

Immaculata

.....from our parish family to yours



Vol. 15 Issue 1 Winter/Lent 2022



A Message from Fr. Mark Steffl

Each year, the Immaculata issue that comes out at this time has the “unofficial” theme of Lent. Inside you will find our AFC Lenten and Holy Week/Easter schedule, with Confession times and Stations of the Cross. The front cover prominently features a crucifix that hangs in our Adoration Chapel. This was given by an anonymous donor who wanted to give “a crucifix that provided an opportunity to meditate on the sufferings of the Lord Jesus for us and our sins.”

Lent is a much-needed season each year giving us an opportunity to hit the “reset” button on our spiritual lives. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, we are encouraged to make some concrete commitments to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. For those who are able, these can be done as married couples and families. When I was with Msgr. Richter in New Ulm, each Lent he would encourage married couples to ask each other what they should work on during this penitential season. I always thought this was a good idea, because we sometimes “soft-pedal” through Lent without really challenging ourselves. In Luke 6:42, the Lord challenges us: *“How can you say, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while you yourself fail to see the beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*

This Lent, I would particularly invite people to look at adding something that you maybe haven’t done before or have perhaps grown lax about, in relation to prayer and spiritual devotions. A daily Rosary, Stations of the Cross, daily Mass (or perhaps a few times a week if possible) and a dedicated hour of Eucharistic Adoration are things I would especially like to recommend this year. I suggest you avoid taking on too much at once, but instead commit to a few things to be done with great commitment. This can bear much fruit in Lent and even beyond the season. (I remember with great joy a woman who described how she committed to daily Mass. She mentioned that after Lent was over, she simply kept going, not being able to give up what she had discovered to be so helpful to her!)

In the area of “almsgiving,” I hope that everyone could make a donation this Lent to one (or both) of the two big projects that we need to “get funded” by the end of May; our church tuck-pointing and the replacement of the elevator (lift) in the school that is “on its last leg.” As I have said before, I ask with comfort and ease for money for these projects because I am not asking for myself but for the Lord, and the mission that He has entrusted to us as parishioners of St. Mary’s to maintain, preserve, and pass on what has been given so generously to us!

As for prayer, please join me in praying for those who have fallen away from the practice of their Catholic Faith. As you read this, you can probably think of family members, neighbors, and co-workers who you know are Catholic, but for whatever reason have forgotten where the church is or what time Mass is on the weekend. Our efforts are not in vain in praying for these people knowing how important it is that we “practice” our faith and receive the Sacraments.

As a priest, there is nothing that brings me greater happiness than having a penitent come into the confessional who says it has been 20 or 30+ years since their last confession because I can picture Jesus, the Good Shepherd, expressing great joy in finding His lost sheep! Please make that healing Sacrament a part of your Lent.

Lastly, this Lent I would like to offer a “**mini-parish mission**” for our AFC called “The 99” based on the above story from the Gospel, Matthew 18:10-14. It is a 3-day retreat that will be in the evenings of **Sunday, March 20; Monday, March 21; and Tuesday March 22**. Each night will begin at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary’s Social Room and end with Stations of the Cross on Sunday, Adoration on Monday and Reconciliation and Mass on Tuesday. This parish retreat involves a DVD presentation each night with some reflection questions after each session. I offered it when I was in Marshall and it was very well done. Please put it on your calendar!



Father Mark Steffl

Divine Mercy AFC Lent & Holy Week Schedule for 2022

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

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

St. Mary's - 7:15am; 8:15am GS; 11:30am Latin; 2:00pm HS; 7:00pm
St. Michael's - 8:30am; 6:15pm
St. Paul's - 7:00pm
Japanese Martyrs ~ 8:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Mary's - Sundays 7-8pm before Holy Hour & Confessions; Mondays 5:00pm; Thurs. & Fri. 6pm followed by Confessions until 7pm
St. Michael's - Fridays following the 5pm Mass
St. Paul's - Tuesdays following the 5:30pm Mass before Confessions
Japanese Martyrs & St. Paul's - Fridays at 7pm before Holy Hour & Confessions - alternating weeks (Check the bulletin for location)

CONFESSION TIMES

Sunday's

St. Mary's - 11:00am weekly before the 11:30am Latin Mass; 7-8pm during Holy Hour after Stations of the Cross
St. Michael's - 8:00-8:15am weekly before the 8:30am Mass; Sunday, March 27 - 3-4pm during Holy Hour
St. Paul's - 11:30-11:45am weekly after the 10:30am Mass

