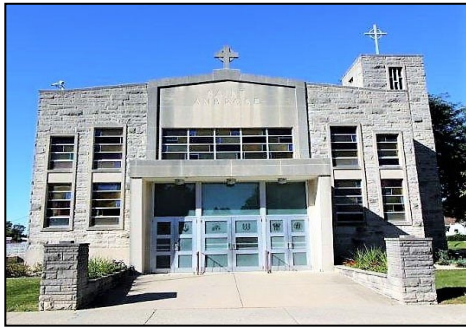




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765-644-5956



St. Mary Church
1115 Pearl St.
Anderson, IN 46016
765-644-8467



St. Mary Church
820 W. Madison St.
Alexandria, IN 46001
765-724-2483

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

Tercer Domingo de Adviento

Off the Top of My Head...

Every reliable local and national news source, is reporting stark and sobering news about the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus. These reports are sharing facts, not opinions.

For this reasons, I am sincerely asking for serious, prayerful discernment on the part of all who are thinking about participating in Christmas Mass this year.

We have scheduled three Christmas Masses for each of the three parishes in the Anderson-Alexandria Pastorate, to provide a better opportunity for social distancing. (You can find the Christmas Mass schedule in this bulletin.)

If you are definitely planning to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Day, I ask that you consider not only convenience but also (especially) the health and safety of you, your family, and the others who will be attending. Usually, the first Christmas Eve Mass is the one that is most heavily attended. The Christmas Day Mass(es), ironically, are usually most sparsely attended. Maybe if fewer people attend the early Christmas Eve Mass and more attend a Christmas Day Mass, we will have a better opportunity to practice social distancing.

Please know that masks will be absolutely required for Mass attendance at all three parishes. (If, for medical reasons, you cannot wear a mask, please contact me at fr.tmetzger@dol-in.org.) In all three churches, half of the pews are not available for use, in order to keep participants at least six feet apart. These pews will continue to be unavailable for seating. In addition, those sitting in the same pew must sit six feet apart from others who are not members of their household. There will be additional seating in all three locations, but this will also be limited. Communion will be given in the hand only, and hand sanitizer will be required (and provided) for all communicants. The purpose of these seemingly stark requirements is not to punish, but to protect.

Finally, at the risk of appearing to discourage Christmas Mass attendance, I offer the following thoughts: Various worship services over the past months have become "super spreader" events. The Coronavirus doesn't care that we are gathering to pray together. And the spread of the virus after Christmas is projected to far surpass the high numbers we saw after Thanksgiving.

Deciding whether or not to attend Christmas Mass will be difficult for many of us. Let's continue praying for each other and looking forward to the coming of Christ: Come, Lord Jesus!

Fr. Tom Metzger
 December 13, 2020

Todas las fuentes de noticias locales y nacionales confiables informan noticias crudas y aleccionadoras sobre la rápida propagación del virus Covid-19. Estos informes comparten hechos, no opiniones.

Por estas razones, estoy sinceramente pidiendo un serio discernimiento, oración por parte de todos los que están pensando en participar en la misa de Navidad de este año.

Hemos programado tres misas navideñas para cada una de las tres parroquias de la Pastoral Anderson-Alexandria, para brindar una mejor oportunidad para el distanciamiento social. (Puede encontrar el horario de la misa de Navidad en este boletín).

Sí definitivamente está planeando asistir a misa en la víspera o el día de Navidad, le pido que considere no sólo la conveniencia, sino también (especialmente) la salud y la seguridad de usted, su familia y los demás que asistirán. Por lo general, la primera misa de Nochebuena es la que tiene más asistencia. Irónicamente, la (s) misa (s) del día de Navidad suele tener escasa asistencia. Quizás si menos personas asisten a la Misa de Nochebuena y más asisten a la Misa del día de Navidad, tendremos una mejor oportunidad para practicar el distanciamiento social.

Tenga en cuenta que las máscaras serán absolutamente necesarias para asistir a misa en las tres parroquias. (Si, por razones médicas, no puede usar una máscara, comuníquese conmigo a fr.tmetzger@dol-in.org.) En las tres iglesias, la mitad de los bancos no están disponibles para su uso, para mantener al menos a los participantes seis pies de distancia. Estos bancos seguirán sin estar disponibles para sentarse. Además, aquellos que se sientan en el mismo banco deben sentarse a seis pies de distancia de otros que no son miembros de su hogar. Habrá asientos adicionales en los tres lugares, pero esto también será limitado. La comunión se dará solo en la mano y se requerirá (y se proporcionará) desinfectante de manos para todos los comulgantes. El propósito de estos requisitos aparentemente estrictos no es castigar, sino proteger.

