

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2026

Be still before the Lord; wait for Him. Psalm 37:7

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings!

Do you pray the rosary? You could. More to the point, you should.

Since October is the month of the rosary, and knowing how often we can look to a customer review before buying into a product, let's examine what has been said about the rosary.

- Saint John Paul II wrote, "With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love."
- Pope Leo XIII wrote, "A soul that shall devoutly repeat these prayers, that shall ponder with faith these mysteries, will, without doubt, be filled with wonder at the Divine purposes..."
- Saint Bernard, reflecting on the rosary, gave us these words, "Remember, O most pious Virgin Mary, that never was it heard that any who fled to thy protection, called upon thy help, and sought thy intercession, was left forsaken."
- And Saint Pope Paul VI wrote, "This very fruitful way of praying [the rosary] is not only efficacious in warding off evils and preventing calamities, but is also of great help in fostering Christian life."

And these are just the quotes I can fit in a few lines. There are many more like it. So don't take my word for it, and I hope you will join me in praying the rosary often for the many needs and desires of our heart, the Church and our world.

Our Lady, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us. May God bless you!

In Christ,
Father Mitchell Bechtold

Parish Life & Ministry Updates

Liturgy & Worship: Sarah Woeste

Thank you to all the ministers who have stepped up to help with the 5 PM Mass. Volunteers can self-schedule online or can call the office to volunteer.

Eight new altar servers were recently trained by Fr. Mitchell.

We have a newly formed Young Adult Choir who have sung for a few Spanish Masses. Members are bilingual and they would love to have additional members including anglos. Contact the office for more information.

An All Soul's Day Mass of Remembrance will be held on Monday, Nov. 2nd at 6:30 pm. During this liturgy we will have a special time of remembrance for members of our 4 parishes who have died during the past year. Their names will be read and their photos shown on the screens. Everyone is welcome to attend this liturgy. Refreshments will be served following Mass.

Singers and musicians from all 4 parishes are welcome to join Music Ministry for the All Souls Day Mass. Rehearsal will be on Monday, October 26th from 5:45-7:00 pm.

Thank you to those who volunteered to help with Rosary & Communion at Pine Villa on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Family Faith Formation: Mark Kociemba

October is a busy month for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry! Thank you to everyone who helped with our September activities. Your time and support make these programs possible, and we are grateful for your continued help throughout October.

October 10 — Roadside Cleanup: Meet at St. John's in Meire Grove at 9 AM. We expect to finish around 10 AM and will enjoy an ice cream treat afterward.

October 11 — BINGO: Youth Ministry and Faith Formation will host BINGO in St. Mary's School gym to support youth activities, including Castaway, summer camp, the Middle School Lock-In, Apostle Games, and more. Doors open at 3:30 PM, and games begin at 4 PM. The cost is \$15 for a meal and one bingo card. Volunteers are needed and should arrive at 3 PM. Please join us for an afternoon of fun while supporting our youth!

October 14 — Apostle Games Registration Deadline: Registration and the \$40 fee are due.

October 21 — Faith Formation: Classes for grades 1 and 3-11.

October 25 — Apostle Games: This diocesan event will be held at St. Cloud State University. The cost is \$40, and registration is due October 14. Adult chaperones are needed.

October 28 — Faith Formation: Classes for grades 1 and 3–11.

Thank you for helping our young people grow in faith, build friendships, and serve our community!

Finance: Katie Roerick

- St. Mary's Calendar Raffle is right around the corner! Watch the bulletin and listen for announcements at Mass for details.
- Special Collections in October: Later this month, we will have two opportunities to support important ministries. The World Mission Collection supports missionary work in areas where the Church is young, struggling, or persecuted. The Catholic Charities Annual Appeal supports charitable services throughout central Minnesota. Please prayerfully consider contributing as you are able.
- Looking Ahead: All Saints' Day is November 1. An envelope for this holy day will be included in your packet.

Finance: continued by Judy Caveny

- As of September 8, I am currently filling in as the parish bookkeeper. First of all I want to thank all those who have been very helpful to me as I stepped back into the bookkeeping role while Katie is on maternity leave.
- **A reminder about the new contribution envelopes:** Please check the box on the front of your envelope to indicate your parish. This helps our money counters sort contributions correctly and saves them time looking up envelope numbers. Thank you for your help and your continued financial support!

Parish Administration: Pam Pundsack

Oh what a night! The St. Mary's Fall Picnic & Golden Ladle Cook-Off Event was a wonderful success, complete with beautiful weather for the children's outdoor games! A special thank-you to Deb A. Klaphake, Deb J. Klaphake, Michelle Rademacher, and Sarah Wiechman of the Parish Life Committee for their planning and hard work. We are also grateful to the members of the Finance Committee and the many other volunteers who helped make the event possible. Thank you to all the cooks who prepared such a delicious variety of soups and chilis for everyone to sample. Congratulations to Linda Mohr, winner of the Critic's Choice Award for her chicken wild rice soup, and Norah Wiechman, winner of the People's Choice Award for her ham and potato soup!

The men's and women's groups are off to a great start! Thank you to Bob Arceneau and his core group of Ralph VanBeck, Eric Dehmer, Zach Thell, & Tyler Polmann for leading the That Man Is You group and Jodi Maus and her core group of Terri Ellering, Lisa Brixius, Jody Wehlage, & Anita Arceneau for leading SHE Shall Be Called Woman. Both groups are always welcoming new people.

Growing in the Faith

The devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary invites us to reflect on the profound suffering the Blessed Mother experienced throughout her life as she faithfully accompanied Jesus from His infancy to His burial. Through her sorrows, Mary teaches us unwavering trust in God, steadfast faith, and compassionate love even in times of great suffering.

The Seven Sorrows are:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:22–35) – Simeon foretells that a sword will pierce Mary's soul, preparing her for the suffering she will endure as the Mother of the Messiah.
2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13–15) – Mary and Joseph flee with the infant Jesus to escape King Herod's persecution, experiencing the hardship and uncertainty of exile.
3. The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–50) – Mary and Joseph search anxiously for three days before finding Jesus in the Temple, reminding us of the importance of seeking Christ in our own lives.
4. Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary (Traditional devotion; cf. Luke 23:27–31) – Mary witnesses her Son carrying His cross, sharing deeply in His suffering with a mother's compassionate heart.
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (John 19:25–30) – Standing faithfully at the foot of the Cross, Mary remains united to Jesus in His sacrifice for the salvation of the world.
6. Mary Receives the Body of Jesus (Traditional devotion; cf. Matthew 27:57–59) – Mary lovingly holds the lifeless body of her Son after He is taken down from the Cross, a moving image of sorrow and enduring love.
7. The Burial of Jesus (John 19:40–42) – Mary accompanies Jesus to His tomb, entrusting everything to God's promise even in the darkness of grief.

As we meditate on these seven sorrows, we are reminded that suffering, united with Christ, can become a path to hope and holiness. Mary's example encourages us to bring our own crosses to Jesus with confidence, knowing that God's love is always greater than our pain. Through her intercession, may we grow in faith, perseverance, and trust in the promise of the Resurrection.

Prayer for the Month

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.



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