Monday's

St. Mary's - 6-7:00pm weekly after the 5:30pm Mass

Tuesday's

St. Paul's - weekly following the 5:30pm Mass after Stations of the Cross during Holy Hour

Thursday's

St. Michael - weekly following the 8:30am Mass during Holy Hour
St. Mary's - weekly following the 6:00pm Stations of the Cross until 7:00pm

Friday's

St. Mary's - weekly following the 6:00pm Stations of the Cross until 7:00pm
St. Paul's/Japanese Martyrs - following the 7:00pm Stations of the Cross during Holy Hour (check bulletin for location)

Saturday's

St. Mary's - 9-10am; 4:00-5:00pm weekly
St. Michael's - 9-10am weekly
Japanese Martyrs - 7:30-7:45pm weekly before the 8:00pm Mass

PALM SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday, April 9

St. Mary's - 5:30pm
Japanese Martyrs - 8:00pm

Sunday, April 10

St. Mary's - 7:30am; 9:30am; 11:30 (Latin)
St. Michael's - 8:30am
St. Paul's - 10:30am

HOLY WEEK

CONFESSIONS

Monday, April 11

St. Mary's - following the 5:30pm Mass until 7pm

Tuesday, April 12

St. Michael's - 3-5:00pm
St. Paul's ~ following the 5:30pm Mass after Stations of the Cross during Holy Hour
St. Mary's ~ 6-7pm

Wednesday, April 13

St. Mary's ~ 6-7pm

Holy Thursday, April 14

St. Mary's ~ 11-noon; following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm
St. Michael's ~ following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm
Japanese Martyrs ~ following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm

Good Friday, April 15

St. Mary's ~ 1-2:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 16

St. Mary's ~ 9-10:00am

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 14

St. Mary's ~ 7:00pm; St. Michael's ~ 7:00pm; At Japanese Martyrs with St. Paul's ~ 7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE TIMES - APRIL 15

St. Mary's ~ 12:00pm; 3:00pm; 5:00pm Latin; 7:00pm Stations of the Cross; 8:00pm Tenebrae Service
Japanese Martyrs ~ 12:00pm
St. Michael's ~ 3:00pm
St. Paul's ~ 5:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 16

St. Mary's ~ 8:00pm; St. Michael's ~ 8:00pm; At St. Paul's with Japanese Martyrs ~ 8:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY MASS TIMES - APRIL 17

St. Mary's ~ 7:30am; 9:30am; 11:30 (Latin)
St. Michael's ~ 8:30am
Japanese Martyrs ~ 10:30am

*Dates/Times subject to change

Parish Family Profile

by Kathy Sonnek

With a beaming smile that speaks of a kind and hospitable heart, Buddie Ann Bertrand Pregler opens the door of a Sleepy Eye home on what is inarguably one of the coldest days of the year so far. Stepping from the ten-below wind chill into their 1950s-style rambler, one is greeted with a warmth that extends beyond the physical surroundings and is embodied in both of its gracious and engaging occupants. As her husband, David Pregler, returns from getting a beverage from the kitchen for their guest, the discussion turns to how his wife of ten years got her name.

"I was named after my dad. His name was actually Harold Francis but he was always called Buddie. When it came time to choose my name, it was either Haroldine or Buddie - and I'm glad they chose Buddie," she laughs. "I took Francis for my confirmation name."

When Buddie and David married, she decided to keep her maiden name of Bertrand in addition to Pregler, although - as David points out - without the hyphenation. Admitting that it does make filling out the surname boxes on forms challenging at times, Buddie explains, "I wanted to be known as my father's daughter, as well as David's wife." In what appears to be a nod to her family of origin, a very authentic-looking painting in rust and brown tones on the wall of their family room depicts a café with street seating and ice-cream-parlor-type chairs over which appears the name "BERTRAND." A relative, perhaps?



"No" laughs Buddie. "I got [the painting] at Target! It was on sale. I've had it for 17 years!" Although they are aware other Bertrands live in the area, to their knowledge, none are related to them.

Last year, the couple decided it was time to move from their Richfield home to a place more conducive to sanity, safety and family life. Buddie, who had been employed by Lunds & Byerlys grocery stores for thirty years, worked at a location in downtown St. Paul. "Every day, we had incidents," she says. "We had a lot of homeless and addicted people and they would come in to warm up and help themselves to food." Armed guards in the store could do nothing to discourage the situation and it wasn't unusual to see a manager pursuing a shoplifter through the store. They decided it was time to retire.

