

Immaculata

.....from our parish family to yours



St. Mary Catholic Church
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota
CONRAD SCHMITT STUDIOS, INC.
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Vol. 15 Issue 3 Winter/Advent 2022



Father Mark Steffl

A Message from Fr. Mark Steffl

This year, St. Mary's Church has had the privilege to host two very important events for the Diocese of New Ulm, the ordination of three priests this last May, and most recently the Installation Mass of Bishop Zielinski at the end of September.

Over the history of the Diocese of New Ulm, there have been other such important events that have also been hosted here. The Apostolic Nuncio mentioned when he was here, representing the Holy Father for the Installation Mass, "Sleepy Eye is memorable now for more than just being mentioned in the Little House on the Prairie television series," having seen St. Mary's Church.

A parishioner who gave a tour of the church to a group a number of years ago recounted a story of one of the visitor's reaction. The visitor started to weep abruptly and said, "Your church is so beautiful. There are so few churches like this!"

This last year, we accomplished some important milestones in the life of our church building. The terrazzo floor is striking. As one parishioner noted, "It fits so well, it looks like it was always there." The last of the windows in the bell towers and sacristies have been repaired and restored, capping a project for the windows of the church that has lasted for many years.

Now, I am proposing that it is time to start thinking about a few projects that still remain to be done. One of them is some repair to the altars, pulpit, and confessionals. Close examination shows that after 120 years, there is much work to be done to repair them including places where paint and gold-leaf work has worn off. The St. Joseph side altar is leaning forward, and some decorative pieces have fallen off or been lost over time. These pieces are all made of butternut wood, a practically impossible wood to find anymore. I am told that the workmanship that created these beautiful pieces that adorn our church would be impossible to replicate, which makes it even more necessary that we give them some attention and needed care so that they may continue to inspire the minds and hearts of our parishioners and visitors.

This last September, a small section of the north wall and ceiling of the church received plaster repairs and a

paint "sample." As I noted in the bulletin a few months ago, I am not looking to do this project just to "change things" or "to spend money" but to start addressing the plaster repairs needed on the walls, and the best way to proceed. The schema that was proposed reflects the original decoration of the church with some adaptations considering that the early paint colors in the church were very "heavy" by present-day standards. The sample is not a finalized version of what will be done, but at this point an idea. Conrad Schmitt, a well-known and long established company in Wisconsin that does this sort of work suggested we provide a "sample" of the actual colors for you to see. This visual goes far beyond a computer rendering or picture. (I realize that it is a significant change to the interior from what it has been for the past 50 years, and that such a change can take a while until it feels comfortable or the right way to go.)

Some people have suggested that while we would be doing this work it would be timely to address the interior lighting. This would also provide an opportunity to look at some repairs needed relating to the wiring of the organ (dating back to the 1940's) and the organ pipes. It is always difficult to determine how much to take on at one time in the process of addressing projects.

I am writing about this now, to "plant some seeds" for the parish to consider and pray about. Nothing, at this point, is "set in stone" or decided upon. A possible timeline for this project to begin might be the second half of 2024, provided that the necessary fundraising could be done and the project come to a definitive consensus.

If we move forward with this project, it will require a significant investment by all of our parishioners motivated by faith and an understanding that our parish church is our "spiritual home" in this world, the place where the Lord makes His home among us, and where we meet Him. Our parish church is where we begin our life with God the Father in Baptism, where we receive our Sacraments, and where we are present for our last Mass in this world, our Funeral Mass, which prepares us for the glory of the Heavenly liturgy around the throne of God.

Recently, a visitor to Sleepy Eye who stopped into the church for a visit asked me, "Do the people of this parish know how blessed they are in having such a church and a Catholic grade school and high school?" My response was, "Yes, but it is always good to be reminded!"

Advent and Christmas Schedule 2022-Divine Mercy Area Faith Community

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

Confession Times

Sun., Nov. 27	7-8pm	St. Paul's, Comfrey/Holy Hour
Thurs., Dec. 1	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Friday, Dec. 2	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 3	9-10am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	9-10am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan
	4-5pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	7:15-7:45pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
Sun., Dec. 4	8-8:15am	St. Michael's, Morgan
	11-11:20am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	11:30-11:45am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
	7-8pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (3 priests) with Holy Hour
Mon., Dec. 5	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Tues., Dec. 6	6-7pm	St. Paul's, Comfrey
Thurs., Dec. 8	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 10	9-10am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan
	9-10am	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
	4-5pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	7:15-7:45pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
Sun., Dec. 11	8-8:15am	St. Michael's, Morgan
	11-11:20am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	11:30-11:45am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
	7-8pm	St. Michael's, Morgan/ (2 priests) Holy Hour
Mon., Dec. 12	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs, Dec. 15	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 17	9-10am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan
	9-10am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
	4-5pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	7:15-7:45pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
Sun., Dec. 18	8-8:15am	St. Michael's, Morgan
	11-11:20am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	11:30-11:45am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
	3-4pm	St. Michael's, Morgan (2 priests)/Holy Hour
	7-8pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth (2 priests) Holy Hour & Adoration
Mon., Dec. 19	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Tues., Dec. 20	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	4-6pm	St. Michael's, Morgan
	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	6:30-7:30pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth

Wed., Dec. 21	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	4-6pm	St. Michael's, Morgan
	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs, Dec. 22	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Fri., Dec. 23	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Sat. Dec. 24	9-11am	St. Mary's Sleepy Eye

Christmas through Epiphany Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
4pm	St. Paul's, Comfrey
4:30pm	St. Michael's, Morgan
8pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
8pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Midnight	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (Latin)

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

7:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
8:30am	St. Michael's, Morgan
8:30am	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
9:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
10:30am	St. Paul's, Comfrey

Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31

5pm	St. Michael's, Morgan
5:30pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
8pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth

Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1

7:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
8:30am	St. Michael's, Morgan
9:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
10:30am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
11:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (Latin)

Epiphany of the Lord, Saturday, January 7

5:30pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
8pm	Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth

Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 8

7:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
8:30am	St. Michael's, Morgan
9:30am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
10:30am	St. Paul's, Comfrey
11:30 am	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (Latin)

*Subject to change- always refer to the bulletin

Bishop Chad W. Zielinski

Photos By: CJ Surprenant

Bishop Zielinski
was installed the fifth
Bishop of
the New Ulm Diocese
on September 27, 2022,
at St. Mary's Church
in Sleepy Eye.



A Piece of St. Mary's History

This section is dedicated to the history of St. Mary's Parish.

By: Josh Sellner

St. Mary's Interior

The interior of St. Mary's Church has been decorated three times so far in its history. The parish had to content itself with raw white plaster walls and ceiling for the first nine years of the building's existence (1902-1911). In the spring of 1911, Msgr. Stulz contracted the O. J. Kover & Son Studio from Fort Wayne, Indiana to decorate and beautify the interior of the church. The parish was out of the church for four months while Mr. Kover's team of artists beautified the interior. Masses and other services were likely held in the old church, which by that time had been remodeled and outfitted to serve as the auditorium for the old parish school.

A September 22, 1911 article from the *Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch* states:
"The people of this city can always point with pride to this magnificent monument... Great was the surprise of the members of St. Mary's Catholic church last Sunday morning when they beheld their dear church in the new vesture, and rightly did they celebrate the reopening of their church by special and most impressive ceremonies all day Sunday. Proud as they always were of their great religious monument, their House of God, never was there a greater feeling of joy and enthusiasm manifested than when they knelt gazing upon the monument of love and veneration, truly worthy of the Immaculate Queen; and great was their joy when the congregation assembled for the first time in the



... continues to page 6

Parish Family Profile

by Chris Heiderscheidt

To live almost a century is quite an amazing thing and Charles C. “Chisey” Hansen Jr. is no exception. On July 4, 1924, Chisey was born the second of three sons to Veronica and Charles C. Hansen Sr. Dick was his older brother and Harold “Hooch” was younger. Chisey remains the last living member of his family. The Hansen family lived just down the street (kitty-corner) from St. Mary’s Church. Chisey remembers how he felt beginning school at St. Mary’s, “I cried that first day, I didn’t want to go.” He is grateful to the Sisters who taught him the values of the Catholic faith.

He remembers growing up during the depression, “You didn’t have anything. In ‘29, the banks took the house from Dad and we moved to the apartment over my Uncle Henry’s harness shop (currently the phone company building).” This remained the Hansen home until his mother moved to an apartment later in life.

Chisey also lived during prohibition. He vividly remembers the day President Roosevelt ended it. He was only about eight years old when he rode along with his father and Ollie Hansen to load the barrels from the brewery in New Ulm. “We had an old model A Ford and they had these big wooden barrels that weighed about 400 pounds ... and they came rolling out of there. I think they loaded about six barrels on. Then when we got back to Sleepy Eye we had to stop at Chisey’s Place to give him a barrel of beer because he wanted one ‘right away.’ Hours later Dad received a call (Dray Line phone number was 200) for another barrel!”

