



Holy Redeemer (HR) 106 3rd St. SE, PO Box 401 • Renville, MN 56284 • [holyredeemer@heartofjesusafc.org](mailto:holyredeemer@heartofjesusafc.org)

St. Mary (SM) 220 S. 10th St., PO Box 500 • Bird Island, MN 55310 • [stmary@heartofjesusafc.org](mailto:stmary@heartofjesusafc.org)

St. Aloysius (SA) 302 S. 10th St. • Olivia, MN 56277 • [staloyusius@heartofjesusafc.org](mailto:staloyusius@heartofjesusafc.org)

**Area Faith Staff Listing:**

- Fr. Joe Steinbeisser .....Pastor**  
.....frjoe@heartofjesusafc.org
- Fr. George Schmit .. Sen. Associate**  
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- Sara Anderson ..... AFC Bus. Mgr.**  
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- Lynn Schueller .....FF Coordinator**  
.....lynns@heartofjesusafc.org
- Karen Smith .....School Secretary**  
.....ksmith@stmarysbi.com
- Sandy Zens.... AFC Parish Secretary**  
.....sandyz@heartofjesusafc.org

**AFC Office Hours:**  
M- Th: 9:00 am -4:00 pm,  
F: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm (noon)

All AFC offices are located in the parish home at St. Aloysius - 302 South 10th Street, Olivia  
Phone: (320)365-3593 or (320)523-2030

**St. Mary's School:**  
Phone: (320) 365-3693

**PASTORAL REFLECTION**

Let me begin by wishing you a Happy New Year from Panama City Beach. My sister and I got her on the last day of December and we were able to move into the condo a day earlier than what my contract said. The weather has been seasonally warm so I can wear shorts and walk the beach. It is good to be here and away from all that cold you are having in Minnesota.

I begin my Reflections for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord which ends the Christmas season in the Church with a story.

"Sharon had been married to Rob for seven years. They had two beautiful children. But Sharon's mother began to sense that her daughter was starting to go through hard times in her marriage.

"One day she called Sharon and said, 'If I pay for a baby-sitter, will you go shopping with me tomorrow?' Sharon jumped at the invitation. While eating lunch together the next day after shopping all morning, Sharon's mother leaned over and said to her, 'I had a reason for asking you out today, I have something important to tell you. It's something my mother told me and asked me to tell my daughter when the right time came. My mother called it three guidelines to a happy marriage.

"The first guideline is: Never keep score in marriage. Don't ever say to your spouse, 'I have been doing more than my share. It's not fair.' The day you begin to keep score is the day your marriage begins to die.

"The second guideline is: Never be too busy for your children. Don't ever say to them, 'Can't you see I'm busy? Come back later.' The day you become too busy for your children is the day your communication with them begins to die.

"The third guideline is this: Never miss a day praying for your family. Don't ever let twenty-four hours go by without talking to God about your family. The day you stop conversing with God about your family is the day you deprive them of the greatest gift a mother can give."

"As her mother finished, Sharon took her mother's hand and eyes filled with tears said to her, 'Mom that's the best advice you could give me. But why wait seven years to tell me? Why didn't you tell me the day Rob and I got married? It would have helped me so much.' Her mother replied, 'Honey, I wanted to tell you that day. I wanted to tell you with all my heart but I knew it wasn't the right time. I had to wait for the right time when you would understand what I was talking about.'"

There is a certain amount of wisdom in that story and **Cont. on Pg. 3**

Welcome to all those who celebrate with us, whether life long parishioners, new arrivals in the area, or visitors! **If you have not registered, or if you have moved, please complete this form and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner     Update/Changed Info     St. Mary     St. Aloysius     Holy Redeemer

# This Week in the Area Faith Community

## AFC MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

*Amplifier aids available for the hearing impaired are located at the entrances of the church at SM & SA.  
Please ask the ushers for assistance.*

