

Immaculata

.....from our parish family to yours



Vol. 13 Issue 3

Winter/Advent Issue 2020



St. Joseph, Foster Father of Our Lord Jesus and Protector of the Holy Family

On the cover of this issue is the statue of St. Joseph visible in the side altar in St. Mary's Church. St. Joseph fits prominently into what we celebrate each year at Christmas. Our nativity scenes in our homes and churches always include this great "Protector of the Holy Family."

As important as St. Joseph is in the Christmas narrative, there is not a single word of his that is recorded in the Gospels. But he is a model for us of humility and faithfulness to one's vocation. St. Matthew writes of St. Joseph, "When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man..." That just man is a model, especially for husbands and fathers, and we could say today importantly also for grandfathers. To be just is to do what is right in the eyes of God, faithfully and completely, and with all one's effort and industriousness.

Earlier this year, in one of the sessions from the men's weekly gathering, "That Man is You!" it was proposed to the participants that they should foster special devotion to St. Joseph, and become "Friends of St. Joseph" setting aside some special time on Wednesdays to pray to this important Saint for themselves, and for their spouses, children, and co-workers. From this, I decided to add a "First Wednesday" Mass each month to our calendar at St. Mary's, ending with the Litany of St. Joseph asking his intercession for us and our parish and families.



Father Mark Steffl

It is no accident that over the centuries, St. Joseph has amassed so many special titles such as: Patron of the Dying, Patron of the Universal Church, Model of Workers, and Light of the Patriarchs. St. Joseph is important, not because of eloquent words or great worldly success, but because of his watchful and protecting presence over the Holy Family for those many years

in Nazareth, his work providing for the Holy Family "day in and day out," as the phrase goes. His example reminds us that our holiness finds its growth in the ordinary faithfulness that comes with our attentiveness to our duties and our work, all given to the Lord, who has given us so much.

In this time of Advent, we can make ourselves "little friends" of the great St. Joseph who along with Our Lady, eagerly awaits the birth of Jesus, Our Lord, at Christmas, and beyond Christmas, can find ourselves at his side in Nazareth.



Advent and Christmas Schedule 2020-Divine Mercy Area Faith Community

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

Advent Penance Services with Adoration (Multiple Priests Available for Confessions)

Wed., Dec 2 6:30-7:45pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
(3 priests)
Wed., Dec 9 6:15-7:30pm St. Michael's, Morgan (3 priests)
Sun., Dec. 13 5-6:00pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (3 Priests)
Wed., Dec 16 7-8:15pm Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
(3 priests)
Sun., Dec. 20 3-5:00pm St. Michael's, Morgan (2 priests)

Individual Confession Times

Thurs., Dec. 3 9-10am St. Michael's, Morgan
Fri., Dec. 4 9-10am St. Michael's, Morgan
Sat., Dec. 5 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. 6 8-8:15am St. Michael's, Morgan
11-11:20am St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
11:30-11:45am St. Paul's, Comfrey
7:00pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye/Adoremus' Holy Hour/Confession
Mon., Dec. 7 6-7pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Wed., Dec. 9 6-6:30pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs., Dec. 10 9-9:30am St. Michael's, Morgan
Sat., Dec. 12 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. 13 8-8:15am St. Michael's, Morgan
11-11:20am St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
11:30-11:45am St. Paul's, Comfrey
Mon., Dec. 14 6-7pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Wed., Dec. 16 6-6:30pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs., Dec. 17 9-10am St. Michael's, Morgan
Sat., Dec. 19 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. 20 8-8:15am St. Michael's, Morgan
11-11:20am St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
11:30-11:45am St. Paul's, Comfrey
Mon., Dec. 21 11-noon St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
6-7pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Tues., Dec. 22 10-noon St. Michael's, Morgan
11-noon St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
4-6:00pm St. Michael's, Morgan
6-7pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
6:30-7:30pm Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
Wed., Dec. 23 10-noon St. Michael's, Morgan
11-noon St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
4-6:00pm St. Michael's, Morgan
6-7pm St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs., Dec. 24 11-noon St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye

