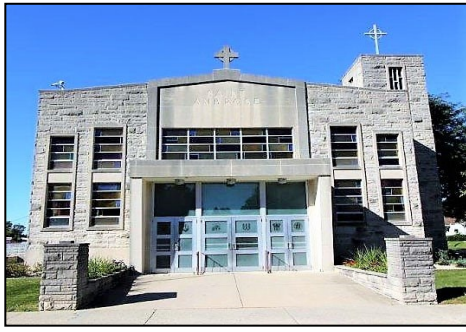




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765-644-5956



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 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20 December 2020

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

Off the Top of my Head. . .

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 20, 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
20 de diciembre de 2020

The Anderson and Alexandria Pastorate would like to wish all of you a very safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

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

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St. Mary

YTD Giving \$ 433,996 YTD Expenses \$ 432,266

Renovation Fund \$ 268,885 of \$330,000 Phase 1

St. Mary Alexandria

YTD Giving \$ 612,008 YTD Expenses \$ 467,840

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

On Line Giving— visit us at the following:

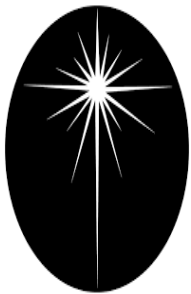
St. Ambrose—<https://osvhub.com/st-ambrose-church-anderson/funds>

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

St. Mary Alexandria—<https://membership.faithdirect.net/enroll/choosegifts/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	21-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:00 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary And.	Poor Souls Betty Brownfield
Tuesday	22-Dec.	8:00 AM	St. Ambrose	Carl, Josephine and Steve Witsken
Wednesday	23-Dec.	8:00 AM 8:00 AM 11:30 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary Alex. St. Vincent Hosp.	Thomas and MaryAnn Chezem Gert Glotzbach Grant Lierman
Thursday	24-Dec.	3:00 PM 3:30 PM 3:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	St. Ambrose St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose St Mary Alex. St. Mary And.	Betty Brownfield Albert & Barbara Stoner People of the parish Polly Duquaine For peace in the world Poor Souls (Spanish)
Friday	25-Dec.	Midnight 9:00 AM 9:00 AM	St. Ambrose St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex.	Zachary Novak Veniero Ippolito and Teresa Lyle Int. of the Celebrant
Saturday	26-Dec.	4:00: PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose	Thomas Sokol Maurice Mehling Pro Populo
Sunday	27-Dec.	7:30 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM	St. Mary And. St. Mary Alex. St. Ambrose St. Mary And.	Veniero Ippolito Nancy Payton Ryan Warner Poor Souls



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

Mandatory Campaign Goal	\$ 186,657
Pledge Total	\$ 187,645
Pledge Percentage of Total	101%
Number of Pledges	280

You may give on line at www.dol-in.org/CMA

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Secretary Position Available for St. Mary Alexandria

We are looking to fill a position for clerical support to the church and school of St. Mary in Alexandria. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The duties included are those related to church and school operations. If interested please contact Rachel Duckworth at rduckworth@stmaryalex.net or call St. Mary School in Alexandria at 765-724-4459.

Let's give a very special "thank you" to the smallest fantastic group of pew washers but the mightiest with the "git er done attitude." You know who you are. So give yourself several pats –on-the back-you all were super terrific hard workers. Thanks so much!

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE HOLIDAY RAFFLE

We appreciate all those who bought tickets from St. Vincent de Paul Society for the 2020 Holiday Raffle! Your ongoing support is greatly valued. Here are the winners of the prizes. French Lick Weekend Pat McGee; \$500 Nancy Bailey; \$500 Best Buy Gift Card Cheryl Hietpas; \$250 Ruthita Joy; \$250 Todd Krabich.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Give-Away Program

This program was held on December 11th, at the Anderson warehouse. We put together 34 Christmas bags that serviced over 80 children in the Anderson community. Each bag was filled with toys, books, candy, coloring books, crayons and fleece throws. Families were also provided with wrapping paper and scotch tape. Mother's bags were given out containing scarves, lotion, notepads and other goodies. A St. Vincent volunteer made containers of delicious Christmas cookies for each family.

Three eighth graders from Holy Cross School assisted in handing out bags to the families as they drove up to the warehouse. We appreciate their hard work in helping to make this event successful. Numerous St Vincent de Paul volunteers from St. Ambrose and St. Mary's helped with the distribution of the Christmas bags.