Finalmente, a riesgo de parecer que desalienta la asistencia a la Misa de Navidad, ofrezco las siguientes reflexiones: Varios servicios de adoración en los últimos meses se han convertido en eventos de “súper difusión”. Al Coronavirus no le importa que nos reunamos para orar juntos. Y se proyecta que la propagación del virus después de Navidad superará con creces las altas cifras que vimos después del Día de Acción de Gracias.

Decidir si asistir o no a la misa de Navidad será difícil para muchos de nosotros. Sigamos orando unos por otros y esperando la venida de Cristo: ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

P. Tom Metzger
13 de diciembre de 2020

Confessions—St. Mary Anderson-Saturday, 2:30-3:30 PM: St. Mary Alexandria-Saturday, 3:30-4:00 PM
St. Ambrose -Saturday, 4:00-5:00 PM
Dec. 19 St Ambrose 10:00-11:30 (There will be 2 additional Spanish speaking priests.
Habrá 2 sacerdotes adicionales de habla hispana)

Pastor: Father Tom Metzger— fr.tmetzger@dol-in.org, Father Dave Hellmann —fr.dhellmann@dol-in.org,
Father Marty Sandhage —fr.msandhage@dol-in.org, Deacon Mike Burns

Business Manager: Harriett Russel -St. Ambrose and St. Mary Anderson

Parish Secretaries: Anita Myers & Jan Adams M-W-F

Madison King St. Mary Alexandria

Holy Cross School Principal: Tina Neal

St. Mary School Principal: Rachel Duckworth



St. Ambrose

YTD Giving \$ 401,297 YTD Expenses \$ 377,332

St. Mary

YTD Giving \$ 420,139 YTD Expenses \$ 425,950

Renovation Fund \$ 267,391 of \$330,000 Phase 1

St. Mary Alexandria

YTD Giving \$ 596,791.51 YTD Expenses \$ 464,408.59

visit our website - [www.https://stambrosestmary.org](https://stambrosestmary.org)

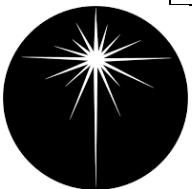
On Line Giving— visit us at the following:

St. Ambrose—<https://osvhub.com/st-ambrose-church-anderson/funds>

St. Mary Anderson—<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/13>

St. Mary Alexandria—www.maryandjosephchurches.com.

Monday	14-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:00 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary And	Josephine Seller Int. of the Richard Crawshaw Club
Tuesday	15-Dec.	8:00 AM	St. Ambrose	Charles Graybill
Wednesday	16-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 11:30 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary Alex St. Vincent Hosp.	Deceased of George Mehling Family Bill Mehling Poor Souls
Thursday	17-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary And	Poor Souls Betty Shaffer
Friday	18-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:10 AM	St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose	Theresa DiRuzza Betty Brownfield
Saturday	19-Dec.	4:00: PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose	Fr. Jim Costello SJ Jim Donahue Bruce Parker
Sunday	20-Dec.	7:30 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM	St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose St. Mary And.	Jeanné Papai Bill Clabaugh Mario and Wilefreda Conette Poor Souls



Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Vigil, Thursday, December 24th / Vigilia de Navidad, Turada 24 de diciembre

St. Mary Anderson – 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm -Spanish / Española

St. Ambrose – 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm St. Mary Alexandria – 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm

Christmas – Friday, December 25th / Navidad, Viernes, 25 diciembre

St. Ambrose—Midnight / Medianoche St. Mary Anderson — 9:00 am

St. Mary Alexandria—9:00 am

Solemnity of Mary / Solemnidad De Maria

St. Mary Alexandria – Dec 31st - 4:30 pm

St. Ambrose – Dec 31st - 5:30 pm

St. Mary Anderson - Jan. 1st - 9:00 am

Catholic Ministries Appeal: Here is the CMA report for the Anderson-Alexandria Pastorate:

Mandatory Campaign Goal	\$ 186,658	You may give on line at www.dol-in.org/CMA Place your card in the offertory basket. or mail it to PO Box 11040 Lewiston, ME 04243
Pledge Total	\$ 174,215	
Pledge Percentage of Total	94%	
Number of Pledges	256	

Get FORMED This Advent!

