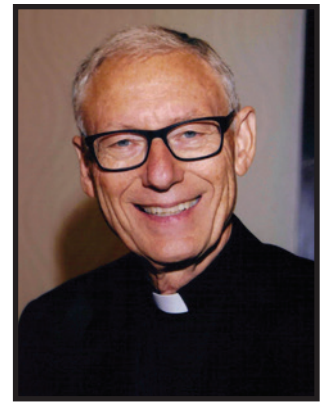


Immaculata

.....from our parish family to yours

Vol. 13 Issue 1 Lent/Winter Issue 2020



I wrote about the above topic in a recent cover for the parish bulletin. We must keep that before our eyes. Jesus came to open up the gates of heaven for the human race. There is nothing more important for any of us to attain and work toward in this world than the salvation of our souls in the world to come. In the end, what else matters? When we appear before Jesus with His nail prints, are we going to be able show Him ours? Yes, all of us are great sinners. We can be so very selfish, but suffering for Jesus by putting ourselves second helps us attain those nail marks. At the end of chapter six of John's gospel we read about the great "Bread of Life Discourse." Many of the hearers turned and walked away because they found His teaching too hard to believe. The teaching was that He was the Bread of Life and unless you eat His Body and drink His Blood, you will not have eternal life. After all the hearers had left, Jesus looks at the 12 and says, "Will you leave me too?" Peter, the first among the Apostles responds by saying, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of Everlasting life."

Jesus is our savior. He is our redeemer. He is our teacher. He is our example of living par excellence. He is the Word of God made flesh. That is a game changer.

As we begin this season of Lent, I would suggest you make your number one goal to come to know Jesus better. I don't mean just to know more about Him, as admirable as that is, but to come to know Him better as in deepening our relationship and commitment to Him.

I suggest that we do that by "doing some thing(s)." We need to put our belief into action. We need to decide to walk the footsteps of Jesus more closely.

1. If you are not participating in Sunday Mass, please begin to do Mass; there is nothing more important.
2. Let me suggest that we commit ourselves to walking the footsteps of Jesus as we make the Stations of the Cross. How many times this Lent? As many as you can, but at least twice.
3. Commit yourselves to at least thirty minutes of prayer in Church every week.
4. Find the readings of the daily Mass and read them alone or with your family.
They are available online or by using the booklet "Word Among Us."
5. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet or rosary once each week.
6. Find someone and reach out to help them in some way.
7. Limit, if not exclude, all digital devices except when necessary.
8. Fast and abstain from meat more than just Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
9. Go to confession.

If you do at least two or three of the above, perhaps the nail marks will begin to show, but so too, the love of Jesus will shine through your life and salvation will be nearer.

Divine Mercy AFC Lenten Schedule for 2020



ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 7:15am; 8:30am School Mass; 7:00pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:30am School Mass; 5:30pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 6:00pm
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 8:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS-Fridays during Lent

St. Michael's, Morgan - 5:00pm Mass/Stations of the Cross/
Confessions (weekly during Lent)
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 6:00pm (weekly during Lent)
Check parish bulletin for school schedule/Stations of the Cross

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES IN DEANERY I

St. Raphael, Springfield - Sunday, March 15, 4:00pm
St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls - Sunday, March 22, 4:00pm
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - Sunday, March 29, 4:00pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - Wednesday, April 1, 7:00pm

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION TIMES

Saturdays

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 4:00-5:00pm (weekly)
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 7:30-7:45pm (weekly)

Sundays

St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:00-8:15am (weekly)
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 11:30-11:45am (weekly)

Wednesdays

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 6:00-6:30pm (weekly)

