



# *Immaculata*

*.....from our parish family to yours*

*Vol. 16 Issue 3 Winter/Advent 2023*





Fr. Mark Steffl

## A Message from Fr. Mark Steffl

On the cover of this issue is a picture of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament that we had at the conclusion of the October Rosary Procession in Sleepy Eye to mark the month of the Holy Rosary, October. It seemed particularly fitting in this year of “Eucharistic Revival” that we are focusing on in the United States. I think we are seeing some good results from this year’s focus on the Holy Eucharist, and its importance in our lives as individuals, families, parishes and our school.

During this time as we focus on the Holy Eucharist, some things we look forward to offering you include a talk from speaker Barbara Heil, along with gifting you the book, *Beautiful Eucharist* for Advent (sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women), gifting the book, *The Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle* during Lent and a visit from Msgr. James Shea (who is president of the University of Mary in Bismarck) who will preach the homilies at Mass one weekend in Lent. Our AFC Holy Hours have been successful as we dedicate a Sunday Holy Hour at each of the four churches in our AFC.

Below is a picture of the two angels that are at the gate of St. Mary’s Cemetery. Every time I went to the cemetery, I pondered why they were without their trumpets. I was finally able to find someone who was able to make the trumpets that are shown in the picture. I wasn’t able to locate a picture of them with the trumpets, so I don’t know if they ever had them, or if they disappeared at some time in history. (If anyone knows, I would be interested in hearing from you...) The angels with trumpets are an

image from the Book of Revelation that announce the Second Coming of the Lord.

The schedule for Advent and Christmas is included in this issue as well. This year, Advent is the shortest that it can be, as Christmas is the day after the 4th Sunday of Advent. (Last year, Christmas was on a Sunday so we had four full weeks of Advent.) There are many opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation listed, and I would like to encourage everyone to find a time to prepare their hearts with that Sacrament so as to be ready to meet the Christ Child in the manger at Christmas.

Lastly, thanks to everyone for your continued generosity! Over these last three years, we have been able to accomplish so much in terms of keeping up with different maintenance projects – the new terrazzo floor in the church, a new elevator in the school, repairing the altars and Communion rail (next year) and most recently some significant landscaping and drainage tiling around the church and rectory. This year, with the recommendation of the administrative council, the money that comes back to the parish from the Diocesan Ministries Appeal (DMA) will go to our maintenance fund. In my weekly bulletin comments, I mentioned looking into replacing the concrete in the rectory garage (which is a terrible broken mess). We are also working on re-keying the school, which is a huge project considering the amount of doors requiring quite a large key ring. This will standardize things considerably.

Our stewardship is a reflection of our understanding of how much the Lord has blessed us, and it is by our participation that we continue to carry out the mission of the Church in our parish!



# Advent and Christmas Schedule 2023-Divine Mercy Area Faith Community

*St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye; St. Paul's, Comfrey; Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth; St. Michael's, Morgan*

## Confession Times

Sun., Dec. 3	7-8pm	St. Mary's w/Holy Hour (3 priests)
Mon., Dec. 4	6-7pm	St. Mary's
Tues., Dec. 5	6-7pm	St. Paul's
Wed., Dec. 6	5:30-6:30pm	St. Mary's
Thurs., Dec. 7	8:30-9:30am	St. Michael's w/ Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 9	8:30-9:30am	St. Michael's
	9-10am	St. Mary's
	4-5pm	St. Mary's
	7:15-7:45pm	Japanese Martyrs
Sun., Dec. 10	7:30-7:45am	St. Michael's
	11-11:20am	Japanese Martyrs
	9:30-9:45am	St. Paul's
	7-8pm	St. Michael's (2 priests) with Holy Hour
Mon., Dec. 11	6-7pm	St. Mary's
Tues., Dec. 12	6-7pm	St. Paul's
Wed., Dec. 13	5:30-6:30pm	St. Mary's
Thurs., Dec. 14	8:30-9:30am	St. Michael's w/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 16	8:30-9:30am	St. Michael's
	9-10am	St. Mary's
	4-5pm	St. Mary's
	7:15-7:45pm	Japanese Martyrs
Sun., Dec. 17	7:30-7:45am	St. Michael's
	9:30-9:45am	St. Paul's
	11-11:20am	Japanese Martyrs
	7-8pm	Japanese Martyrs (2 priests) with Holy Hour
Mon., Dec. 18	6-7pm	St. Mary's
Tues., Dec. 19	6-7pm	St. Paul's
Wed., Dec. 20	5:30-6:30pm	St. Mary's
Thurs., Dec. 21	8:30-9:30am	St. Michael's w/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 23	8:30-9:30am	St. Michael's
	9-10am	St. Mary's
	4-5pm	St. Mary's
	7:15-7:45pm	Japanese Martyrs
Sun., Dec. 24	7:30-7:45am	St. Michael's
	9:30-9:45am	St. Paul's
	11-11:20am	Japanese Martyrs