St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank the members of St. Ambrose and St. Mary's for their donations. A big thank you to Hoosier Park and other donors that helped make this event a success. It was rewarding to see the smiling faces of the parents when they came to pick up their bags for their children.

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.

Knights of Columbus

There will be a chicken fry on January 9th, and a tenderloin dinner on January 16th. Due to Covid meals will be carry-out only until further notice. All meals are at the Columbian Hall from 5:00-7:30 and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

SOUP KITCHEN

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.





Chipping Away

(An excerpt from an article published in *The Catholic Moment*, December 13, 2020)

I am a new missionary pastor. While I spent a year as a parochial administrator in one of my previous assignments, I think this is different. The diocese is undergoing a process of conversion and change, in order for each pastorate - and each individual - to be led into a deeper

experience of Christ and his saving mission, and to share the Gospel with others.

The word “evangelization” is still foreign to many Catholics, and the very word itself conjures up images of knocking on unsuspecting peoples’ doors, trying to convince them to “join us.” While there is some truth to this image, as I am sure many of us have experienced the “knock,” this is not what we are talking about in Uniting in Heart.

The vision of Uniting in Heart is to share the Good News, the Gospel, the saving work of Jesus Christ, with the world, and we do that one person at a time, one relationship at a time, one conversation about God at a time. Many people think that evangelization and Church-growth are one and the same. They are not. While we want to see the Church grow in numbers, we need to see the Church grow in depth of spirituality. When we speak of evangelization, we need to

evangelize ourselves first. We cannot give what we do not have. Ultimately, our hope is that as people hear the Good News, they will find its fulfillment with us in the Catholic Church.

It takes a while to change a culture, and we have to chip away at it as if we were digging a tunnel. I am confident that with patience and time we will all see the fruit of our labors, if we use the right tools and we tunnel in the correct direction. We need to use the saving message of Jesus Christ to chip away at the indifference and cynicism in our hearts. Eventually we’ll reach the other side to eternal life with Christ.

Father Sean Pogue is the Missionary Pastor for Sacred Heart in Cicero.



Chipping Away

(Extracto de un artículo publicado en *The Catholic Moment*, 13 de diciembre, 2020)

Soy un nuevo pastor misionero. Aunque pasé un año como administrador parroquial en una de mis asignaciones anteriores, creo que esto es diferente. La diócesis está atravesando un proceso de conversión y cambio, para que cada pastorado - y cada individuo - sea llevado a una experiencia más profunda de Cristo

y su misión salvífica, y para compartir el Evangelio con los demás.

La palabra “evangelización” todavía es ajena a muchos católicos, y la misma palabra en sí misma evoca imágenes de golpes en las puertas de personas desprevenidas, tratando de convencerlas de que “se unan a nosotros”. Si bien hay algo de verdad en esta imagen, como estoy seguro de que muchos de nosotros hemos experimentado el “golpe”, no es de esto de lo que estamos hablando en Unidos de Corazón.

La visión de Unidos de Corazón es compartir la Buena Nueva, el Evangelio, la obra salvadora de Jesucristo, con el mundo, y lo hacemos una persona a la vez, una relación a la vez, una conversación sobre Dios a la vez. Mucha gente piensa que la evangelización y el crecimiento de la Iglesia son lo mismo. No lo son. Si bien queremos ver a la Iglesia crecer en número, necesitamos verla crecer en profundidad de espiritualidad. Cuando

hablamos de evangelización, primero debemos evangelizarnos a nosotros mismos. No podemos dar lo que no tenemos. En última instancia, nuestra esperanza es que a medida que las personas escuchen la Buena Nueva, encuentren su cumplimiento con nosotros en la Iglesia Católica.

Toma tiempo cambiar una cultura y tenemos que ir la transformando o cavando poco a poco como si estuviéramos cavando un túnel. Estoy seguro de que con paciencia y tiempo, todos veremos el fruto de nuestro trabajo, si usamos las herramientas adecuadas y hacemos un camino en la dirección correcta. Necesitamos usar el mensaje salvador de Jesucristo para eliminar la indiferencia y el cinismo de nuestro corazón. Eventualmente alcanzaremos el otro lado de la vida eterna con Cristo.

Padre Sean Pogue es el Pastor Misionero del Sacred Heart en Cicero.



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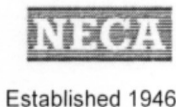
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