Chisey graduated from St. Mary’s High School in 1942. This past summer he enjoyed celebrating their 80-year reunion with the only other living classmate, Monica (Steffl) Hertling. A highlight for them was riding in Dean Ibber-son’s Model T Ford representing St. Mary’s School in the Sleepy Eye Summerfest Parade.

After graduation, he joined the Navy for two years noting that his older brother Dick was in the Army and Hooch was in the Air Force. After the Navy, Chisey worked at Del Monte as a lift-truck driver for 72 ½ cents an hour (normal

wage was 70 cents an hour then). He remembers one day when the factory packed 33,000 cases of peas, “Bill and I piled ‘em all in the warehouse. We got a little overtime that day.” He then decided to attend Mankato State Teachers College (currently Minnesota State University) and later transferred to Mankato Business School where he graduated with a junior accountant degree.

Returning to Sleepy Eye, he met and married Phyllis George on November 8, 1947, and together they had three children, Jan, Craig and Scott. With his father owning the Dray Line, one thing led to another and soon Chisey and Hooch were in the pop and beer distribution business operating Hansen Distributing and Dick took over the Hansen Dray Line continuing the freight business.

As an active businessman, Chisey gave of his time to serve his community and parish in a variety of ways. He served on Chamber of Commerce Board, Sleepy Eye Western Minnie Entrance Baseball Club as secretary, was a member of the Lions Club. In following his father’s footsteps, Chisey served on the Hospital Board of Directors for 27 years (21 years as chairman of the board) and also served as one of the initial members of the Sleepy Eye Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors. He served on St. Mary’s School Board for six years (president for a term) and became a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

He married Shirley Hendley later in life and together they enjoyed retirement living in the country. Shortly after Shirley’s death, he moved to Lake Villa where he still resides. Chisey is often seen out and about walking to achieve his daily goal of 5,000 steps a day. When asked about getting to heaven, he commented, “If you’re honest and trustworthy, you’re halfway there,” leaving us with these words of wisdom, “Work hard, enjoy life and be honest.”

St. Mary’s Parish is extremely grateful to Charles C. Hansen, Jr. for his generous gift of \$150,166.20 in memory of Phyllis Hansen received in 2021 (\$130,000 for the terrazzo floor, \$11,000 for tuition assistance, \$9,166.20 unrestricted).



Hansen Bros. Dray Line

Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them...

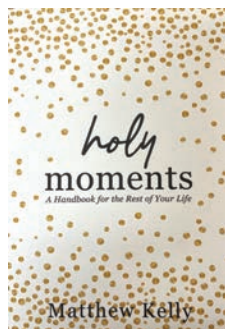
Please remember in prayer, the following who have died this past year.

Vernard Haala, Sr.
Gladys Reinarts
Margaret (Mickey) Fischer
Douglas Ibberson
Barbara Marso
Greg Groebner
Loren Blick
Shari Krebs
Annette Johnson
Dorothy Haala
Rita Schleisman
Richard Callanan
Patricia Soukup
Frances Swedzinski
Mary Ann Broich
Gloria Sellner

Rosella Windschitl
Florence Current
Dr. Dean Brinkman
Frances Berg
Patrick Rosenhamer
Beverly Schroepfer
Agnes Goblirsch
Renae Bock
Ruth Steffl



CCW Christmas Gift To You



This year you will receive the book: *Holy Moments*, by Matthew Kelly. You have so much more

to offer. You know it. You have sensed it for some time now. This sacred truth has been bubbling up in your soul. But you have never known quite what to do about it. All that is about to change. Some ideas are so powerful that simply becoming aware of them, changes our lives forever. *Holy Moments* is such an idea. It is profoundly simple, astonishingly practical, and once you discover it, your life will finally make sense. It's time to let *Holy Moments* show you what is possible. It's time to explore your soul-potential. We hope you enjoy your Christmas gift from St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women!

The 2022-2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

The DMA goal for our diocese is \$1.2 million. Parishes will continue to have soft goals.



Our total goal is \$66,055.05. The funds returned to our parish will be used to pay for the replacement of the school elevator.

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.

... continued from page 4

new Immaculate."

The main color of the first scheme was a deep rose color, with red and cream accent colors. (Some of this original color scheme exists yet today in the closets in the two side entrances on the east side of the church.) The walls and ceiling were richly ornamented with stenciling and murals. These decorations remained until 1944, when the church was redecorated by the St. Paul Statuary Co. While Fr. Andrew Koller was the pastor who brought the redecorating project to completion, it was Fr. Anthony Scholzen (Fr. Koller's predecessor) who first had the idea to redecorate the church, but he died in 1943 from complications due to kidney cancer before he could do anything further with the project. Fr. Scholzen likely saw the original scheme to be too outdated and "Victorian" by the 1940s. The 1944 color scheme was olive green, cream, red, and deep blue. (A small area of this color scheme exists behind the south confessional, under the window opening.) The 1944 scheme stayed until 1975, when the National Church Decorating Co. of Indiana painted the light blue and gold scheme that we know today.