Date & Time	Location	Intention
<b><u>Sun., January 9</u></b>		
8:00 am	HR	Sacr. of Reconciliation
8:30 am	HR	For the People
10:00 am	SM	Sacr. of Reconciliation
10:30 am	SM	+ Vernon Woelfel
<b><u>Mon., January 10</u></b>		
<b><u>Tues., January 11</u></b>		
8:30 am	SA	+ LaVonne Winters
<b><u>Wed., January 12</u></b>		
8:30 am	SM	+ Leslie Kyrk
10:30 am	SA ORHCC	For the Residents of ORHCC
<b><u>Thurs., January 13</u></b>		
10:30 am	SM	Margaret Gartner Prepared by Gr. 1
<b><u>Fri., January 14</u></b>		
8:00 am	SA	Sacr. of Reconciliation
8:30 am	SA	Tom & Cheryl Haney Family
9:00 am	SA	Rosary
<b><u>Sat., January 15</u></b>		
4:30 pm	SA	Sacr. of Reconciliation
4:30 pm	SA	Rosary
5:00 pm	SA	+ Dolores Rothmeier
<b><u>Sun., January 16</u></b>		
8:00 am	HR	Sacr. of Reconciliation
8:30 am	HR	+ Alvin Wohnoutka
10:00 am	SM	Sacr. of Reconciliation
10:30 am	SM	For the People

Daily readings can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Readings are also list in the free devotional books provided at our AFC churches: *The Word Among Us* and *Living Faith*.

Rosary is offered at 4:30 pm on Saturday and 8:00 am Sunday before the Mass at St Aloysius Church.

All Masses held in the church are open to parishioners and public.

Masses at health care facilities are for residents only until further notice.

## Calendar of Events January 9-16, 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Christmas Décor take down 11:30 am SM CCW Mtg. 2:00-7:00 pm DYC/COR @ JC	7:00 pm KC Mtg. SM/CB	7:00 am Men's Group Meeting SA/JC	<b>AFC Faith Form Classes</b> 6:30 pm Parish Choir Prac. SM
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Nothing scheduled	Nothing schedule	Nothing scheduled	Nothing scheduled

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jesus. This feast closes out the Christmas cycle in the Roman Catholic calendar. The feast reminds us that just as Jesus moved from the baptism waters into ministry, we need to live as His disciples in the world today. On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we recommit ourselves to our baptismal call to be priests, prophets and kings of the Lord. We celebrate our call to holiness given to us when we were baptized.

*Fr Joseph Steibeisser*

### *Reflections continued from page 1.....*

I think it can also help us understand something about our feast today, the Baptism of the Lord. When you read the Gospel accounts of the baptism of Jesus, have you ever asked yourself, "Why did he wait so long to begin his public ministry? Why didn't he begin his preaching in his 20's rather than wait until he was thirty? Why did Jesus remain in Nazareth for thirty long years when he knew the whole world was crying out for what he had to say? What in the world was Jesus waiting for?

The answer is that Jesus was waiting for John the Baptist to call the people to repentance. We need some background information to understand why this is so.

Up until the time that John the Baptist called the people to repentance, no Jew ever thought of submitting to baptism. Jews practice baptism but only for converts, those coming from another faith tradition.

Commenting on this, one Scripture writer, William Barclay, writes, "No Jew ever conceived that he, a member of God's chosen people...could ever need baptism. Baptism was for sinners and no Jew ever conceived of himself as a sinner shut out from God. Now for the first time in their national history the Jews realized their own sin and their own need for God, Never before had their been such a unique national movement of penitence and of search for God. This was the very movement for which Jesus had been waiting for. Men and women were conscious of their sin and conscious of their need for God."

Why did Jesus wait so long to begin his preaching? It was because the people were not ready for what Jesus had to say. Until they were conscious of their sin and their need for God, they would not understand Jesus' message.

That brings us to the point of how all this applies to our lives today. Jesus can't begin to act in our lives and transform them until we are ready to let him do so like the Jews in Jesus' time. Nor can Jesus do anything to make us ready. Only we can do that. And the way we can make ourselves ready is the way the Jews and Sharon in the story became ready. It is to recognize and to admit that we cannot go it alone in life. It is to recognize and to admit our need for Jesus Christ to act in our lives to transform us into what God made us to be.

We pray that we may recognize and admit our need for Jesus. We pray that we may turn our lives over to him and let him transform us and brings us to a happiness we never dreamed possible.

Have a good week.

*Fr. George Schmit*

## AFC PRAYER CHAIN

**Do you or someone you know  
need prayer?**

Contact Duane or Julie Remer @  
507-430-9485 for confidential  
prayers or if you are interested in  
serving on our prayer chain.

## AFC PRAYER CORNER

In order to keep the prayer corner current, names will be kept on the prayer corner until **April 1, 2022** unless requested to come off earlier. In order for names to be on our prayers corner, the **INDIVIDUAL or a FAMILY MEMBER** must inform the parish office for your parish. Due to the Privacy Act we are unable to put names on our prayer list without their permission.