"We had been looking at small towns, just to get out of the city," says David.

"We weighed the pros and cons," continues Buddie. "We had our spreadsheet of what we wanted."

First and foremost was a location not far from Buddie's daughter, Allynn, her husband Steve, and children Gigi and Grant who currently reside in Apple Valley. Buddie and David narrowed their search to New Ulm, St. Peter, Redwood Falls, Springfield and Sleepy Eye and then began exploring each town with a particular eye to the Catholic churches in the area. After checking out several, they landed in Sleepy Eye. "When we walked into St. Mary's, we knew we wanted to be a part of that church," says Buddie. With one look, says David, they fell in love with its beauty and the non-tangible but very real spiritual element they perceived. "It made our hearts happy to be in there," he says.

While both are practicing Catholics, Buddie says her family of origin fell away from the Church after she was baptized. When she became a grandmother, she and her daughter went through RCIA at a parish in Rosemount and, during the Easter Vigil of 2008, three generations of her family - including the grandchildren - became current with their sacraments. Says Buddie, "It was one of the most exciting days of my life."

Although the beauty of St. Mary's was the initial draw to the area, an appreciation for their new town soon followed. "We didn't know we'd enjoy Sleepy Eye as much as we do," Buddie says, listing as examples the close proximity to the post office, church and grocery store and the neighborliness of the community. "This is our retirement home. We want to stay here," says David.

When not blowing snow which, according to Buddie, David actually enjoys, you can find him adding to his extensive collection of vinyl records and old television DVDs, like *The Rifleman*, *Courtship of Eddie's Father* and original *Batman* series and - prior to Covid-19 - attending concerts, including those by Dion, the Monkees, Tears for Fears and Rick Springfield. Buddie, a California native, meanwhile creates many intricate, cozy works of art through her afghans and baby quilts and joins David in watching classics like Perry Mason from his collection while they sit by the fireplace. "I like the winter," she says. "I don't mind. I want to stay here crocheting."



A Piece of St. Mary's History

By: Josh Sellner



Some may be familiar with the Latin exclamation “tempus fugit” or “time flies,” which comes to us from the ancient Roman poet Virgil. Nearly a century ago in 1924, a special committee was formed at St. Mary's with the intention of raising funds for and the installation of a tower clock in one of the church towers. Clock faces had been

placed on both steeples when the church was built, but more than twenty years would pass before they were put to use. In the summer of 1924, an E. Howard “round top” tower clock was installed in the south steeple. To the visitor, this means only the clock faces on the outside of the building, but the actual clock itself (the part that makes it work) is three stories up, inside the south tower. The E. Howard Company of Boston was a well-known maker of large tower clocks for churches and public buildings in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The clock is a huge assemblage of cast iron framework and brass gears. It is a “tick-tock” clock with a large pendulum, akin to a weight-driven grandfather clock, but on a much larger scale. As with most things related to our imposing church, the installation of the clock was an important event in Sleepy Eye at the time, because not only could one look to the steeples to find the time, but it also tolled the large bell to count the hour as well. The donor plaque for the clock hangs on the north choir loft door in the center vestibule, and a careful study of it reveals that a few non-Catholic individuals and

organizations also donated towards its purchase, along with many of our parishioners. The clock utilized cast iron weights and an automatic electric winding system until the 1940s, when the weights and winding motors were removed and an electric motor was installed in the movement itself to run the gears and hands of the clock faces. Unfortunately for us, this conversion meant that some of the parts and equipment for the weight-driven function were discarded. While these clocks were once very common, there are not many of these old tower clocks left in the United States in their original installations, and still less that are functioning as originally installed. Happily, however, there are individuals and companies who specialize in repair and restoration of these old timepieces. While our tower clock was computerized in the year 2000, perhaps someday we as a parish can entertain the possibility of the restoration of this once-important part of our local history.



Tenebrae at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye *Good Friday, April 15, at 8:00 PM*

Sung Tenebrae will be held on Good Friday at 8:00 PM at St. Mary's, 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!