Christmas/New Year's Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th 4 pm - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
4 pm - St. Paul's, Comfrey
4:30 pm - St. Michael's, Morgan
8 pm - Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth
8 pm - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Midnight - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (Latin)
Christmas Day, Dec. 25th 7:30 am - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
8:30 am - St. Michael's, Morgan
8:30 am - St. Paul's, Comfrey
9:30 am - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
11:30 am - St. Andrew's, Fairfax (Spanish Mass)

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31st – Solemnity of Mary – Holy Day of Obligation

5:30 pm - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
6 pm - St. Michael's, Morgan

New Year's Day, Jan. 1st – Solemnity of Mary – Holy Day of Obligation

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

"Prayer in action is love, Love in action is service." St. Teresa of Calcutta

A life of service to others has created a legacy of greatness for Rosella (Suess) Windschitl. Because of her dedication to God and others, Rosella was inducted into St. Mary's Catholic School's Hall of Fame receiving the Service Achievement Award on November 21, 2020.

Rosella, the second of twelve children, began her life of service at an early age. She recalls her daily life in rural Comfrey consisting of the typical work of life on a farm, including milking cows and helping with the fieldwork. She attended country school in Mulligan Township, graduating after 8th grade in order to work for other families with their household chores. When Rosella was 21 years old, she married Sylvester Windschitl and, together, they had five children: Gloria ('65) Helget, Eugene ('66) (who passed away in 2007), Mary Lou ('69) Mathiowetz, Darlene ('71) Tauer, and Jane ('75) Portner.

Rosella's life of service is most vividly illustrated by the years that she generously gave to St. Mary's. In the 1970's, she began cooking with the St. Mary's Catering Ladies along with Leona Helget and Donna Helget. After Leona passed away, it was Marie Bushard who kept the catering business going. With Rosella at her side, Marie and the St. Mary's Catering Ladies have offered their gifts of time, treasures and talents by preparing meals for countless events and donating their profits to St. Mary's. Rosella also worked for 18 years in the school kitchen helping prepare meals for the students until her retirement in 2014. According to her friend and co-caterer, Cindy Rieke: "With a spoon in her hand, a recipe in her head, a smile on her face and a prayer in her thoughts, Rosella Windschitl has been found in the St. Mary's School kitchen cooking up good old-fashioned comfort food for people for many, many years, whether it be for the school children or for the St. Mary's Catering



Ladies events!"

To this day, at the age of 98, service is what motivates Rosella. Whenever the school kitchen has potatoes or apples that need peeling, Rosella is ready and willing to help out. Until recently, she attended various catering events and made her famous potato salad when needed. However, the greatest gift she shared was her faith.

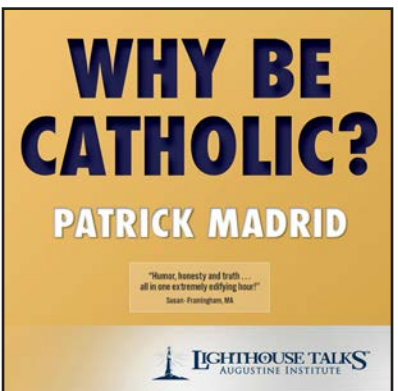
As her close friend and co-worker for many years, it is Marie who most eloquently describes Rosella: "When I think of Rosella, she reminds me of Mother Teresa, especially her hands and her dedication to her religious faith. When I sit in the Adoration chapel and see Mother Teresa's hands, they resemble Rosella's hands, crippled and callused from working and praying and never giving up. Those hands have done much service for St. Mary's. They are always busy doing something: praying, saying rosaries, and going to daily Mass. Those hands were involved mixing dough for many brunches and meals. Making schmierkuchen and rolls was her pride and joy. She never wore out because she was always praying while working. She used her hands for peeling many potatoes and for helping in every area of catering especially making glazed carrots and gravy. What a lady to have as a special friend and a leader. We had many hard days but her cheery disposition and many big smiles and laughs got us through. She never complained no matter how much her hands hurt. She said that she always offered up the pain. Rosella gave many hours to many different projects with her hands to St. Mary's. We always told her, when she meets the Lord, she should hold one hand down and pull us up there!"