### **Please Pray For:**

Bailey, Kim SA  
Carmody, Dana SM  
Dietz, Krystle SA  
Dolezal, Joann SM  
Lykken, Chase SM  
Nelson, Samuel T. SM  
Rauenhorst, Tom SA  
Sullivan Family, HR

### **SA VIGIL LIGHTS**

*Vigil Lights for these special intentions will burn at the SA Shrine the week of January 8*

- 1) Don & Mary Lou Dobmeier
- 2) Jennifer Beecham
- 3) Carter Bremseth
- 4) Margaret Gartner
- 5) Tom Rau

### **Candles are \$4.00 Each.**

Please place your single intention and money in the collection or bring it to the parish office no later than 12:00 noon on Monday. The candles are lit on Sat. and will burn throughout the week.

# Parish, Area Faith Community and School News

## ST. ALOYSIUS NEWS

St. Al's Church funeral group: **Thank you** for preparing and serving the funeral luncheon for Tom Rau's funeral. It was very much appreciated. *The family of Tom Rau*

## ST. MARY'S NEWS

**Fall Collection:** We are moving very slowly at reaching our goal for this years Fall Collection which is **\$65,000**. This collection replaces a parish dinner and festival/bazaar that many parishes have for a major fundraiser. If you have not yet donated to this collection, please help us out in reaching our goal. So far we have received \$49,103.64 towards this collection, which is 75.54% of our goal.

**KC's meeting** will be held on Monday, Jan. 10 at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church Hall.

**St Mary's Church** will be removing Christmas décor after Mass this Sunday, January 9. If you are comfortable and able to stay after Mass and help, please do so.

## ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

**Schulze Challenge Grant Update:** Thank you to all you have supported the matching challenge grant. Because of so many wonderful people we have met our goal of \$25,000.00 and will be granted \$25,000.00 from the Richard Schulze Foundation. Thank you again to all and for all the on-going support. God Bless.

Mrs. Tracy Bertrand Sigurdson, Principal

**Sunflower washcloths** are available at our AFC office in Olivia and at Bird Island Hardware Store. They sell for \$2 each. Proceeds benefit St. Mary's hot lunch program.

Don't miss your chance to WIN an **Ice Castle Fish House or Golf Cart!**

The **8th Annual St. Mary's School Winter Raffle** has 5 awesome prizes and only 600 tickets sold! The raffle will be held on January 14 at 2:00 pm live on our Facebook page.

\*Grand Prize: 2022 Ice Castle Fish House, 6.5' x 8' "V front" Scout

\*Grand Prize: 2021 Golfer Setup 48 Volt Electric Golf Cart

\*3rd Prize: \$500 Cash

\*4th Prize: \$250 Cash

\*5th Prize: \$250 Cash

Tickets are \$50 each. How to purchase a ticket? - Get in touch with any St. Mary's School family OR - contact Karen Smith at St. Mary's School at 320-365-3693 OR - Email us at [raffletickets@stmarysbi.com](mailto:raffletickets@stmarysbi.com)

You do NOT need to be present to win! \*Winners to pay sales tax. This is your chance to WIN your DREAM Fish House or a Golf Cart, plus help St. Mary's!

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

St. Mary's SCHOOL WEBSITE!

[stmarysschoolbirdisland.com](http://stmarysschoolbirdisland.com)

Find us on FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/stmarysbi](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysbi)

### ST. MARY'S CASH CALENDAR WINNERS

12/26/2021	Rosemary Woelfel	\$50.00
12/27/2021	Carolyn Jungers	\$25.00
12/28/2021	Patricia Winsted	\$25.00
12/29/2021	Judy Sheehan	\$25.00
12/30/2021	Kris Zuhlsdorf	\$25.00
12/31/2021	Brittany & Jesse Lindahl	\$25.00

*January 2022 winners are coming!*

# AFC Ministry Schedules

## Ministry Schedules for the weekend of January 15/16, 2022

### 5:00 pm Sat., January 15 @ St. Aloysius

Sacristan: Margaret Meuhlberg  
Minister of the Word: Todd Frank  
Plate: Father & Carren Frank  
Altar Servers: Clare Frank  
Music: Ally Johnson & MaryElla Clouse  
Ushers: Juan Ramirez & Juan Ramirez II  
Depositor: Todd Frank  
Rosary Leader: Duane Remer

