Intention Living & Deceased of Henry & Angela Simon family
7:30-9:30 pm Adoration - drive-in (parking lot)

Wednesday, April 29

Mass Intention Virginia Stoering†
6:00-7:00 pm Confessions - drive-thru (parking lot)
7:30-9:30 pm Adoration - drive-in (parking lot)

Thursday, April 30

Mass Intention Marie Hruska†
7:30-9:30 pm Adoration - drive-in (parking lot)

Friday, May 1

Mass Intention Living & Deceased of Cemensky & Androli families
6:00-7:00 pm Confessions - drive-thru (parking lot)
7:30-9:30 pm Adoration - drive-in (parking lot)

Saturday, May 2

3:00-4:00 Confessions - drive-thru at Nativity
Mass Intention Judy Connelly†

Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3

Mass Intention Peter Traxler†
Mass Intention Mary Jean Hunt†
Mass Intention For the Parish

This Week in the Parish

Please check our website and Facebook for the latest news and happenings here at the Churches of St. Mary & St. Henry. Tune in to pray with our priests who are offering live and recorded prayers and reflections.

www.stmarysthenry.org

St. Mary's Church, Le Center

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaryStHenry/>

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.

Readings for next Sunday, May 3, 2020

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When It Really Counts

"But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel..." These were the words of two disappointed and perplexed disciples of Jesus as they made their way from Jerusalem to a nearby town called Emmaus just a few days after Jesus had been put to death. They express so often what we, today's disciples of Christ, experience. Let me try to explain what I mean.

I had the marvelous privilege of being able to take my annual spiritual retreat the week immediately following Easter Sunday. It was for sure a blessed experience. Every time I do one of these retreats which are typically in silence and require a significant amount of prayer throughout the day, there is always a period of time which usually occurs during the middle of the week where I begin to get antsy, prayer becomes distracted and difficult, and I begin to be tempted to doubt that God has been acting at all on the retreat and to give up hope that things are going to get any better. The temptation is ultimately to give up, to quit the retreat.

This is precisely the period of time on retreat in which you really need to beg the Lord for deep trust in Him and surrender your fears to Him. All of this is often best done through simple and short prayers such as "Jesus, I trust in you" and/or "Lord, I surrender my fear to you" and/or "Thank you, Lord, for your love for me"... A friend of mine calls these "dagger prayers" because they are like little daggers that we strike our Enemy with who is trying to discourage us. If you continue to keep 'walking' forward on the retreat, you soon discover as I did that Jesus has never abandoned you but through the trial is only seeking to bring you deeper into trusting friendship with Him.

All this maps on so well to our common experience in our spiritual lives, and it is displayed in our Gospel for this weekend. Hear the words again of those two disciples on their way to Emmaus which I wrote above, "But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel..." As with my retreat experience there was a certain expectation on the part of these disciples that God was going to act in a specific way through Jesus but when He didn't disappointment and temptation came: "But we were hoping..." Again, this is precisely the moment when a new foundation of trust in God must be laid.

The surprising and ever-refreshing news is that it is Jesus Himself who lays this new foundation of trust by drawing near to us in these moments. If you re-read the account of the Gospel for today, you'll notice that the words of discouragement that were uttered by the disciples of Jesus weren't uttered to one another but rather to Jesus who had drawn near to them and was asking them about their conversation. However, the disciples didn't recognize Him as Jesus. He seemingly chose to not allow them to see Him clearly so as to best set them up for the new foundation of trust He was planning to lay for them.

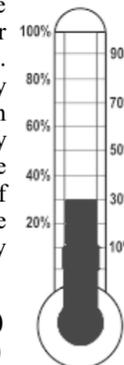
It is now the third Sunday of Easter, and it has been just over one month since we were able to publicly gather for the celebration of the Holy Mass. Perhaps at this point you are going through your own period of spiritual fatigue. Maybe, you are tempted toward discouragement or a sense of isolation and you think that this moment of trial will never end. My dear friends in Christ, I share with you the frustration, disappointment, and sadness of these times. It is ok to feel these things. We must, however, know that Jesus is drawing near to us. He wants to lay in our hearts a deeper foundation of trust in Him so that our life of faith can be that much more secure. Remain steadfast in your prayer. Don't stop! This very grace of trust that Jesus wants to give to you depends on you not giving up.