When Rosella was asked her advice to others when life presents hardships, she answered nonchalantly as if it were common knowledge, "You just need to keep going!"

CCW Christmas Gift To You

This year we have decided to give a CD, *Why Be Catholic?* by Patrick Madrid. For those who aren't Catholic, it may not be apparent why one should embrace the Catholic Faith. In this inspiring presentation, bestselling author Patrick Madrid gives compelling biblical and historical reasons for why he embraces the faith as a lifelong Catholic. He shares valuable insights into the beauty of the Catholic Church and its claim to contain the fullness of the deposit of faith given by Christ.

We hope you enjoy your Christmas gift from CCW!



Memorial Mass 2020

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

Alice Sellner
Delores Guldan
Ron Haas
Lloyd Havemeier
Gladys Zarn
Marjorie Broich
Veronica Groebner
Irene Hauser
LaDonna Havemeier
Dolores Sellner
Stella Sellner
Aloysius Kachelmeier
Shawn Jirak

Maria Lux
Bernice Eckstein
Norbert Krzmarzick
Frances Heymans
Jerome Koll
Leo E. Schroepfer
Paul Baechler
Vernon Schumacher
Fr. Robert Goblirsch
Lowell R. Mathiowetz
Lorraine Roiger
James Wensauer
Sylvan Goblirsch

John Vait
Bill Wintheiser
Monica Geschwind
Claire McDowell
Gloria Tabitas
Linda Ibberson



Born into God's Family

*August 17, 2020
through November 9, 2020*

Mia Ann Seifert,
daughter
of Andrew & Julie Seifert

Chloe Rae Mathiowetz,
daughter of Chad & Cortnie Mathiowetz

Gabriel Carl Fischer, son of David & Jennifer Fischer

Ivy Ann Murphy, daughter of Craig & Amanda Murphy

Gregory Joseph Hagen, son of Tony & Maria Hagen

Adelaide Rose Cunningham,
daughter of Jason & Sandy Cunningham

Landon David & Loralie Leigh Helget,
twins of Matthew & Danielle Helget

Joanna Yvonne Schwint,
daughter of George & Deanna Schwint

Holden Michael Hose, son of Chris & Danielle Hose



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

*August 17, 2020
through November 9, 2020*

Fr. Robert Goblirsch 8/19/2020

Bill Wintheiser 9/30/2020

Lowell R. Mathiowetz 8/30/2020

Monica Geschwind 10/3/2020

Lorraine Roiger 9/1/2020

Claire McDowell 10/5/2020

James Wensauer 9/1/2020

Gloria Tabitas 10/3/2020

Sylvan Goblirsch 9/9/2020

Linda Ibberson 10/31/2020

John Vait 9/18/2020

Bequests - Remembering St. Mary's Church in your will is the ultimate demonstration of commitment to this institution and the values it represents. Continuing the good works you support on earth, beyond your lifetime, is the ultimate form of good stewardship.