### 10:30 am Sun., January 16 @ St. Mary's

Minister of the Word: Sue Ebbers  
Plate: Father & Sara Welsh  
Altar Servers: Sawyer Erickson  
Music: Larry Welsh & Maleia Ryberg  
Ushers: Glen Rodel & Gene Zens

### 8:30 am Sun., January 16 @ Holy Redeemer

Minister of the Word: Jim Schueller  
Plate: Father, Colleen Alex  
Altar Servers: Emily Lippert  
Music: TBD  
Ushers: Bill Schafer & Gene Frank

AFC Money Counters: Monday, January 10: Mary Kosak, Margaret Meuhlberg, & AFC parish office staff

## **Heart of Jesus AFC Youth Faith Formation News**

**W.I.S.E.** will meet Jan. 19th from 7-8:30 pm at the Jubilee Center this is for all 6-8th graders AFC.

**Ski trip:** We will be joining an area church for skiing this winter at Mount Kato. We have 2 dates: Sunday January 16th and February 20th. You do not have to attend both days, but you need to sign up and pay in advance. The cost is \$50.00 for the bus, lift ticket, and rental. We will leave at: 12:30 pm and return at 10:30 pm. You can sign up with Michelle Peppel at 320-523-2030 or michellep@heartofjesusafc.org.

## **HEART OF JESUS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY** *ADULT* FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**RCIA:** Are you someone who is wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith? Maybe you have been feeling a tug on your heart to become Catholic. We begin the journey of RCIA for people just like you to explore the richness of the Catholic faith. For more information please contact Michelle Peppel at the parish office (523-2030) or contact her via email at michellep@heartofjesusafc.org.

### **FORMED is a great source!**

### **Be sure to register and use this resource!**

To log in and use FORMED: Go to: [heartofjesusafc.formed.org](http://heartofjesusafc.formed.org) Click register and enter your name, email address, and desired password You're all ready to access the inspiring and engaging content on FORMED! Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

**FORMED**

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 9, 2022

**LEARN**

#### **LECTIO: MARK, EPISODE 2: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

Jesus couldn't have been baptized without a baptizer. Join Dr. Tim Gray as he explains the opening verses of Mark's Gospel that depict the ministry of John the Baptist – the man who would baptize Jesus.



To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

# Stewardship December 25/26, 2021 & January 1/2, 2022

	Holy Redeemer	St. Aloysius	St. Mary
<b>Adult December 25/26</b>	\$ 1,928.00	\$ 5,236.00	\$ 10,549.29
<b>Plate</b>	\$ 55.00	\$ 171.00	\$ 45.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,983.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,407.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,594.29</b>
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1,739.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,091.88</b>	<b>\$ 5,342.02</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 244.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,315.12</b>	<b>\$ 5,252.27</b>
<b>Adult January 1/2</b>	\$ 628.00	\$ 10,586.00	\$ 13,038.00
<b>Online December 2021</b>	\$ 1,105.00	\$ 2,985.00	\$ 4,070.00
<b>Plate</b>	\$ 122.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 83.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,855.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,598.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,191.00</b>
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$ 1,739.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,091.88</b>	<b>\$ 5,342.02</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 116.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,506.12</b>	<b>\$ 11,848.98</b>
<b>YTD Collection</b>	<b>\$ 47,642.48</b>	<b>\$ 120,442.85</b>	<b>\$ 183,549.50</b>
<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>\$ 46,953.00</b>	<b>\$ 110,480.76</b>	<b>\$ 144,234.54</b>
<b>YTD Difference</b>	<b>\$ 689.48</b>	<b>\$ 9,962.09</b>	<b>\$ 39,314.96</b>
<b>DMA Goal * 2021-22'</b>	<b>\$ 5,809.80</b>	<b>\$ 17,071.86</b>	<b>\$ 22,792.28</b>
<b>Cash received</b>	<b>\$ 6,965.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,188.65</b>	<b>\$ 16,535.00</b>
<b>Cash pledged</b>	<b>\$ 7,215.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,503.65</b>	<b>\$ 16,785.00</b>
<b>Christmas 12/25/21</b>	<b>\$ 3,495.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,622.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,879.52</b>
<b>Solemnity 2022</b>	<b>\$ 70.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,115.00</b>	<b>\$ 401.00</b>

\*Diocesan Ministry Appeal: Remember that 20% of our donations come back to each parish.