## Christmas through Epiphany Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24	
4:00pm	St. Mary's
4:30pm	St. Michael's
5:00pm	Japanese Martyrs
8:00pm	St. Paul's
8:00pm	St. Mary's
Midnight	Japanese Martyrs (Latin)
Christmas Day, Monday, December 25	
7:30am	St. Mary's
8:00am	St. Michael's
9:30am	St. Mary's
10:00am	St. Paul's
Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31	
5:30pm	St. Mary's
8:00pm	Japanese Martyrs
Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Day, Monday, January 1	
7:30am	St. Mary's
8:00am	St. Michael's
9:30am	St. Mary's
10:00am	St. Paul's
11:30am	Japanese Martyrs (Latin)
Epiphany of the Lord, Saturday, January 6	
5:30pm	St. Mary's
8:00pm	Japanese Martyrs
Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 7	
7:30am	St. Mary's
8:00am	St. Michael's
9:30am	St. Mary's
10:00am	St. Paul's
11:30am	Japanese Martyrs (Latin)

\*Subject to change- always refer to the bulletin



# Parish Family Profile

By: Shelly Rae Zinniel

God gave us, the staff of Divine Providence Community Home, a brief opportunity to acquaint ourselves with Ivan Victor Kotten and to become some of the many people within Ivan's 101 years of life.

He was the son of John and Theckla Kotten, born on December 27, 1921. He grew up with three sisters and one brother and finished eighth grade at St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye. The John Kotten family would either take their Model T on nice days or their sleigh and horses to attend St. Mary's Masses. The only offset to the cold were wrapped heated bricks placed within their sled.

Farming halted for Ivan and military service began in 1942 with a military draft into the 91st Infantry. Following his honorable discharge in 1943, he went on to meet his future wife, Florence Schweiss at a Gibbon Ballroom dance. The couple married on April 24, 1946, and Ivan recalled how the parish priest milked the goats before their 9 a.m. wedding. Together they raised six children and resided on a farm north of Sleepy Eye.



Gifts and talents in service to the Church were seen and unseen. Usher, lecturer, and commentator were a few of Ivan's gifts seen at weekly Masses. Behind the scenes, Ivan unassumingly served his Church community. An example shared included how he traveled from one parishioner to another gathering money to build a "home for the aging" in Sleepy Eye. No one wanted the task, but Ivan quietly said "yes," and ground was broken October 20, 1959, for what is now known as Divine Providence Community Home.

A 101-year-old man of our community gave of his time, talent, and treasure and his spirit humbled us. He resolutely found a way to attend daily Mass and he spoke with gentleness, humor, and grace that encouraged all of us to continue our walk with God.

Our work life at Divine provides us many opportunities to meet many beautiful souls. Most assuredly, Ivan was one of them.

*Shortly after he agreed to do this article, Ivan was called Home to God. Surely, he was met with the words "Well done, good and faithful servant." May he rest in peace.*

## Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them...

*Please remember in prayer, the following who have died this past year.*

Carl Thedens  
Lowell Seifert  
Meinrad Hillesheim  
Colleen Berkner  
Mary Hacker  
Charles Forster  
Kraig Boyle  
Evelyn Mathiowetz  
Barbara Mages  
Kathleen Spaeth  
Michael Dietz  
Beverly Simonsen

Lenora Schumacher  
William Zilka  
Florian "Doyle" Sellner  
Mary Sellner  
Raymond Walter  
Yvonne Windschitl  
James Larson  
Richard Rasmussen  
Earle Stevermer  
Mildred Rosenhammer  
Glenn Berkner  
Joseph Fink

Cole Braulick  
Rose M. Fromm  
Dean Braun  
Patrick Helget  
Arlene M. Schroepfer  
Marie Curran  
Carol Gent  
Austin Trebesch  
Richard Helget  
Sr. Adeline Prokes  
Vernard Riebel  
Ivan Kotten

Jean Soukup  
Mary Krebs  
Norma Sellner  
Gerald E. Schroepfer



***During this time of Eucharistic Revival, come to hear speaker Barbara Heil share how one former Protestant Minister found the Catholic Church.***

~ Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 3pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church ~



**Meet Barbara Heil**

Barbara grew up on the West Coast, and as a student, had a life-changing encounter with the love of Christ. She crossed the country to Ashland, Virginia where she learned a life of prayer, worship, and devotion at an international ministry community. Her hands-on training included kid's camps, inner city ministry, missions, ministry to the poor, and crusades around the world.

