

### Father Mark Steffl

### A Message from Fr. Mark Steffl

"It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the 'two P's' seriously: prayer and penance."

The above quote is from St. Francis Xavier, who is pictured on the cover of this issue of the Immaculata, and good advice for us to consider as we ready ourselves to move into the holy season of Lent.

Inside St. Mary's Church, you will find this statue on the Sacred Heart side altar to the right of the Sacred Heart statue. Historical documents point to the fact that he was chosen for that niche in the church to recognize the Jesuit priests who were the first in this area to bring the message of the Gospel (and who also were the reasoning behind the rather uniquely named "Japanese Martyrs" church in Leavenworth).

St. Francis Xavier is often depicted with an arm pointing to heaven, as we see in this statue. He was born into a noble family in the northwest part of Spain in 1506. He went to Paris to study, and at that time met Ignatius of Loyola. Francis Xavier's biographer said that Ignatius asked a worldly-minded Francis the question, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his soul?"

St. Francis Xavier was eventually ordained a priest and made up the first of the members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) who devoted themselves whole-heartedly to the missionary work of the Church, considered to be the Church's "second St. Paul" with his missionary work to India, Southwest Asia, Japan, and ending in China where he died in 1552.

I thought St. Francis Xavier would be great to include on the cover of this issue as we continue to work on our projects to maintain St. Mary's Church, a building which in and of itself is missionary, as it shows those who enter Our Lord and presents us also with His beautiful Mother.

We receive many visitors here (I think most of our parishioners would be surprised at how many) – people who come for weddings and funerals, and those who pass through and stop in, in addition to those who have heard about it and make a deliberate trip to see the church. A church is meant to be one's "spiritual home" in this world, and it is where the Lord makes His home among us. People from the outside often comment about the beauty of the church, which certainly gives an opportunity to ponder something beyond the noise and activity of the rest of our lives.

We look forward to the restoration of the altars along with the communion rail, pulpit and confessionals that will begin this summer. The pieces of this detailed woodwork are in need of necessary repairs if we are to continue to present the Gospel that they represent to those who come to Sleepy Eye.

And before us now as we prepare for Lent, we have the words of St. Francis Xavier who reminds us of the "two P's of prayer and penance" as we recommit to them in preparation for another Holy Week and Easter Resurrection reminding us of our true and lasting home in Heaven!

### Divine Mercy AFC Lent & Holy Week Schedule for 2024

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

### ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14, 2024

St. Mary's - 7:15am; 8:15am All School; 7:00pm

St. Paul's - 7:00pm

St. Michael's - 8:00am; 6:15pm

Japanese Martyrs - 11:30am (Latin); 8:00pm

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

AFC Parishes - Sundays 7-8:00pm - rotating parishes each week (check bulletin for location)

St. Mary's - Mondays 5:00pm; Thursday & Friday 6:00pm

St. Paul's - Tuesdays following the 5:30pm Mass

St. Michael's - Fridays following the 5:30pm Mass

Japanese Martyrs & St. Paul's - Fridays at 7:00pm / alternating weeks (check the bulletin for location)

#### **CONFESSION TIMES DURING LENT**

### Sunday's

St. Michael's - 7:30-7:45am weekly before the 8:00am Mass

St. Paul's - 9:30-9:45am weekly before the 10:00am Mass

AFC Parishes - 7-8:00pm - rotating parishes each week (check bulletin for location)

#### Monday's

St. Mary's - 6-7:00pm

#### Tuesday's

St. Paul's - weekly following the 5:30pm Mass

### Wednesday's

St. Mary's - 5:30-6:30pm

#### Thursday's

St. Michael - weekly following the 8:00am Mass

St. Mary's - weekly following the 6:00pm Stations of the Cross until 7:00pm

#### Friday's

St. Michael's - weekly following the 5:30pm Mass

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. Michael's - 8:30-9:30am weekly

St. Mary's - 9-10am; 4:00-5:00pm weekly

Japanese Martyrs - 7:30-7:45pm weekly before the 8:00pm Mass

#### PALM SUNDAY MASS TIMES

#### Saturday, March 23

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

#### Sunday, March 24

St. Mary's - 7:30am; 9:30am

St. Michael's - 8:00am

St. Paul's - 10:00am

Japanese Martyrs - 11:30am Latin

### **HOLY WEEK**

### **CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK**

#### Monday, March 25

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

### Tuesday, March 26

St. Michael's - 4-5:00pm

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

St. Mary's - 6-7pm

#### Wednesday, March 27

St. Mary's - 5:30-6:30pm

### Holy Thursday, March 28

St. Mary's - 11-noon; following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration in church until 10:00pm