Looking for Advent reflections to get you spiritually focused this year? Sign up to receive FREE daily Advent emails with reflections on the "Road to Bethlehem." at <https://www.formed.org/advent>. You can indicate to receive an email with reflections for adults and kids or both. These daily emails will include a short video reflection and a suggested action item for the day. Blessing for the Advent season as we journey together on this road towards Christ. If you have questions about FORMED or this Advent options, please call Patty Brooks at (317) 409-5244 (text/cell).

Volunteers Needed at St. Ambrose Church for the annual washing of the church pews and deep cleaning of the church for Christmas on Monday, December 14th, after the 8:00 AM Mass. PLEASE WEAR A MASK AND WE WILL SOCIAL DISTANCE TO STAY SAFE! All supplies furnished, just bring a small bucket, if you can. We will start about 8:45. If you can spare an hour or two that would make the job go much quicker. Any questions, call the Sager's at 765-642-6368 or Marilyn's cell 765-278-4754.

Truck Unloaders Needed

Pete's Pantry in Alexandria is in need of help on Tuesdays in December. They need help unloading a truck of food and sorting through it. If you can help please contact Sue Allen at 765-425-3117 or Susie Remington at 765-425-7370.

Joseph's Helpers will meet on Thursday, December 17th at 6:00 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting. Please join using the following URL. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8615825625> Meeting ID: 861 582 5625

Knights of Columbus

Watch for details concerning the upcoming dates for the Saturday evening dinners. There will be a chicken fry on January 9th. Details regarding eating in or carry out as time gets closer. All meals are at the Columbian Hall and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY ON THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 19/20.

SOUP KITCHEN MENU *"For I was Hungry and you gave me Food."* (Mt 25:35) The Catholic Community of Anderson is **encouraged to bring any of the following food items** to church and place them in the baskets at the doors during the weekend Masses on **December 19/20**: 15 oz. or 28.5 oz. can of diced tomatoes, can of diced/sliced potatoes, or can of Chili Hot Beans, box of spaghetti, package of American cheese, boxes of saltine crackers, 28 oz. or gallon size can of fruit.

The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty. Pope Frances

From all of us who prepare the soup, stuff the sacks with soup ingredients, deliver the soup to the Christian Center and Alternatives, and serve the soup, cheese, and crackers, thank you for your generosity throughout the year and wish you all a very happy and faith filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Classes are beginning for Sacrament Preparation!

Children 2nd grade or older may prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Children age 13 or older may prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We also offer preparation classes for children age 7 and above, who have not been baptized.

Please email Christine at cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org or call the parish office for more information or to

Register your child(ren) today.

Religious Education Materials Have Arrived

This year due to COVID, Religious Education classes are homebased. Materials are available for students grades K-9th as well as parent guides. Each lesson follows the Gospel reading of the weekend. Please email Christine at cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org or call the parish office for more information or to register.

¡Empiezan las clases de preparación para los sacramentos de primero comunión y confirmación!

Los niños de segundo grado o mayores pueden prepararse para recibir los sacramentos de la reconciliación y la sagrada comunión.

Los niños de 13 años o más pueden prepararse para recibir el sacramento de la confirmación.

También ofrecemos clases de preparación para niños de 7 años o más, que no han sido bautizados.

Para obtener más información mande un mensaje por texto a 765-602-5312 con su nombre, los nombres de sus hijos y para cual sacramentos quiere inscribirse. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a Christine a cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org o llame a la oficina parroquial para obtener más información o para inscribirse a su(s) hijo(s). ¡Gracias!

Han llegado los materiales de educación religiosa

Este año debido a COVID, las clases de educación religiosa se imparten en el hogar. Los materiales están disponibles para los estudiantes de los grados K-9, así como guías para los padres. Cada lección sigue la lectura del Evangelio del fin de semana. Para obtener más información o para registrarse mande un texto a 765-602-5312 o envíe un correo electrónico a Christine a cvincent-rodas@parish.dol-in.org. También pueden pasar a la oficina parroquial en el anexo de la escuela en Santa María en viernes a recibir sus materiales. ¡Gracias!

Scholarship Grant Organization

Would you like to donate to your parish school's SGO (Scholarship Grant Organization) in order to assist in a student's Catholic education? You will also earn an Indiana State Tax Credit of 50% of your donation! To make an on-line donation visit <http://www.i4qed.org> and click "Donate Now", or you may pick up an application at the back of the church or school office.



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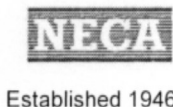
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