Welcome To Our Parish



Peter & Shelley Roufs and their children, Annie, Isaac, and Adam

Not Pictured:

John & Lindsay Kimec
and their children,
Matthias, Lainey,
Michael, Adele,
and Joseph



Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's

Dillon Kober & Jessica Helget 9/5/2020

Lucas Heiderscheidt & Nikki Carr 10/17/2020

Kyle C. Krzmarzick & Elizabeth Schreiner 11/14/2020

Not Pictured: Ryan & Roseanne Freitag and
their children, Kyanne, Riley, Aaron, and Matthew



Confirmation

Thirty-three juniors from the Divine Mercy Area Faith Community were confirmed by Bishop John M. LeVoi on Sunday, March 8, 2020, at St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye. The Divine Mercy Area Faith Community consists of four parishes: St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye, St. Michael's, Morgan, St. Paul's, Comfrey and Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth. Front row (left): Braden Hansen, Kevin Montemayor, Kayla Schroeffer, Emma Currans, Regina Surprenant, Kailee Larsen, McKenna Larsen, Leah Miller, Megan Stevens, and Emily Weiss. Second row: Bryce Lund, Luke Mages, Spencer Hoffman, Ethan Rasmussen, Riley Strate, Madison Heiling, Joseph Fischer, Macie Kodet, Trista Ibberson, McKenna Dockter, Sydney Windschitl, Patrick Hoffmann, Sophia Portner, Caleb Schumacher, Maryanne Larsen, Cecilia Joyce, and Nicholas Daub. Third row: Msgr. Lozinski-Pastor, Jacob Lux, Anthony Helget, John Balko, Bradley Balko, Kyle Goblirsch, Michael Tauer and Bishop John LeVoi.



First Holy Communion

Thirty third graders of St. Mary's Parish received the sacrament of their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sunday, September 27, 2020. Pictured in the front row (left): Josemaria Martinez, Brody Hoffmann, Shelby Schmid, Clara Currans, Alissandra Almanza, Darrin Mathiowetz, Peyton Mages, Lauren Steffl. Second row: Alex Armbruster, Mason Mathiowetz, Raylan Schroeffer, Jacob Sellner, Cobin Sanow, Alexis Hoffman. Third row: Fr. Mark Steffl, Pastor; Nolan Fischer, Ellie Weilage, Jessalyn Sellner, Whitney Fischer, Mason Krzmarzick, Miah Rayas, Kyler Kuebler, Jack Balko. Fourth row: Jaxon Steffl, Anden Braun, Grady Folkens, Briella Walser, Miles Pelzel, Max Wagner, Ethan Helget, Dustin Portner and Dan Davis, Director of Religious Education. Back row: Catechists: Andrea Rothmeier, Judith Mathiowetz, and Anita Schwartz.

Future Capital Improvement Goals for St. Mary's Church

By Father Mark Steffl

Someone recently asked me, "So, Father, what's the next thing that needs to be fixed?" I think the answer I gave him was a little more than he was expecting...

Although these are not urgent, they are things that are going to need attention in the upcoming years if we are to maintain our very beautiful church building, keeping it the impressive place of worship it is, as one priest described, "The crown jewel of the Diocese of New Ulm."

- Church floor – the last work on St. Mary's church floor was in 2001, when the floor tile was removed exposing the present wood floor to be refinished. I am told the wood is nearing the end of its usefulness and not able to be refinished again as it is fir wood, which is a softer wood. In considering how to move forward, I have been encouraged to install a terrazzo floor which is the type of floor found in the greater part of the school, as well as the school cafeteria. Terrazzo is a composite material, poured in place and consists of chips of marble, quartz, granite, glass, or other suitable material, poured with a cement-like mixture. Terrazzo can be colored to match a particular color scheme, and is very durable, long lasting, and easy to maintain and clean. (The floor in the Cathedral in New Ulm is a good example of what I am proposing for St. Mary's.)

- Church windows – although most of the windows in the

church have been repaired and re-leaded in recent memory, there are windows remaining in need of repair: the three levels of windows in the bell towers along with the windows in the sacristies and south entrance.

- Church walls and columns/plaster repairs – the last work done on these areas was in the early 1970's when the church interior was painted blue. Originally our church's interior contained scenes decorating the walls and arches that portrayed a "picture book of Mary's life." Needed repairs to the plaster would invite us to consider if some of this could be restored based on the photos we have from that time. (Previous issues of the Immaculata have highlighted some of these historical points in our church.) When I asked about the decision to cover up or paint over these pictures that were in the sanctuary and throughout the church, I was told that they were in poor condition at the time and the resources available steered the decision against their restoration.