## Sunday Offering Considerations

During these uncertain times, we need to ask all of our parishioners, if you are able, please continue your financial support of your parish to help us make up for our loss of Sunday offering. Your Adult Sunday Offerings are vital to the core ministries of our parishes. During this time, please consider one of these options one for your stewardship of treasure:

- online at [www.heartofjesusafc.org.com](http://www.heartofjesusafc.org.com), to make a recurring or one time donation. You will have complete control over your contribution amount and frequency of payments.
- an electronic contribution through ACH (Automatic Clearing House) for an amount to be transferred from your checking or savings account on the 1st and/or the 15th of every month. The ACH form can be found on the Area Faith Community website at [www.heartofjesusafc.org.com](http://www.heartofjesusafc.org.com).
- special collections are available with online donations at [www.heartofjesusafc.org.com](http://www.heartofjesusafc.org.com), or ACH donations with the form found on the website.
- mail your donation to your parish office.
- And as always, thank you for your investment and continued support of our parishes. We need your support to continue to do God's work.



**GIVE ONLINE**

Click on the symbol at  
[www.heartofjesusafc.org](http://www.heartofjesusafc.org)  
\*\*if questions, call the parish

### AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

Check us out on our WEBSITE: [www.heartofjesusafc.org.com](http://www.heartofjesusafc.org.com)

Find us on FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/heartofjesusafc](http://www.facebook.com/heartofjesusafc)

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### ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK~

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Please support our sponsors as they make the bulletin, website & online giving available at no cost to our AFC.

## Diocesan News & Area Community News

**Sexual Abuse Victim Notice:** Anyone who has suffered sexual abuse by a priest or another person involved in Church ministry is encouraged to immediately report such abuse to local law enforcement, regardless of when it occurred, if it has not yet been reported. A listing of all county law enforcement and child protection agencies within the 15 counties of the Diocese of New Ulm is posted on the diocesan Web site at <https://www.dnu.org/report-abuse>.

Victims and survivors of abuse by clergy are also encouraged to contact the diocesan victim assistance coordinator or the bishop's delegate in matters pertaining to sexual misconduct at 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, or by phone at 507-233-5313, for counseling or other assistance in healing.

Toda persona que haya sido víctima de abuso sexual por parte de un miembro del clero u otra persona en el ministerio de la Iglesia debe reportar dicha mala conducta a las autoridades policiales inmediatamente, independientemente de cuando haya sucedido, si aún no ha sido reportado. Un listado de todas las entidades policiales y los servicios de protección al menor dentro de los quince condados de la Diócesis de New Ulm se encuentra en nuestra página de internet, <https://www.dnu.org/report-abuse>.

También se exhorta a las víctimas y sobrevivientes de abuso por parte del clero ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de asistencia para víctimas o el delegado del Obispo en cuestiones sobre el mal comportamiento sexual 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073, o al 507-233-5313 para consejería u otra ayuda de sanación.

"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the New Year, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**. The next Weekends are Feb 18-20, 2022 in Windom, and Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo. For more information, call Miki Schultz at 507-227-8229 or visit them at [southmnwwme.org](http://southmnwwme.org).

Diocese of New Ulm Catholic Charities offers individual, family, and marriage counseling.  
1-866-670-5163. All calls are confidential. Se habla Español



### Café Juan Anna-San Lucas Mission Coffee

Coffee is available at the AFC church office.

\$10 per bag— ground & whole bean available.

**Bulletin Notice Deadline:** All items for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office by **Thursday, 10 days prior, by 12:00pm.**

**Registration:** We welcome you to one of our communities in our Area Faith Community and invite you to register in one of our parishes. Stop by or call the parish office.

**Baptism:** Please contact the parish office to schedule baptism preparation class and baptism.

**Matrimony:** All Catholics need to call the pastoral leader at the parish office at least 6 months before getting married, even if the wedding is going to be in a non-Catholic church.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Call the parish office if you or someone you know is in the hospital, is ill, or faces serious surgery and wishes to be anointed.

**Quinceañera (15th Birthday) Celebrations:** Contact the parish office at least 6 months before desired date to complete application, attend Sunday Mass regularly, be part of a Faith Formation program, and attend a required retreat.

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Certified Public Accountants  
**Laurie Schmitz, CPA**  
**Dawn Mertens, RAP**  
320-365-4620 Bird Island, MN

**HANEY CONSTRUCTION**  
1500 W. Lincoln Ave., Olivia  
(320) 523-5450

**Bird Island Hawk Creek Mutual insurance company**  
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