Welcome To Our Parish



Steve & Laura Petersen and their children, Sammy and Will



Margaret "Peggy" Mar



Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's

Ashley Streich & Preston Hauth

10/22/2022



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

August 6, 2022 through November 6, 2022

Catherine Flannery 8/27/2022

Florence Current 8/31/2022

Dean Brinkman 9/5/2022

Frances Berg 9/8/2022

Patrick Rosenhamer 9/10/2022

Beverly Schroeffer 9/12/2022

Agnes Goblirsch 9/24/2022

Renae Bock 10/5/2022

Ruth Steffl 10/20/2022

Born into God's Family

August 1, 2022 through

November 6, 2022

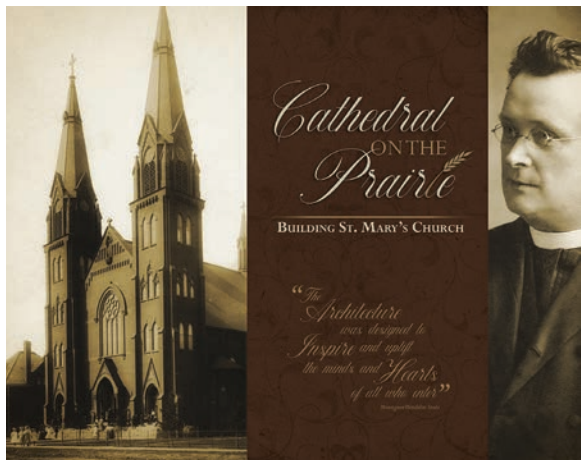
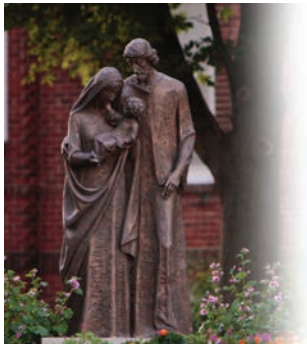
Ramsey Rae, daughter of Lucas & Nikki Heiderscheidt

Margaret Ann Louise, daughter of Thomas & Emily Ferk

Elizabeth Loretta, daughter of William & Olivia Schroers

Sophia Grace, daughter of Robert & Olivia Schmid

Anton Francis, son of Kevin & Mary Kate Losleben



CATHEDRAL ON THE PRAIRIE BOOK

Step back in time and witness the building process and the community effort involved in achieving such a grand endeavor.

If you haven't purchased a book, please consider adding this keepsake book to your collection or perhaps giving it as a Christmas gift. 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 and school office, Nex-Tu-Nu II store and the Sleepy Eye Depot. Get yours today!

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Parish Staff:

Fr. Mark Steffl – Pastor

Fr. Tanner Thooft – 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 Education

Matt Grausam - Business Manager

Mike Suess - Maintenance Director

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary



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Decorating for Christmas

*All are welcome to help prepare
the Lord's house for Christmas.*

When: Sunday, December 18, 2022

Time: 2:00pm

Where: St. Mary's Church

Upcoming Events...

November

21-CCW meeting

24-Thanksgiving Day

27-1st Sunday of Advent

December

3-Parish Christmas Caroling

4-2nd Sunday of Advent

4 Donut Sunday

4-Japanese Martyrs Pancake Breakfast

8-Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

11-3rd Sunday of Advent

12-KC Rosary & meeting

12-Our Lady of Guadalupe

15-CCW Church Cleaning

18-4th Sunday of Advent

18-Church Decorating for Christmas

24-Christmas Eve

25-Christmas Day

30-The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph

31-SESM Alumni Tournament

January

1-Solemnity of Mary

1-Japanese Martyrs Pancake Breakfast

8-The Epiphany of the Lord

9-KC Rosary & meeting

16-CCW meeting

22-2nd Grade 1st Reconciliation

23-Legal Protection of Unborn Children

27-That Man Is You

Spring Semester begins

29-31-Catholic Schools Week

29-St. Michael's Sausage Dinner

February

1-4-Catholic Schools Week

5-Japanese Martyrs Pancake Breakfast

3-St. Blaise

4-God's Plan for a Joy-Filled

Marriage Class

12-CCW Scholarship Bake Sale/Meal

13-KC Rosary & meeting

14/15 Clergy Days

22-Ash Wednesday