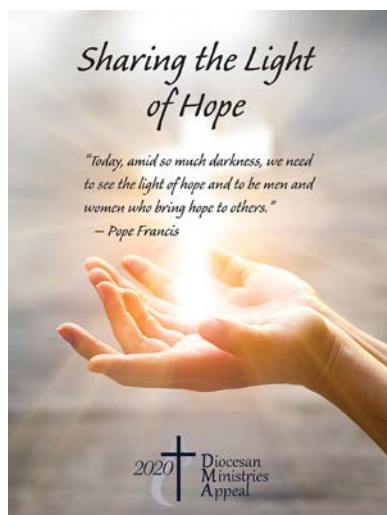
Since I arrived at St. Mary's, I have had a number of people approach me with a willingness to make substantial donations towards these projects and a desire to address this, therefore I am sharing this information now, as we look to the future, both immediate and far.

The 2020-2021 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

This year we will continue to utilize the best practices recommended by the diocesan attorneys with eight specific areas of ministry supported by the DMA. The percentage of each dollar gifted to the DMA will be allocated as follows: Catholic Charities 25%, Vocations 20%, Youth Ministry 7%, Diaconate 5%, Family Life 8%, Catholic Schools 7%, Social Concerns 6%, Hispanic Ministry 2%, and 20% to the donor's parish.

These 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.

The DMA goal remains \$1 million. Parishes will continue to have soft goals. Our total goal is \$51,039.04. The funds returned to our parish will be used to complete the landscaping around our church building.



Decorating for Christmas



We welcome you to come and help prepare the Lord's house for one of the most holy seasons in the Church.

When: Sunday, December 20, 2020

Time: 4:30pm

Where: St. Mary's Church

St. Mary's Catholic Church

636 First Avenue North

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Phone: 507-794-4171

www.divinemeracyafc.org

Email: saintmaryse@sleepyeyetel.net

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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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Parish Staff:

Fr. Mark Steffl – Pastor

Fr. Zachary Peterson – Associate Pastor

Fr. Sam Perez – Associate Pastor

Deacon Mark Kober - Permanent Deacon

Deacon Mike McKeown - Permanent Deacon

Sean Connolly - Parish Liturgist

Dan Davis - Director of Religious Divine Mercy AFC Education

Matt Grausam - Business Manager

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary

Josh Sellner - Maintenance Director

Immaculata Contributors:

Father Mark Steffl, Laura Laechel

Chris Heiderscheidt, Jennifer Blick

Joan Windschitl

Photo Credits:

Jason Schutz

Schutz Creative Photography, Luverne, MN

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Graphic Designer - Laura Laechel



Upcoming Events...

November

26-Thanksgiving Day
27-Parish & School Offices
Closed
29-1st Sunday of Advent

December

3-Adult Ed Class
6-2nd Sunday of Advent
6-"Adoremus" Holy Hour
and Confessions
8-Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary
10-Baptism Class
Adult Ed Class
12-Our Lady of Guadalupe
13-3rd Sunday of Advent
17-Adult Ed Class
20-4th Sunday of Advent
20-Decorate the church for
Christmas at 4:30pm
24-Christmas Eve
25-Christmas Day
27-Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph

January

1-Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
2- Sweepstakes drawing only
(Alumni/Friends Basketball
Tournament) at 4pm
3-Epiphany of the Lord
3-"Adoremus" Holy Hour
and Confessions
7-Adult Ed Class
10-Baptism of the Lord
14-Adult Ed Class
22-Day of Prayer for the
Legal Protection of Unborn
Children
24-30 Catholic Schools Week

February

6-God's Plan for a Joy-
Filled Marriage Workshop
7-"Adoremus" Holy Hour
and Confessions
13-Caribbean Knights Party
17-Ash Wednesday