Barbara was part of the staff at the Calvary Campground in Ashland, Virginia for over 20 years. Her ministry experience is wide and varied, from living in Hong Kong to minister in Asia, to living in Jerusalem, to being on staff at a street mission in San Diego, CA to minister to the needs of the homeless during the beginning of the AIDS outbreak.

She has ministered all over the world, has been a missionary, an evangelist, and pastor. She has spent the last few years traveling the U.S. and the world over conducting worship seminars, retreats, and conferences, leading mission trips, offering prayer and counseling, and seeing thousands healed and set free inside and out, equipping lives for the Glory of God.

Barbara did not know until recently that she had been baptized as a child in the Catholic Church, and after much prayer and deliberation, she received the Rite of Confirmation in St Paul, Minnesota in April of 2013. Today, based in Iowa, Barbara continues to be involved in a wide spectrum of Christian endeavor.

A widow for eight years, Barbara has recently married! She lives in Iowa with her husband, Jeff. She is the joyful mother of four and grandmother of two! Together she and Jeff have 8 children and 10 grandkids!



This beautiful sunset magnified Our Lady during the rosary procession from Schoenstatt to St. Mary's Church on Sunday evening, October 1. The procession ended with Benediction at St. Mary's Church.



## *The 2023-2024 Diocesan Ministries Appeal*

The DMA goal for our diocese is \$1.3 million. Parishes will continue to have soft goals. Our total goal for this year is \$71,795.85. The funds returned to our parish will be used to pay for various maintenance projects that need to be completed at St. Mary's and Japanese Martyrs Church. The ministries supported by this year's DMA continue to impact the lives of many people across the Diocese of New Ulm. These ministries help pass on the faith, assist those needing spiritual and/or physical assistance, as well as provide spiritual guidance and nurture youth and adults in their faith.



### *A Gift To You from St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women*

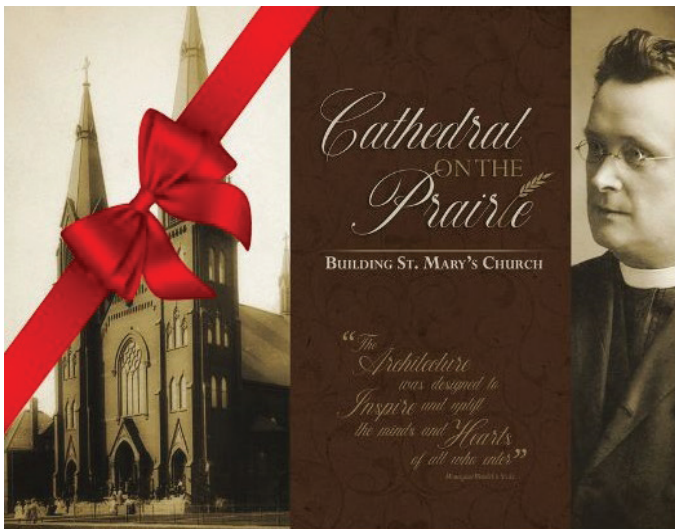
This year you will receive the book:  
*Beautiful Eucharist*, by Matthew Kelly.

Nothing will transform your life quite like a personal encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist. When we encounter Jesus, He changes us in powerful and unexpected ways. He heals us, brings us peace and clarity, models how to relate with others, and teaches

us the lessons we need to learn to navigate the everyday situations of our lives. *Beautiful Eucharist* is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives. *Beautiful Eucharist* is an invitation to encounter the life-giving presence of Jesus in the Eucharist so you can be a life-giving presence in the world.



