

St. Mary of Mercy, St. Martin of Tours & St. Stephen Parishes

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parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-of-mercy; parishesonline.com/find/st-martin-church-57332; parishesonline.com/find/st-stephen-church-57319

APRIL 13-19, 2020

REMINDER: ALL PUBLIC NOTICE DUE TO THE



MASSSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS).

Rosary & Benediction of the Bl. Sacrament...Sunday: 3:15 p.m. (Carmelite Monastery)

Sacrament of Reconciliation see schedule below for weekday confessions, or by appointment

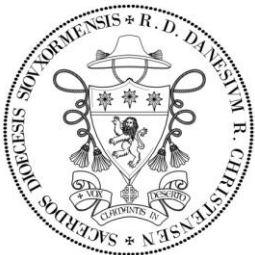
Sacrament of Baptism - Call Father to set up a date, preferably before the birth of the child.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony - Call to set up an appointment *at least* 6 months ahead of the proposed date for the Celebration of the Sacrament. A date will not be set until the first meeting with Father.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

EASTER SUNDAY

April 13 Mon.	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	+John Leitheiser (Fr. Cone)
April 14 Tues.	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	Glen Tomkowiak Int (Fr. Lawrence)
April 15 Wed.	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	+Ron Endorf (Fr. Cone)
April 16 Thurs.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+Ron Aulner (Fr. Stevens)
April 10 Fri.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	+Ron & Robert Aulner (Fr. Stevens)
April 11 Sat.	8:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	Bishop Donald DeGrood Int (Fr. Short)
April 12 Sunday	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention & People of the Parishes (Fr. Cone)
	3:15 pm	Carmelite Monastery	NO Rosary and Benediction



Dear Parish Family, what distressing times we live in! Who would have thought we would see a time where we would not be gathering for these most sacred and solemn of days! We must, even though we are experiencing these trials, continue to trust God's plan, which is always for our good. If we use these days well, we will be purified by them! So, my spiritual children, let us continue to pray, especially the family rosary. There is no excuse for not doing so because of the situation. So get to it!

I know many of you are worried about me. Let me assure you, I am still alive and sinning! Yes, I am sick, but my doctors tell me that given I have ALS, I am relatively stable. I

do continue to see a progression, particularly with my hands, arms, and speech. This makes things difficult, but I am holding my own. That said, surely changes are coming in how I minister to you. Out of concern for you and your spiritual well being, changes will need to be made. I have been discussing with Bishop DeGrood the best possible solution. There should be news on this soon, but know this, I'm not jumping ship just yet! I still plan on living in Alexandria as long as I can, even if there might be a change of some sort.

I am writing this on Holy Thursday, the day on which Jesus instituted the priesthood and ordained the first priests. I find it bittersweet. It is a day of celebrating my priesthood but also a day when I look to the future, which like Jesus, includes a heavy cross. I see Good Friday on the horizon and can become overwhelmed and shed tears as I see it. But with Jesus I say "Not my will, but Thine be done." God is good, and desires our good, so I (and we) entrust ourselves to God's plan. Good Friday and the Cross is hard, yet on the other side awaits the resurrection. The pain of the cross is real. Death is sorrowful. The tomb is dark. But thanks be to Jesus, these realities do not have the last word. Jesus rose again, and we who are faithful to the end will also rise to eternal life. We have no need to fear, even as we see the cross and death before us!

These days of pandemic and isolation have allowed me to pray more and Jesus and Mary are teaching me much. I hope I can share some of these things with you in the future. There is no better teacher than the cross! It has in it every lesson we need to become saints. We read in it God's great love! So in these days spend time "reading" your crucifix. Do it by praying the rosary.

Let us continue to pray for one another! God loves you and so do I!



*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.
Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed. (Psalm 126:1-3)*

Senior Meals are available for deliver to your home for anyone 60+ during this time of the COVID-19, through your Senior Dining program. Please contact your senior dinner representative for further information to get signed up. Recommended meal cost is \$4.00. Bridgewater/Emery site: (605) 729-2525

James Valley Community Center in Mitchell also has curbside pickup for orders on the Second Meal Program. You can call 605-995-8441 for more details or on their website.

3rd Graders and Above: Training for new altar servers from all three parishes will be held sometime after this pandemic is over at the St. Mary's parish hall in Alexandria. Please contact Kelly at 605-359-5889 to register.

Knights of Columbus: Next meeting will be April 15th at 7pm at St Mary's Parish Hall in Alexandria if permitted. With distancing practiced.

Knights of Columbus Gun raffle tickets. This is for the drawing for the 50 cal Black Powder rifle to be drawn at the next Knights of Columbus event. Proceeds to go to the Steubenville Youth Retreat. So far there are 4 kids signed up!!!

St Stephen's Church will continue with saying the Rosary on Tuesday mornings. Please note the time change from 8:30 to 9:00.

St Martin & St Stephen CRE, St Martin Sacred Heart Annual Spring Carnival has been postponed to a later date to be decided.

If you would like to give online, you may do so from the Diocese website. If you have any questions, please call Jan.

CFSA Update:

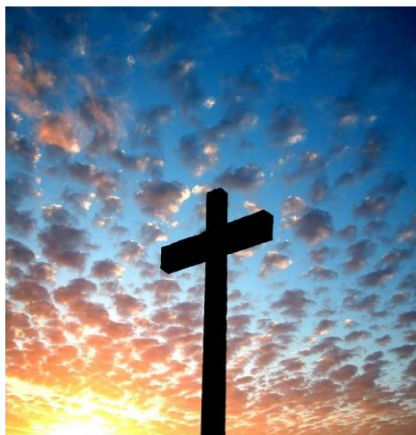
St Mary of Mercy-Alexandria has reached \$14,230.00 of \$18,000.00 which is 49% with 68 of 140 households responding.

St Martin-Emery has reached \$10,185.00 of \$15,000.00 which is 47% with 42 of 90 households responding.

St Stephen-Bridgewater has reached \$5,315.00 of \$12,400.00 which is 40% with 20 of 50 households responding.

Our goal is 100% participation, please fill out your card and submit even if it is prayers or maybe donation of your talent. Thank you for your stewardship! Remember that anything over and above the parish share sent to the diocese will stay in the parish. Again, thank you for your generosity.

St Mary of Mercy Bell Tower Capital Campaign Update: A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE RESPONDED TO DATE, IT'S GREATLY APPRECIATED!! To date there has been 21/140 household respond with Pledges of \$40,300.00 and \$18,350.00 already given. Again Thank you to all!!!! GOD BLESS!!!!



*May you all have a Blessed Easter!!
The Lord is Risen!! HE is right beside us through this
trying time!!
Pray more, stress less!!*