Other Days

St. Michael's, Morgan -
Friday's during Lent following 5:00pm Mass
& Stations of the Cross
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye-
Friday, March 6, 13, 27 & April 3, following
Stations of the Cross
Mon., Tues., April 6 & 7 - 11am-noon and 6:00-7:00pm
Wed., April 8 - 11am-noon and 6:00-6:30pm
Holy Thursday, April 9, after 7:00pm Mass
Good Friday, April 10, after 12:00pm Good
Friday Service
Holy Saturday, April 11, 1:30-2:30pm

CHRISM MASS

St. Aloysius, Olivia - Thursday, April 2, at 7:00pm

PALM SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday, April 4

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 5:30pm
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 8:00pm

Sunday, April 5

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 7:30am; 9:45am; 11:30 (Latin)
St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:30am
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 10:30am

HOLY THURSDAY MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday, April 9

St. Michael's, Morgan - 6:00pm Mass
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 7:00pm Mass/Confessions/Adoration
until night prayers at 10:30pm
Japanese Martyrs - 8:00pm Mass/Adoration after Mass
until 10:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE TIMES

Good Friday, April 10

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 12:00pm (Good Friday Service);
7:00pm (Chaplet & Stations) 8:30pm (Tenebrae)
St. Michael's, Morgan - 5:30pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 6:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL

Holy Saturday, April 11

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 8:30pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Easter Sunday, April 12

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 7:30am; 9:45am; 11:30 (Latin)
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 8:30am
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 10:30am

*Dates/Times subject to change

Parish Family Profile

by Chris Heiderscheidt

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Luke 12:34

There is no doubt that Kevin and Marnee Currans have found their treasure in family.

Marnee grew up in Sleepy Eye, the second of Shelley and the late Jean Schwab's five children. Kevin grew up in northwest Iowa, the third of Emmett and Sandy's four boys. Marnee graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in Sleepy Eye and Kevin graduated from the public school in Graettinger, Iowa, receiving two years of Catholic education in grade school.

After high school, Marnee attended South Dakota State University and later transferred to Mankato State University for elementary education. Kevin attended Mankato State University and later transferred to South Dakota State University for pharmacy. While they were both at MSU their paths crossed while both were employed at WalMart. Marnee worked as a checkout clerk and Kevin was interning in the pharmacy department. It was Kevin's first day of work. Marnee was asked to stock shelves in housewares. It just so happened the plates that were meant for the shelf, landed on the floor instead. Upon hearing the sound of shattering plates, Kevin went to lend a helping hand. Shortly afterward, Marnee noticed that Kevin seemed to find his way to her checkout line. Thanks to some prompting from his roommate, Kevin finally asked her on a date. They became engaged one year and three months later. Marnee went on to teach second grade at St. Mary's in New Ulm while Kevin headed to Brookings for his pharmacy degree.

Then on July 10, 1999, they were married at St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye. They made their first home in Sioux Falls where Kevin finished his degree in Pharmacy and Marnee worked at the school as an aide with pre-school students. In September 2000, their first child was born. They remained in Sioux Falls until Kevin finished school in 2002. Soon afterward he accepted a job as pharmacist at Randy's Family Drug and Gifts. Kevin and Marnee were excited to move to Sleepy Eye where they would be near family. The fact that there was a Catholic school in town sealed the deal.

Kevin and Marnee's family grew to six children: Car-



ter, a freshman at St. John Vianney College Seminary at St. Thomas University, Emma (junior), Caroline (7th grade), Elizabeth (5th grade), Clara (2nd grade), and Charlie (4 yr old pre-school) who attend St. Mary's Catholic School. Praying together as a family is a priority. Meal times and traveling provide the perfect opportunity to put this into practice, something Kevin remembers doing with his family when traveling together. Kevin is still a pharmacist at Randy's Family Drug and Gifts and Marnee helps out at St. Mary's Catholic School as an aide to the pre-school students.

Kevin and Marnee believe that Mass participation is key. Even though they are busy parents, this does not keep them from contributing to parish life. As a couple they mentor engaged couples in the Fully Engaged marriage preparation program. Marnee is the Reverence Life chairperson for the Council of Catholic Women. Kevin is a cantor, sings/plays trumpet in the choir, and belongs to the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he has coached junior high football since 2005. They are also adorers for Perpetual Adoration.