### *Cathedral on the Prairie Book*



Step back in time and experience the building process and community effort involved in achieving such a grand endeavor. This beautiful keepsake book is the perfect gift for Christmas! The book is a beautifully crafted picture book detailing the building process, the church furnishings, the stained glass windows, the original interior decorations and the ceremonial events surrounding these historic events of St. Mary's Church. The text is a compilation of the original building committee minute notes, colorful newspaper articles and factual historic information written by Rev. Francis Schaefer.

***Books are available to purchase for \$25 at the parish or school office, Randy's Family Drug and Gift and the Nex-Tu-Nu II store.***



## *Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's*

Noah Sykes & Faith Mortenson 8/26/2023

Peter Schwartz & Sarah Knaak 9/2/2023

Norman Statz & Lyndsey Goblirsch 9/9/2023

Tyler Braulick & Abigail Walter 9/16/2023

Colton Borth & Emily Mielke 9/30/2023

Thomas West & Elizabeth Schmitz 10/13/2023

Cainan Florentino & Sabrina Portner 10/21/2023

Adam Steffl & Megan Sellner 10/28/2023



## *Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...*

*June 20, 2023 through November 1, 2023*

Marie Curran 6/20/2023

Kimberly Curran 7/9/2023

Patrick Helget 7/27/2023

Arlene M. Schroeffer 8/6/2023

Carol Gent 8/21/2023

Austin Trebesch 8/29/2023

Sr. Adeline Prokes 9/3/2023

Richard Helget 9/11/2023

Vernard Riebel 9/30/2023

Ivan Kotten 10/8/2023

Norma Jean Sellner 10/9/2023

Jean Soukup 10/13/2023

Mary Krebs 10/19/23

Gerald E. Schroeffer 11/1/2023

## *Born into God's Family*

*August 9, 2023 through  
November 12, 2023*

August Arthur Groen, son of Cody & Alissa Groen

Kayson Michael Reedy, son of Spencer Reedy & Sarah Ibarra

Lyla Ann Ibberson, daughter of Dylan & Alexis Ibberson

Linus Josef Seidl, son of Steven & Nola Seidl

Reign Ray Pietig, son of Tristan & Jamie Pietig

Leo Robert Sellner, son of Bradley & Becky Sellner

Beckett Asher Hose, son of Christopher & Danielle Hose

Brooks Grant Bohnen, son of Shawn & Amy Bohnen

Grace Marie, foster daughter of Randy & Diane Lax

Evelyn Anastasia Visser, daughter of Jon & Rebecca Visser

Grady David Surprenant, son of David & Larissa Surprenant

Amelia Quinn Streich, daughter of Ashley Streich & Preston Hauth

Grayson Jerome Huiras, son of Corey Huiras & Kristin Lipetzky

## *Welcome To Our Parish*

Scott Poppe

~ ~ ~

Benjamin & Mary Moritz



Jeremy Helget and Jennifer Tauer  
and their children,  
Sophia, Xander and Easton



# St. Mary's Catholic Church

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### ***Parish Staff:***

Fr. Mark Steffl – Pastor

Fr. Tanner Thoof – Associate Pastor

Fr. Sam Perez – Associate Pastor

Deacon Mark Kober - Permanent Deacon

Deacon Mike McKeown - Permanent Deacon

Rebecca Visser - Parish Liturgist

Samuel Rosemeier - Director of Religious

Matt Grausam - Business Manager

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary

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Jason Schutz

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Luverne, MN

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Chris Heiderscheidt



### ***Upcoming Events...***

#### **November**

26-Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of  
the Universe

27-Women's Recollection

#### **December**

2-KC Christmas Caroling

3-1st Sunday of Advent

3-KC Donut Sunday

8-Immaculate Conception

10-2nd Sunday of Advent

10-Speaker Barbara Heil

12-Our Lady of Guadalupe

14-CCW Church Cleaning

17-3rd Sunday of Advent

24-4th Sunday of Advent

24-Christmas Eve

25-Christmas Day

30-SESM Alumni Basketball

Tourney

31-Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary & Joseph

#### **January**

1-Solemnity of Mary

7-Epiphany of the Lord

8-The Baptism of the Lord

13-DNU Biblical Walk through  
the Mass presentation

17-AFC Conformation Retreat

21-AFC 1st Reconciliation

22-Day of Prayer of the legal  
protection of unborn children

January 28-February 3 Catholic  
Schools Week

#### **February**

3-God's Plan for a Joy-Filled  
Marriage Class

10-SESM Caribbean Knight Party

11-KC Super Sunday Brunch

14-Ash Wednesday