St. Michael's - following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm

St. Paul's - following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm

### Good Friday, March 29

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

### Holy Saturday, March 30

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

### **HOLY THURSDAY MASS - MARCH 28**

St. Mary's - 7:00pm; St. Michael's - 7:00pm; St. Paul's - 7:00pm

### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE TIMES - MARCH 29**

St. Mary's - 12:00pm; 3:00pm; 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Japanese Martyrs - 10:00am Latin; 12:00pm

St. Michael's - 3:00pm

St. Paul's - 5:30pm

### **HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL - MARCH 30**

St. Mary's - 8:00pm; St. Michael's - 8:00pm

### **EASTER SUNDAY MASS TIMES - MARCH 31**

St. Mary's - 7:30am; 9:30am

St. Michael's - 8:00am

Japanese Martyrs - 8:00am; 11:30am Latin

St. Paul's - 10:00am

\*Dates/Times subject to change

### Nex-Tu-Nu II Store Celebrates 30 Years

By Mary Lou Witte

In the spring of 1993, Jeanie Kosak, the owner of the Nex-Tu-Nu consignment shop, made the decision to close her doors. This store provided an important service to the community and would be greatly missed.

Having helped with the St. Mary's Garage Sale and knowing the generosity of St. Mary's Parish, I felt compelled to continue this kind of business in Sleepy Eye. I shared her idea for St. Mary's to open a consignment store with then-elementary school principal Wayne Pelzel. Several parishioners met and a board



NEX-TU-NU II volunteers (left): Jan Schmitz, Linda Schroepfer, Nettie Treml, Deb Fischer, Pattie Pelzel, Audrey Schons, Maggie Kuebler and MaDonna Sellner.

comprised of five women was formed: Anita Walter, Vonnie Windschitl, Barb Rathman, Agnes Dietz and myself. The Nex-Tu-Nu II Store in Sleepy Eye opened its doors on February 1, 1994 and was originally located on 120 Main Street. The name was chosen in tribute to Jeane Kosak who closed her consignment business called Nex-Tu-Nu in August of 1993. Jeanie Kosak was asked to manage the resale store and so it began.

St. Mary's rented the Tre-Mar Studio building, but it required painting and updated fixtures. Businesses in Sleepy Eye and New Ulm proved very generous and donated various needed items. Ron Berdan made one of the first clothing racks out of plumbing pipes. Volunteers began renovating the building in anticipation of a re-opening. However, life has a way of changing plans as I was diagnosed with cancer, requiring surgery on December 3, 1993. My dream for this store came to a standstill. However, the people of our parish were not ready to let my vision die. The Knights of Columbus stepped forward to paint the inside of the store and volunteers came from all over to put it all together. Donations were pouring through the back door and my dream became a reality on February 1, 1994. Initially using a borrowed cash register (later one was donated), we were ready for business!

Our first volunteers came from various groups of the parish including the Council of Catholic Women, the Knights

of Columbus, Catholic Order of Foresters, and Catholic Aid. I began by asking for volunteers for one day a week for two hours. From those simple beginnings came all of the beautiful volunteers who served Nex-Tu-Nu II. We paid our manager, Jeanie, but all of the rest of our work force were volunteers.

It seemed like we had a snow plow opening the way for us (probably the Holy Spirit!). We always had enough help when we needed it and, if problems arose, there was always someone willing to help out. At the

end of our first month, after paying the bills, we came out in the black - a proud moment! The first year in business the store generated \$6,500.



NEX-TU-NU II volunteers (left): JoAnn Riederer and Lorraine Braulick.

The board members and volunteers keep Nex-Tu-Nu II going – from sorting in the back room, to cleaning the store and merchandise, to arranging the store, to putting out new merchandise. The manager did all the pricing so it was consistent. Change of seasons brought in lots of volunteers to help remove unsold items and replace it with the new merchandise and clothing. Many



NEX-TU-NU II volunteers (left): Lucille Berdan and Maggie Kuebler.

hands made all that work manageable.

It did not take long to outgrow the first location. When the opportunity came along to move to a larger building, there were both pros and cons to consider. We eventually made the decision and relocated at the end of that year. On January 1, 1996, the move was made to the previous Haas Bakery Store, 125 Main Street East. New Year's Eve found Harry and Vonnie Windschitl and Dwayne and I standing by a round rack cheering in the New Year and the new opportunities for Nex-Tu-Nu II.

Moving to the new store was a daunting task. We moved racks of clothes on hay wagons with the help of our young people. St. Mary's School provided a "release time" for students to help with the many necessary tasks of opening a store. With the many steps and basement, we were grateful for their assistance! In addition, a "sorting angel" appeared – Lucille Berdan – and spent hours and hours in the back room.

After moving to our new building, we lost our beloved Jeanie. Many changes took place during that timeframe. I had resigned and Joyce Krenz took over on the board. The next store manager was Jan Severson, assisted by Dorothy Helget. In spring of 2006 a fire caused the relocation of our store to our present day location at 205 Main Street East. Later, other store managers included Margaret Windschitl, until her retirement when Kathleen Braun and assistant manager Linda Schroepfer were hired. With Kathleen's recent retirement from this position, Linda Schroepfer became manager and MaDonna Sellner was hired to assist.

The current Board of Directors meet quarterly, including Nettie Treml, Deb Fischer, Audrey Schons, Jan Schmitz, Pattie Pelzel and Maggie Kuebler. Over fifty individuals volunteer their time to help at the store and to provide an outstanding service to our community. All funds from this store go directly to the budget to help subsidize St. Mary's Catholic School. The store has repeatedly proven to be a great success with sales over the last ten years totaling \$702,166. In 2022-2023, our fiscal year sales reached the highest ever with \$96,811 profit!

We are so grateful for all those who support Nex-Tu-Nu II by volunteering, donating merchandise, and shopping in our store

as we celebrate 30 years in business.



PROUD TO BE part of Nex-Tu-Nu-II are Vonnie Windschitl, board of directors member; Ellen Lux, volunteer; Jeanie Kosak, manager; and Harriet Lee, volunteer. Several other volunteers will also help out with the day-to-day operation of the shop.

Taken from the Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch February 1994 issue.



While gathering information on the history of the Nex-Tu-Nu II store, a few names kept coming up. One of those was *Lucille Berdan*. When considering someone for our Parish Family Profile, it seemed fitting it should be Lucille. Since having any attention on her "isn't her thing," we are grateful she agreed (after some persuasion from her daughter).

Lucille was born on July 28, 1927, the second of four children in the Moelter family. She grew up on a farm in Wabasso during the Depression "living from hand"

to mouth." Everyone had to pitch in with all the work to be done. "That's just the way it was." As she got older, she fondly recalls helping her Dad as the "hired man." Lucille did fieldwork and farm chores, wearing bib overalls, a long-sleeved shirt, and a straw hat. She remembers that she would much rather do chores than help bake bread on Saturdays!

Lucille attended St. Anne's Catholic grade school and graduated from Wabasso Public High School. It was during this time the United States was involved in WWII. Her plans to become a nurse became a reality upon her acceptance into the US Cadet Corps. That was a program established to alleviate the shortage of nurses. It provided the funds necessary for young nurses to complete their education. She received her training at St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Kate's in St. Paul where the Cadet Corps were referred to as the "charity students."

After completing her training, she took a job as an RN at the Sleepy Eye Hospital. Luckily, she obtained the last room available for room and board in the nurses' house, which was located south of the hospital then. It was during this time that her nursing friend, Deloris, invited Lucille to join her and Les (Steffl) for a concert at the Mankato



Ballroom. Deloris told her, "Rich Berdan would like to go, but he doesn't want to go stag. So would you go, too?" Lucille responded, "Oh sure." Later that night after dropping Lucille off, Rich told Les, "I'm going to marry that girl." They wed on September 18, 1951, and became parents to eight children. She continued her nursing job until retiring at age 62.

After retirement, Lucille quickly began to fill her time volunteering. She helped the St. Mary's Catering Ladies, peeling potatoes and doing whatever was needed. She was a

part of the regular schmeirkuchen baking crew. However, the majority of her volunteer time has been at the Nex-Tu-Nu II store. When the store opened in 1994, Jeanie Kosak was the manager. She asked Lucille to help, and so the first Monday of each month she did the tagging with Jan De-Blieck.