Kevin and Marnee are grateful for examples of faith and family life provided by their parents and grandparents. Guiding them as well, are others in the parish community. The couple can't help but notice others, especially the Grandma's, "You can see the joy on their faces," as they ponder about how many family members will be gathered around their Christmas tree someday. It is disheartening for the Currans to live in a time when parents are discouraged about having more than two children or to hear them declare they are "done." Kevin comments on their unforeseen and possible regrets, "They have no idea the joy they just said no to. To look at our younger three children and think we would not have them if we decided to be done!" Marnee adds, "It's so fun to see the older kids interact with the younger ones, and for them to experience the babies."

After all, "How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers," as St. Teresa of Calcutta so beautifully states. In closing, they offer this piece of advice, "Be open to however many children God is calling you to have, whether it be your own or by adoption, don't be afraid of a big family... God will provide."



By: Sean Connolly

Lent & Pre-Lent

“Now is a pure and holy time drawing nigh, in which we should atone for our remissness: let, therefore, every Christian man come to his confessor; and confess his secret sins, and amend by the teaching of his instructor; and let everyone stimulate another to good by good example, that all people may say of us, as was said of the blind man when his eyes were enlightened; that is, ‘All people who saw that miracle praised God,’ [Lk. 18:43] who liveth and reigneth ever without end. Amen.”

– Abbot Aelfric of Eynsham (c. 955 – 1010), *Homily for Quinquagesima*

A very ancient liturgical season lost in the reforms of the Roman liturgy following the Second Vatican Council was that of pre-Lent or Septuagesima. The three Sundays of this season, whose names refer to the number of days (approximately) between that Sunday and Easter, namely, Septuagesima (70), Sexagesima (60), and the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, Quinquagesima (50), were marked with violet vestments, and it was on Septuagesima Sunday, and not, as now, on Ash Wednesday, that the Church temporarily abandoned the use of the joyful word “Alleluia” in her liturgical prayers and songs, as well as the “Gloria” sung at Sunday Mass. In some places, it was customary to bury a wooden “Alleluia” on the Saturday prior to Septuagesima, with a solemn procession, prayers, and a ceremony led by the priest, and then, on Easter, to process again to the grave, to exhume and resurrect the joyful word.

As the laws of fasting were much stricter in ancient times, Septuagesima (as the whole season came to be known) was also a time of practical preparation for the fast to come. Meat and dairy were used up, as the ancient fasting rules forbade their consumption during the forty days. The Eastern Church still keeps these preparatory days, and observes these laws of Lenten fast: Meatfare and Cheesefare Sundays mark the days before Lent on which meat and dairy are to be used up.

Although for those in the parish who attend the Ordinary Form Mass these observances no longer occur (in the Extraordinary Form, pre-Lent is still kept), it is worth reflecting that Lent is not just a season of preparation, but a season that, even though She no longer imposes these pre-Lenten Sundays on us, the Church urges us to make preparations for. The days of “Shrovetide,” the Sunday through Tuesday before Lent, were the traditional days on which confession was made, rather than during Lent itself, since Lent was a season of doing penance for pardoned sin.

In his classic Liturgical Year, Dom Prosper Gueranger, OSB, likens the practice of Lent and the austerity of its liturgy to the stages of the interior life. For most of us, likely, Lent is an invitation to the purgative way, in which we are purged of attachments to our former sinful lives. The penance and austerity of Lent helps us to refocus on the Lord. As we journey along the purgative way, or if we have already come far along this road, we come closer to the illuminative way, where Christ lives as the sole light in our souls. The disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, detach us all the more even from legitimate material things, and invite us along that road to follow

... continues to page 6



... continued from page 5

Christ our Light. It is perhaps for this reason that, on the second Sunday of Lent, the Church's lectionary has us reflect on the Transfiguration of the Lord.