Welcome To Our Parish

Zane Beltz

Adel & Rose Elia and children, George and Marie



Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's

Elliot Braun & Kayla Larson 12/4/2021

Jamie Marti & Tristan Pietig 1/8/2022

Born into God's Family

November 20, 2021 thru February 14, 2022

Lillian Kathleen Ferk, daughter of Geoffrey & Emily Ferk

Elijah James Ferk, son of Jared & Ashley Ferk

Maverick Michael Hoffmann, son of Keith M. Hoffmann & Sheena Hillesheim

Kai Elliot Seidl, son of Landon & Kelsey Seidl



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

October 14, 2021 thru February 14, 2022

Vernard Haala, Sr. 12/15/2021

Gladys Reinarts 12/26/2021

Margaret 'Mickey' Fischer 1/11/2022

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.



Be Still and Know...

"The shock of sorrow comes only to those who think this world is fixed and absolute, that there is nothing beyond. They think everything here below should be perfect. Hence, they ask questions: 'Why should I suffer? What have I done to deserve this?' Maybe you did nothing to deserve it. Certainly, Our Lord did nothing to deserve His Cross. But it came, and through it, He went to His glory."

—Venerable Fulton Sheen



2022 Bishop Lucker Lecture

Sponsored by: DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

THAT YOUR
JOY
Might Be Complete

(John 15:11)



Fr. Tom Knoblach
Presenter

MONDAY, MARCH 14 @ 7:00 P.M.
CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE
900 E. FLYNN STREET, REDWOOD FALLS

Free admission - No registration - Open to public
Attend in-person or Live Stream at www.dnu.org



New Ulm Diocesan
CCW Convention 2022



Angela Kennecke

April 30, 2022

Holy Redeemer Church
501 West Lyon Street - Marshall, MN

Trust In His Goodness

- 7:30 AM Registration/Continental/Breakfast/Silent Auction
- 8:00 AM Rosary
- 8:30 AM General Assembly
- 9:00 AM Keynote Speaker - Angela Kennecke
- 10:00 AM Business Meeting
- 10:30 AM Women of the Year
- 11:00 AM Mass
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Fr. Brendan Rollings, OSB
- 2:30 PM Closing Prayer
- 3:00 PM Drawings

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



St. Mary's Church

Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

Sausage Dinner



Country Style Sausage, Mashed Potatoes,
Sauerkraut, Gravy, Applesauce & Ice Cream

Sunday, March 6, 2022

DRIVE THROUGH ONLY - WATCH FOR SIGNS

\$13 TAKEOUT MEALS
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All Meals Are Adult Size Takeouts

MEAT SALES IN SCHOOL BUS GARAGE

Saturday, March 5, 2022 ~ 9am-4:30pm

Sunday, March 6, 2022 ~ 9am-2pm

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 24, 2022 - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter each year, is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are opened wide and we reflect on the Mercy of God, and avail ourselves to that Mercy especially through the Sacrament of Confession.

Our Divine Mercy AFC will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye during the Adoremus Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Three priests will be available to hear confessions. The Holy Hour will include singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



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

Matt Grausam - Business Manager

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary



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Upcoming Events...

March

2-Ash Wednesday
6-Men's Sausage Dinner
13-AFC Confirmation
13-Daylight Saving Time begins
14-Bishop Lucker Lecture
17-Deanery CCW Spring Gathering
19-St. Joseph, Spouse
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
25-The Annunciation of the Lord
31-CCW Church Cleaning

April

7-Chrism Mass, Cathedral
in New Ulm
10-Palm Sunday
14-Holy Thursday
15-Good Friday
16-Holy Saturday
17-Easter Sunday
23-KC Cadillac Raffle Drawing
24-Divine Mercy Sunday
29-CCW Ladies Night Out
30-New Ulm Diocesan
CCW Convention

May

1-First Holy Communion
4-Rel Ed closing Mass
6-SESM Grandparents Day/May
Crowning

8-Mother's Day
14-Caribbean Knight Party
20-SEPS HS Graduation
Class of 2022
26-The Ascension of the Lord
27-Comfrey HS Graduation
Class of 2022
28-Diocese of New Ulm
Priest Ordination
29-SESM HS Graduation
Class of 2022
30-Memorial Day

June

3-CM-Morgan HS Graduation
Class of 2022
5-Pentecost Sunday
5-9-Totus Tuus
12-The Most Holy Trinity
19-Corpus Christi

July

1-Calendar Raffle Drawing
4-4th of July
31-Japanese Martyrs
Church Festival

August

7-Parish Festival
15-The Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary