

Immaculata

.....from our parish family to yours



Vol. 14 Issue 3 Advent/Winter Issue 2021

On the front cover of this issue is a picture of the parish gathering to pray the Rosary on Sunday, November 7, in the St. Mary's cemetery. November is the month that we dedicate to praying for all who have died, as well as those who are buried in our cemetery. We were blessed with an unseasonably warm day for the event, as we pray for all who "sleep in the peace of Christ."

The month of November has two "feast days" that can be a little unusual to understand or perhaps you haven't noticed if you are not able to go to daily Mass. November 9, is the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica and November 18, is the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and Paul, all of these churches being in Rome. There are many historical reasons why these days are remembered each year since the 4th century when these churches were built.

One reason is that these were some of the first church buildings to be built in the 4th century after the persecution of Christians ended in Rome, and Christianity was permitted to be practiced openly. And it was a great joy for the early Church to finally be able to worship in public after so many years of gathering secretly for Mass and the other Sacraments.

A second significant reason goes back to Christianity's "Jewish roots." The Jewish people celebrate each year the dedication of the Jewish Temple (even though the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD) and that day is called Hanukkah. That takes us to the recognition that every church building, when it is completed, is dedicated or consecrated for the specific purpose of public worship. For us as Catholics, the church building is the place where people gather for Mass, and to receive the Sacraments, and where the Lord Jesus makes His home among us in the Tabernacle.

For us at St. Mary's, our church building is in many ways a monument and place of destination, in addition to being where we gather for worship. The generous generation who constructed the building made it notable in its size and decoration; it is the largest church building in the Diocese of New Ulm. Since arriving here, I have heard from so many visitors who are in awe at the beauty and scope of our church building. Our quick resolution to raising funds in the amount of \$700,000 this last summer to repair the remaining windows in the sacristies and bell towers as well

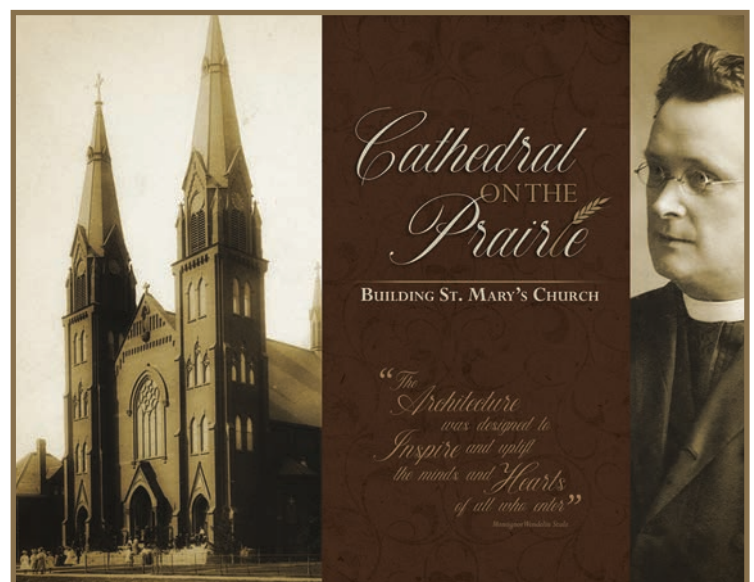


Father Mark Steffl

as putting in a terrazzo floor next summer is a true testimony to the love that our parishioners have to our parish church.

The 19th century French patron of parish priests, St. John Vianney, known for his otherwise frugal and penitential life, spoke often about how nothing is too lavish for a church building, as the place where Our Lord makes His home among us. We have a beautiful home to provide for the Lord here in Sleepy Eye! (As a side note, my father grew up in Sleepy Eye, and at St. Mary's and I remember the times that I was in this church in my youth, being in awe myself at such an overwhelmingly huge and beautiful structure....)

Next year, around the time of the summer festival, we will have a book printed called "Cathedral on the Prairie," put together with great care and in great detail by Michael Sellner, who grew up in Sleepy Eye, and graduated from St. Mary's in 1989. His desire was to put a book together, in gratitude for all he received here at St. Mary's in his youth, on the building of the church and Msgr. Stultz, the pastor in the early 20th Century who built the church building that we have today. He had the great vision of what we became great beneficiaries of, each time we are in the church building. Look forward to next summer when we will have these books available for you! You won't be disappointed, and will be thankful that the Lord has provided you the opportunity to be a part of the beauty that is St. Mary, Help of Christians Church in Sleepy Eye!



Advent and Christmas Schedule

2021-Divine Mercy Area Faith Community

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

Confession Times

Thurs., Dec. 2	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Fri., Dec. 3	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 4	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. 5	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) Adoremus & Holy Hour
Mon., Dec. 6	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs., Dec. 9	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 11	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. 12	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/ (2 priests) Holy Hour & Adoration
Mon., Dec. 13	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Wed., Dec. 15	6:15-7:30pm	St. Michael's, Morgan (2 priests)
	7-8:15pm	St. Paul's Comfrey
Thurs, Dec. 16	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
Sat., Dec. 18	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. 19	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	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye (2 priests) Holy Hour & Adoration
Mon., Dec. 20	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Tues., Dec. 21	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. 22	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
	4-6pm	St. Michael's, Morgan
	6-7pm	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Thurs, Dec. 23	9-10am	St. Michael's, Morgan/Holy Hour
	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Fri., Dec. 24	11-noon	St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye

Christmas/New Year's Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

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

Christmas Day, Saturday, 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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Sunday, Dec. 26

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

Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Eve, Friday, 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, Saturday, 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 1

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

Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 2

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)

A Piece of St. Mary's History

By: Josh Sellner

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



A question has come up repeatedly recently regarding the two apse (sanctuary) murals that were painted on the walls behind the high altar in St. Mary's Church in 1911. The questioners wonder if those two murals were painted over in the 1944 redecoration of the church. The two apse murals portrayed "The Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish" and "The

Communion Part of the Last Supper." In the course of the discussions with the representatives from the Conrad Schmitt Studio, while they were preparing the current redecoration proposal and rendering, this question was posed to them. They said that these two murals and the others that were in the church would likely have been prepared on canvas by the original artist in his studio, before he began his work at the church in 1911. The canvas paintings would then have been glued to the walls and ceiling while the decorating was being done. The 1911 newspaper article from the Sleepy Eye Herald which describes the

newly-decorated church says that the artist and his son labored for three months in the summer of 1911 to decorate the interior of the church. When one considers how elaborate the decorating scheme was throughout the church, that work would not have included painting these murals directly onto the walls. There were at least twenty-three pieces

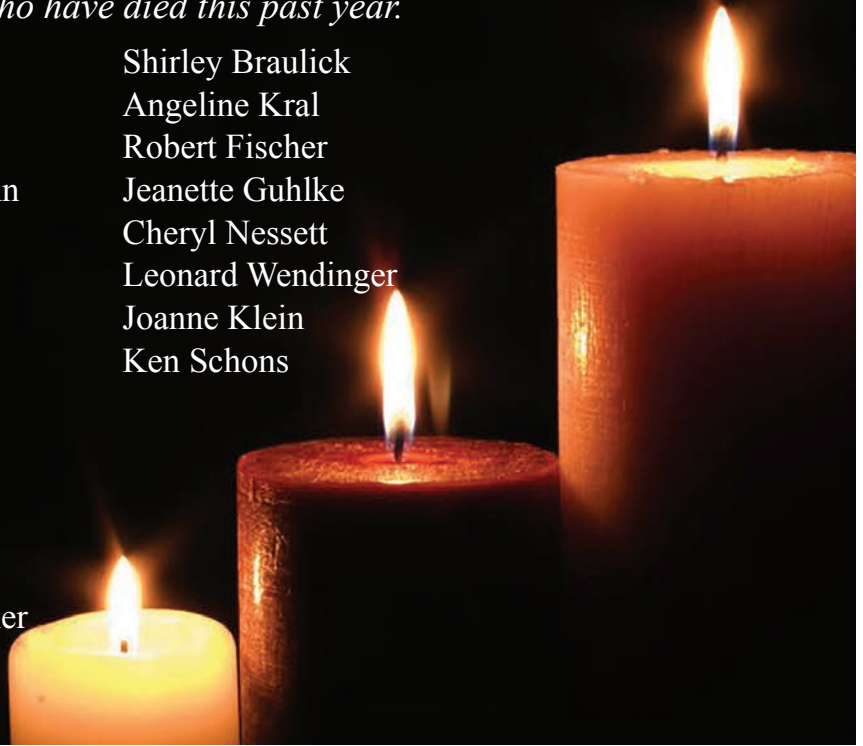
of artwork total in the church which were likely painted on canvas. These were unfortunately removed during the redecoration in 1944. They were likely seen at that time as being old-fashioned, or they were not very well-done, or they were in poor condition, or perhaps even a combination of those three things. We will never know for sure. Hopefully at some point in the future to be able to recapture the spirit of these pieces of art by redecorating and restoring the interior of the church to a modern interpretation of its former glory.



Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them...

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

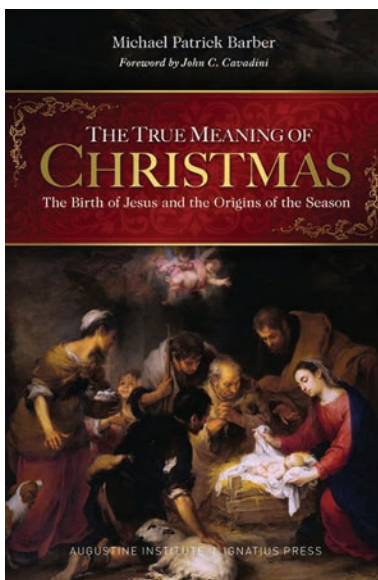
Alfred Schmitz	Rhoda Dietz	Shirley Braulick
Charles Windschitl	Sherry Eigen	Angeline Kral
Raymond E. Rothmeier	Michael Wagner	Robert Fischer
Robert 'Chisey' Sellner	Robert R. Hoffmann	Jeanette Guhlke
Lois Tauer	Scott Tauer	Cheryl Nessett
Maggie Wintheiser	Patrick Welter	Leonard Wendinger
Nicole Fuchs	Ordell Krambeer	Joanne Klein
Donald Ludewig	Ione Woessner	Ken Schons
Maria Ramirez	Judith Krzmarzick	
Dennis Sellner	Leonard Staupé	
Velma Hoffmann	Doug Stoneberg	
Art Sellner	Cecilia Scherer	
Fr. Eugene Hackert	Henry Brandel Jr.	
Patricia Reynolds	Roman Landkammer	
Paul Nuytten	Melania Meyer	
Donald Hirsch	Gideon Brinkman	



The 2021-2022 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

The DMA goal remains \$1 million. Parishes will continue to have soft goals. Our total goal is \$50,768.68. The funds returned to our parish will be used to help pay for the project to upgrade 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.



CCW Christmas Gift To You

This year you will receive the book: *The True Meaning of Christmas: The Birth of Jesus and the Origins of the Season*, by biblical scholar Michael Patrick Barber. What does the Bible really say about the birth of Jesus? How did the celebration of Christmas become associated with things like Santa Claus and decorated trees? In this book, the author offers an inspiring look at the Bible's accounts of Jesus' birth and

the development of the Christmas season. As Dr. Barber will show, to find our way "home" at Christmas, we need to first return to Christmas's home in the story of the Bible. Only by carefully reflecting on the stories of Jesus' birth can we hope to celebrate Christmas in the way it is meant to be celebrated and discover the real joy it promises! We hope you enjoy your Christmas gift from CCW!

Parish Family Profile

By: Chris Heiderscheidt

Every once in a while you meet a couple whose strong Catholic faith reassured you and fills you with hope for the future. Tony and Maria Hagen are that couple.

Maria grew up on a farm near Hazelton, ND. She was the youngest in her family with seven older brothers. She attended a small public school. Tony grew up in Chanhassen, MN with three brothers and a sister who were all homeschooled.

They were both fortunate to grow up in families where the Catholic faith was taught and lived. Their parents always encouraged them to seek God's plan for their lives rather than their own. And it just so happens it was God's plan that they attend the University of Mary in Bismarck where they first met.

Tony was a sophomore and had just come back from a semester in Rome when he was introduced to Maria. Tony was taken in by her joyful personality and decided this is someone he wanted to get to know better. Maria was a brand new freshman not particularly looking to be in a relationship. Either she was really naïve or Tony was too subtle because she was very surprised when he asked her out on a date. Hesitantly, she gave Tony a chance but, needless to say, she sure was glad she did!

A month after they started dating, Tony transferred to NDSU in Fargo. Although dating long distance was a challenge, it also provided them with a good opportunity to test their relationship to see if their love was for real. One of the ways they stayed connected was by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day at the same time. After dating for two years, they were married on June 16, 2017, at St. Peter and Paul in Strasburg, ND

They started out living in a small apartment in Fairfax, MN, since some of Tony's relatives lived there. It had always been a dream of theirs to live in the country, and after



joining St. Mary's Parish and getting to know more people, they realized what a wonderful parish it was. So they decided to start looking for a farm near Sleepy Eye. A little over a year ago their prayers were answered and they found the farm that they call home just west of town.

Tony and Maria have two children, Elizabeth (2 ½) and Gregory (1). Tony sells Pioneer Seed and Maria embraces motherhood at home with their children and her chickens! They have been parishioners at St. Mary's for four years.

They are grateful to be part of

such a vibrant Catholic community in Sleepy Eye. Maria helps out with Religious Education as program facilitator on Wednesday evenings and Tony helps with the scheduling of adorers for Perpetual Adoration while also being an active member of the KC's. In their free time, they enjoy dancing, playing sports, and spending time outside on their farm.

While this young family is extremely grateful for not having to deal with any major trials as of yet, they do experience many opportunities to turn away from selfishness and pride and embrace generosity and humility. Their biggest challenge at this time in their life, is becoming disciplined in daily prayer. Making time for prayer can be difficult while raising a family but as Catholics we know that it is a must if we want to get to heaven.

Their advice is to never get discouraged or live in fear but to always turn back to God's love and mercy. Make it a priority to seek Him in the Eucharist, in confession, and through our mother Mary.

"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become." – St. Clare of Assisi

Welcome To Our Parish

William & Olivia Schroers and their children,
Everett & Evelyn
Nicholas & Mariah Kaminsky
Marie Lindquist
David & Buddie Pregler

Allan & Christy Kallevig and their daughter, Lily
Samantha Heilig
Mikal Mikkelsen
Connie Goblirsch
Robert Saidler

Born into God's Family

August 2, 2021 through November 15, 2021

Ethan Leon Krzmarzick, son of Shawn & Emily Krzmarzick
Sarah Felicity Olson, daughter of Kevin & Karen Olson
Sienna Rose McKeown, daughter of Cole & Teresa McKeown
Maxwell Anthony Ibberson, son of Terry & Madeline Ibberson
Cameron John Braun, son of Alex & Amy Braun
Ethan Scott Bohnen, son of Shawn & Amy Bohnen
Colette Cecelia Groen, daughter of Cody & Alissa Groen
Monroe Joseph Hawkins, son of Andrew & Molly Hawkins
Atlee Ann Mangen, daughter of Jacob & Cristiana Mangen
Micah Edward Wagner, son of Matthew & Mandy Wagner
Otto Lee Sellner, son of Kyle & Autumn Sellner



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

September 2, 2021 - October 14, 2021

Shirley Braulick 9-2-2021
Angeline Kral 9-19-2021
Robert Fischer 9-22-2021
Jeanette Guhlke 9-30-2021

Cheryl Nessett 10-1-2021
Leonard Wendinger 10-3-2021
Joanne Klein 10-9-2021
Ken Schons 10-14-2021

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.



*Holy Matrimony
at St. Mary's*

Rebecca Zinniel & Gunnar Kern 9/4/2021
Mariah Salfer & Alex Hunt 10/30/2021
Kyle J. Krzmarzick & Cheyenne Schewe 11/13/2021

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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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



Immaculata Contributors:

Father Mark Steffl;

Chris Heiderscheidt;

Josh Sellner

Joan Windschitl

Photo Credits:

Jason Schutz

Schutz Creative Photography,
Luverne, MN

Cover Photo by Laura Laechel



Decorating for Christmas at St. Mary's

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

When: Sunday, December 19, 2021

Time: 2:00pm

Where: St. Mary's Church

Upcoming Events...

November

28-First Sunday of Advent

December

5-Second Sunday of Advent

5-Adoremus-Holy Hour

-Confessions

8-Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8-End of the Year of St. Joseph

9-CCW Church Cleaning

12-Third Sunday of Advent

12-Holy Hour-Adoration

-Confessions

13-KC Rosary, Meeting,
Christmas Party

19-Fourth Sunday of Advent

19-Holy Hour-Adoration

-Confessions

24-Christmas Eve

25-Christmas Day

26-The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary Joseph

January

1-Solemnity of Mary

2-Epiphany of the Lord

2-Adoremus-Holy Hour

-Confessions

22-Day of Prayer for the Legal
Protection of Unborn Children

30-Catholic Schools Week begins

February

January 30-February 5

Catholic Schools Week

2-Presentation of the Lord

6-Adoremus-Holy Hour

-Confessions

13-CCW Scholarship Brunch

22-23-Clergy Days

for Parish Priests

March

2-Ash Wednesday