And beyond the purgative and illuminative ways lies the unitive way, where the soul is united perfectly to Christ. And what better path is there to follow to this union than the way of the Cross, the perfect expression of Christ's love for us, which culminates this holy season.

As you prepare for this Lent, reflecting on your penances and deprivations, don't forget to plan to be involved in the solemn celebration of the Triduum. On these holy days, the Church's liturgy is at its most dynamic and powerful, with rich symbol, ritual, and text, inviting us directly into the experience of our Blessed Lord's Passion, death, and Resurrection.

From the solemn anticipation of Holy Thursday, to the heartbreaking austerity of Good Friday's afternoon liturgy, to the haunting chants of Tenebrae, to the light, triumph, and joy of Holy Saturday, nothing fulfills the practice of Lent more perfectly, or feeds the soul more richly, than taking the time to celebrate these mysteries of the Triduum. We hope to see you there!



In the fall of 2018, thirty-five men from our Divine Mercy Area Faith Community gathered for their first weekly meeting of a dynamic men's program called "That Man Is You!" Each week, men watch a video presentation and discuss various topics pertaining to their Catholic faith as well as their role as husbands and fathers.

Now in its second year, Msgr. Lozinski has been pleased with the fruitfulness of the program.

"That Man Is You has been very effective in helping our men grow in their understanding of what it means to be a man of God," he said. "It's wonderful to see the fruit it is bearing in marriages and families in our AFC. As a priest, I enjoy being a part of it too."

That Man is You is currently being run in 600 parishes in the United States, ten of which are in the New Ulm Diocese. Deacon Paul Treinen helped launch TMIY in his parish of St. John's in Ortonville this year. "That Man Is You has helped our guys grow deeper in their faith. We've seen a greater Mass attendance and men are growing in their faith and beginning to pray with their families." He said. "It's great to see the comradery building between the guys each week."

The morning begins with coffee and rolls at 5:45 a.m. The program runs from 6:05 to 7:05 a.m. All men 18 years old or older are invited to participate in "That Man Is You" on Friday mornings in St. Mary's social room.



Born into God's Family

November 19, 2019 - February 11, 2020

Everlee Grace Sprenger, daughter of Michael & Elise Sprenger

~ ~ ~

Clara Sue Hillesheim, daughter of Thomas & Allison Hillesheim

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

November 6, 2019 - February 11, 2020



Alice Sellner 11/8/2019

Delores Guldán 11/9/2019

Ronald Haas 12/17/2019

Lloyd Havemeier 12/18/2019

Gladys Zarn 12/20/2019

Marjorie Broich 1/28/2020

Veronica Groebner 2/2/2020

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

Henry & Patricia Brandel

Alejandro & Silvia Larios
and their children Ximena & Evelin



Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's

Andrew Steffl & Alaine Buysse 12/21/2019

Andrew Hawkins & Molly Schwartz 12/31/2019

Scott Senkyr & Brynn McKeown 2/8/2020

6th Annual
BRUNCH with the BISHOP

A BENEFIT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Make a difference for Catholic families and Catholic education.

Join **Bishop John LeVair** for brunch!
Sun March 22 2020
10:45 am following 9:45 am Mass
Church of St. Mary
636 1st Avenue N, Sleepy Eye

No reservations needed.
Support the endowments with your free will offering.

Chrism Mass 2020

All are invited to attend the Diocesan Chrism Mass which will be held at St. Aloysius in Olivia, this year.

“The Chrism Mass is one of the principal expressions of the fullness of the Bishop’s Priesthood and signifies the close unity of the Priests with him. During the Mass, which he celebrates with Priests from various sections of the diocese, the Bishop consecrates the Chrism and blesses the other oils. The newly baptized are anointed and confirmed with the Chrism consecrated by the Bishop. Catechumens are prepared and disposed for Baptism with the second oil. And the sick are anointed in their illness with the third oil.”