So, I say to you again, and I encourage you to continue to say to each other, Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

With paternal love,
Fr. Stiles

St. Mary Calvary Cemetery Maintenance and Beautification Projects

You can give to this project in the same manner as listed below under "Wondering How to Give to the Church". If you don't have a purple cemetery giving envelope, you can indicate on your check memo line "Cemetery Project" and/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: \$10,730.00

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

April 18-19, 2020	St. Mary	St. Henry
Weekly Budget	\$ 4230.00	\$ 825.00
Weekly Offering	\$ 3350.00	\$ 1319.00
Diff. from budget	-\$ 880.00	+\$ 494.00

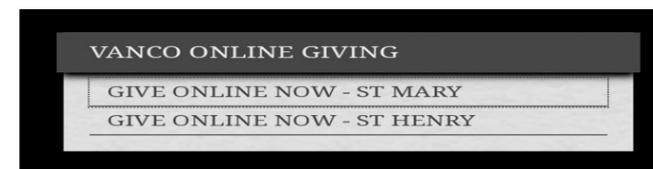
See below how to give to the church - Thank you!

Weekly Building Fund \$ 385.00

We appreciate your continued monetary support and prayers for our building. Maintenance is ongoing with any building, so we anticipate more repairs and replacements will be needed in the future.

Wondering How to Give to the Church?

- ◆ Place your contribution in the night depository or at the drive-up at either bank in Le Center
- ◆ Mail your contribution to Churches of St. Mary/St. Henry, 165 N Waterville Ave, Le Center, MN 56057 (Save yourself time and stamps by placing several weekend envelopes in one mailing)
- ◆ Sign up for Electronic Giving - see below



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"

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. 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. In addition, maintenance of the building is continuing with necessary cleaning and repairs.

Serve the Poor Support Life Strengthen the Faith Help those in need – donate today! Thank you from the 20 Designated Ministries of the CSAF! Use the same giving methods as listed above for the Sunday Collection. You can also give directly at GiveCSAF.org using your phone, tablet, or computer. Please note that all donations to the CSA are handled through the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation, a separate corporation from the Archdiocese. **We still have a little way to go. If you need an envelope, please contact Gloria, in the parish office, and she will get one out to you.**

Our parish goal this year is: St. Mary \$14,270 Collected \$10,045 (70%) St. Henry \$2,655 Collected \$2655 (100%) Goal Met!

As a reminder, the Center for Mission, as the CRS office for our archdiocese, manages the Rice Bowl program at this time of year. The program ended on Holy Thursday. **To make it easier for all of you who have collected coins for Rice Bowl as your Lenten call to almsgiving, we want to remind you of the opportunities to "turn in" the collections.** We pray that this has been a rewarding journey of hope for you during this time of struggle and uncertainty. For collection details, go to www.centerformission.org. A quick overview is below:

1. Send in check for collected amount to your parish
2. Mail check to Center for Mission; 777 Forest St. Saint Paul, MN 55106
3. Use credit card for donation amount at www.centerformission.org/donate



Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Thank you for your generous support of last week's Catholic Home Missions Appeal. As a parish, we raised \$112 (and still counting) to help strengthen the Church at home and ensure that the Gospel is spread across the United States. If you missed the appeal, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.



We have included, as an insert, in this weekend's bulletin the General Operating Budget for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters (7/1/2019 - 3/31/2020). Church of St. Henry is on one side of the sheet and Church of St. Mary is on the other. If you have any questions feel free to contact Emmett Krenik or Fr. Stiles.