- Excerpt from the Roman Pontifical



Thursday, April 2, 2020

Mass is at 7:00pm

St. Aloysius

in Olivia, Minnesota

Tenebrae at St. Marys, Sleepy Eye

Good Friday, April 10 at 8:30 PM

Sung Tenebrae will be held on Good Friday at 8:30 PM at St. Marys, Sleepy Eye. Tenebrae is a brief meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As the candlelight is gradually extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death; through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory. Plan on attending this powerful opportunity for prayer!

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 19, 2020

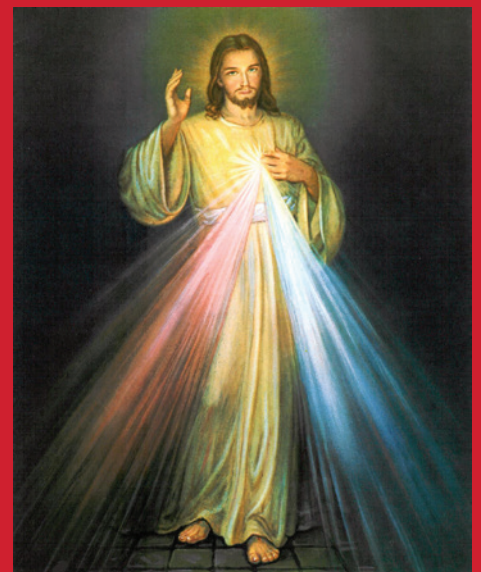
The parishes in our Area Faith Community take turns hosting the Divine Mercy Sunday and this year it will be held at St. Mary’s in Sleepy Eye. We will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2:00-3:00pm in the church, along with the priests available to hear confessions one hour prior to the Hour of Mercy, 3:00pm, when Jesus died on the cross. At 3:00pm we will have the opportunity to take part in the beautiful Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Sunday, April 19, 2020

2:00 pm: Exposition

2:00-3:00 pm: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions

3:00 pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction

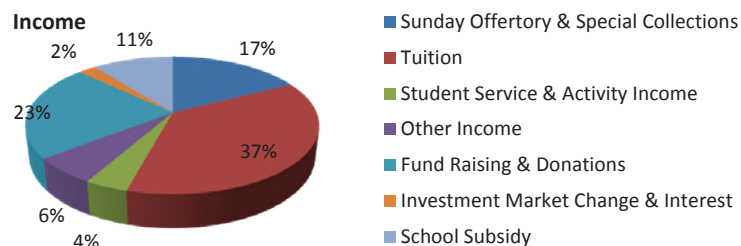


St. Mary's Catholic Church Consolidated Financial Statement

For the Six Months Ending December 31, 2019

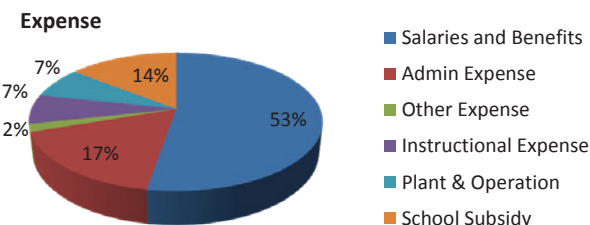
INCOME

Sunday Offertory & Special Collections	17%	\$	453,011.29
Tuition	37%	\$	956,554.08
Student Service & Activity Income	4%	\$	104,451.87
Other Income	6%	\$	161,190.69
Fund Raising & Donations	23%	\$	588,215.29
Investment Market Change & Interest	2%	\$	60,217.48
School Subsidy	11%	\$	276,135.60
Total Income		\$	2,599,776.30

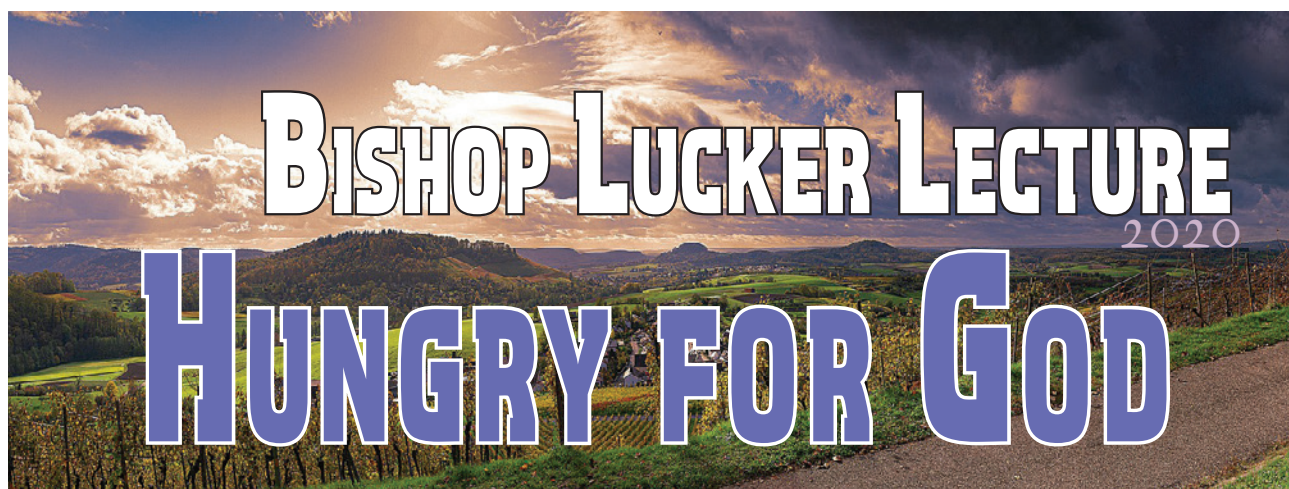


EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	53%	\$	1,012,339.36
Admin Expense	17%	\$	327,793.17
Other Expense	2%	\$	34,817.46
Instructional Expense	7%	\$	131,778.20
Plant & Operation	7%	\$	139,405.31
School Subsidy	14%	\$	276,135.60
Total Expense		\$	1,922,269.10
Net Income		\$	677,507.20
Budgeted Net Income		\$	534,160.41



Adult support continues to be an area of concern in the budget. We are about \$10,000.00 behind in contributions compared to one year ago. Our Sunday adult envelopes continue to decrease each year. Each budget year the annual adult total is lowered and has decreased over \$100,000.00 in the last eight years. This directly affects the school operations since every dollar given in the Sunday collections goes to support the school. The trend of support decreasing year after year is very concerning. The school operation budget goes up year after year and the third largest income generator (adult envelopes) goes down year after year. The lost income in the budget from adult envelopes directly affects the amount tuition is increased per student each year. It also plays a major factor when hiring quality teachers and staff because we are not able to offer a competitive salary. If we are going to maintain an affordable Catholic education option for the youth in our parish the adult giving needs to increase.



March 9

7:00 p.m.

Church of St. Catherine
900 E Flynn Street
Redwood Falls, MN

FREE ADMISSION - NO REGISTRATION



SPONSORED BY
DIOCESE OF NEW ULM
(507) 359-2966, WWW.DNU.ORG

This talk will consider how to increase our desire for God and for holiness and how to make this practical in our daily lives by turning away from those things that block or impede our spiritual progress and turning towards God in prayer.

featuring

RALPH MARTIN

from  **RENEWAL**
MINISTRIES

*an organization devoted
to Catholic renewal and evangelization*



- president of Renewal Ministries
- director of Graduate Theology Programs in Evangelization
- a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Archdiocese of Detroit

New Ulm Diocesan **CCW Convention 2020**

April 25, 2020

**Holy Redeemer Church
503 West Lyon Street - Marshall, MN**

Trust In His Goodness

7:30 AM	Registration/Continental/Breakfast/Silent Auction	10:45 AM	Mass
8:00 AM	Rosary	12:15 PM	Lunch
8:30 AM	General Assembly	1:30 PM	Catholic Charities Panel
9:00 AM	Keynote Speaker - Angela Kennecke	2:30 PM	Closing Prayer
10:00 AM	Business Meeting/Woman of the Year	3:00 PM	Drawings



Angela Kennecke

Angela Kennecke is a veteran broadcast journalist and award-winning investigative reporter. On May 16, 2018, Angela's daughter Emily, died of a Fentanyl overdose. Angela has taken Emily's story nationwide and even internationally. Angela speaks tirelessly about the issues surrounding opioid addiction, a parent's frustration and sense of helplessness and tells it all from the perspective of a mother who has lost her child.

A complete biography is located on the NUDCCW website.

Catholic Charities Panel: Including Roxann Storms who works at the Center for Grief and Loss in St. Cloud and is the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of St. Cloud, serving those who have suffered from the aftermaths of suicide and tragic death losses.

Contact your CCW President, Parish Office or the NUDCCW website for a registration form.

\$35 if registered before April 10

\$40 postmarked after April 10





**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®**

Annual KC Auction

Sunday, April 5, 2020

at noon at the Sleepy Eye Arena



Cadillac Dinner

April 19, 2020

at the Sleepy Eye Event Center



Contact Wayne Pelzel, 507-794-7719 for tickets.

Upcoming Events...

February

26-Ash Wednesday

March

1-Men's Sausage Dinner

6-World Day of Prayer

6-KC Fish Fry, Servicemen's Club,
Sleepy Eye

8-Daylight Saving Time Begins

8-AFC Confirmation

9-Bishop Lucker Lecture,

St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls

14-God's Plan for a Joy-Filled
Marriage

19-Deanery I CCW Spring
Gathering at St. Raphael,
Springfield

20-22 St. Mary's HS School
Musical

22-Brunch with the Bishop,
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye

23-CCW Sister's Shower
at Divine Providence Home

28-KC 1st, 2nd & 3rd Degree

April

2-Chrism Mass, St Aloysius, Olivia

4/5-CCW Bake Sale

5-Palm Sunday

5-KC Auction

9-Holy Thursday

10-Good Friday

11-Holy Saturday

12-Easter

16-AFC Baptism Class

19-AFC Divine Mercy Sunday at St.
Mary's, Sleepy Eye

19-KC Cadillac Dinner

25-NUDCCW Convention,
Holy Redeemer, Marshall

May

1-CCW Ladies Night Out

3-1st Holy Communion

8-May Crowning
& Grandparents Day

9-Baccalaureate

10-Mother's Day / May Crowning

15-Sleepy Eye Public School
Graduation

24-St. Mary's School Graduation

25-Memorial Day

29-Comfrey Public School
Graduation

29-Morgan Public School
Graduation

31-June 6-Totus Tuus

June

31-June 6-Totus Tuus

6-Priest Ordination at Cathedral
of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm

21-Father's Day

July

4-4th of July

26-Japanese Martyrs Parish
Dinner & Festival

August

2-St. Mary's Parish Dinner
& Festival

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Phone: 507-794-4171

www.divinemeracyafc.org

Email: saintmaryse@sleepyeyetel.net

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Fr. Andy Michels - Senior Associate Pastor

Deacon Mark Kober - Permanent Deacon

Deacon Mike McKeown - Permanent Deacon

Sean Connolly - Parish Liturgist

Dan Davis - AFC Religious Education Director

Matt Grausam - Business Manager

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary

Josh Sellner - Maintenance Director

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Cover Photo by Micael Widell from Pexels