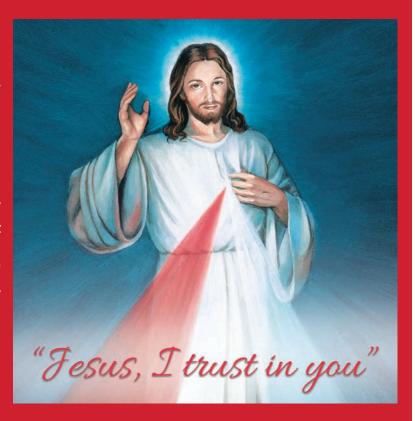
Later Jeanie asked her to wash and dry all the glassware before it was set on the shelves to sell. Back then, Jeanie and the other board members did the sorting until one evening when Jeanie asked Lucille to help with that. There she has remained ever since, sorting numerous items and clothing dropped off for resale in the back room of the Nex-Tu-Nu II store. Just recently, she cut back to four days a week, taking Fridays off. One can only imagine the number of items she has sorted, and the surprises found in pockets and purses over all these years! Her heart overflows with gratitude to everyone she has worked with at the store.

Throughout her life, Lucille has relied on her faith with a special devotion to St. Jude to help her through life's struggles. When asked for some words of wisdom to share she simply remarked, "Do good things so at the end of the day you feel good inside." St. Mary's Parish is grateful for all the good things Lucille has done.

## **Divine Mercy Sunday** April 7, 2024 ~ 3:00-4:00 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 in Sleepy Eye with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 3:00 — 4:00 p.m. Three priests will be available to hear confessions. The Holy Hour will include singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



### Msgr. Shea to visit our Area Faith Community in March



We are excited to have Msgr. James Shea, president of the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, visit our Divine Mercy Area Faith Community. Msgr. Shea will share his message as he delivers the homily at the following Masses:

Saturday, March 9, 8PM Mass at Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth

Sunday, March 10, 8AM Mass at St. Michael's in Morgan and 9:30AM Mass at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.



# Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's

Benjamin Hintz & Ellen Roufs 11/25/23
Thomas Windschitl & Autumn Krenz 12/8/23



### Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

November 4, 2023 through December 31, 2023

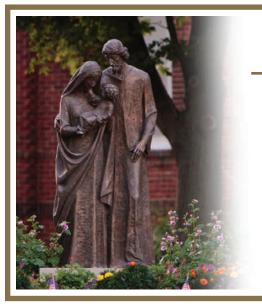
Edward Abel 11/4/23

Dorothy A. Krzmarzick 11/17/23

Elaine M. Haala 11/24/23

Kathleen Roberts 12/1/23

Mary Jane Hoffmann 12/7/23 Stacy Mathiowetz 12/25/23 Jose Sanchez, Jr. 12/31/23



### Born into God's Family

November 12, 2023 through January 21, 2024

John Douglas Steffl, son of Andrew & Alaine Steffl

Eliam Alexander Almanza, son of Jorge & Maria Almanza

Reagan Reese Heiderscheidt,
daughter of Lucas & Nikki Heiderscheidt

Luella Kathryn Bloedow, daughter of Jacob & Katie Bloedow

Lucy Joan McKeown, daughter of Cole & Teresa McKeown

### Welcome To Our Parish



Anita Johnson

Joseph & Ashley Swedzinski and their children, Gabriel, Veronica and Isabelle



### Bishop Lucker Lecture

presents

Dr. Edward Sri



### Friday, March 15, 2024

Church of St. Catherine, Redwood Falls

### **Evening Program:**

6:00 pm Mass 7:00 pm Lecture 8:00 pm Reception

### **NEW this Year! Day Program**

Cost: \$15 (for lunch) -- Please use the QR code to register.

9 am	Gather/Refreshments	
9:45 am	Welcome	
10 am	Dr. Sri Presentation #1	
11 am	Adoration/Benediction	
12 pm	Lunch	
1 pm	Dr. Sri Presentation #2	
2 pm	Reflection	

Closing Prayer



## Eucharistic Revival in Our Hearts:

### Bringing the Liturgy into Our Daily Lives

Dr. Edward Sri is a theologian, well-known Catholic speaker, and author of several bestselling books, including "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion." He is also the host of the acclaimed podcast All Things Catholic with Dr. Edward Sri. Together with Curtis Martin, Dr. Sri is a founding leader of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), of which he serves as Senior Vice President of Apostolic Outreach.



2:30 pm

### Upcoming Events...

### **February**

14-Ash Wednesday

18-Msgr. John Richter 60th Anniversary to the Priesthood Mass

23-KC Fish Fry

### **March**

2-God's Plan for a Joy Filled Marriage Class

3-St. Mary's Men's Sausage Dinner

10-AFC Confirmation

15-DNU Bishop Lucker Lecture

16/17-CCW Bake Sale

19-Deanery 1 Spring Gathering at St. Mary's in New Ulm

21-Chrism Mass at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm

24-Palm Sunday

28-Holy Thursday

29-Good Friday

30-Holy Saturday

31-Easter Sunday

### <u>April</u>

7-Divine Mercy at St. Mary's

7-KC Auction

8-The Annunciation of the Lord

14-KC Cadillac Dinner

27-NUDCCW Convention at St. Pius, Glencoe

27-St. Mary's School Jr/Sr. Prom

### **May**

3-Stations of the Cross at the Way of the Cross, New Ulm

4-SE Public School Jr/Sr. Prom

4- Cedar Mountain School, Morgan Jr/Sr. Prom

5-1st Communion at St. Mary's, St. Michael's & St. Paul's

7/8-Spring Clergy Days

8-AFC CCD Last Night with closing Mass

10-St. Mary's School May Crowning/Grandparents Day

12-Ascension of the Lord

12-Mother's Day

12-St. Mary's Baccalaureate

12-St. Paul's, Comfrey Baccalaureate

17-SE Public School Graduation

18-Comfrey Public School Jr/Sr. Prom

19-Pentecost Sunday

19-St. Michael's, Morgan Baccalaureate

19-AFC Rosary Procession from Schoenstatt to St. Mary's

24-Comfrey Public School Graduation

26-St. Mary's School Graduation

27-Memorial Day

31-Cedar Mountain School, Morgan Graduation

### June

7-Stations of the Cross at the Way of the Cross, New Ulm

16-Fathers's Day

25-Council of Catholic Women Province Conference

### July

1 thru 31-St. Mary's Church Altar Restoration

4-4th of July

5-Stations of the Cross at the Way of the Cross, New Ulm

### <u>August</u>

1 thru 31-St. Mary's Church Altar Restoration

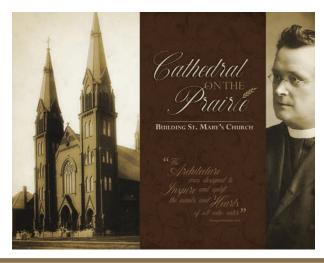
2-Stations of the Cross at the Way of the Cross, New Ulm

4-St. Mary's Parish Festival

11-AFC Rosary Procession from Schoenstatt to St. Mary's

15-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Cathedral on the PrairieBook



\$25

This beautiful keepsake book is available to purchase at the parish or school office, Nex-Tu-Nu II store, or Randy's Family Drug and Gift store.

## Be an Instrument of Salvation

### 2024

# New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention

Saturday, April 27, 2024 Church of St. Pius X 1014 Knight Ave. N., Glencoe, MN



Kelly Wahlquist, keynote speaker, is a wife, mother of three, inspiring Catholic author and speaker residing in Minnesota. She is the founder of WINE: Women In the New Evangelization and the Director for the Catechetical Institute at The Saint Paul Seminary.

Yazmin and Leonard Gutierrez will speak on evangelization. Yazmin served as a FOCUS missionary at the University of Oklahoma and Benedictine College. Leonard is the New Ulm Diocesan Director of Evangelization and was FOCUS missionary and Team Director at University of Oklahoma and Benedictine College.





### Program of the Day

7:30 Registration & Breakfast Silent Auction begins & Vendors open

8:00 Rosary

8:30 General Assembly

9:00 Keynote Speaker Kelly Wahlquist

10:15 Business Meeting

10:45 Woman of the Year

11:00 Mass

12:15 Lunch

1:30 Yazmin & Leonard Gutierrez

2:30 Divine Mercy Chaplet Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction

3:00 Door Prize Drawings

Contact your CCW President, Parish Office, or the NUDCCW website (*NUDCCW.org*) for a registration form.
\$40 if registered before April 15
\$50 if postmarked after April 15
\$10 for Kelly Wahlquist presentation only

### St. Mary's Catholic Church

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 36 Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### 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

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary

### Immaculata Contributors:



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Cover Photo provided by Laura Laechel



Sunday, March 3, 2024 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Serving Family-Style in the St. Mary's School Cafeteria Enter through the High School Auditorium Door.

<u>Ticket Prices:</u>
Adults \$16.00
Children (6-12) \$6.00

Preschool \$2.00

Drive-Thru Adult Size
Take-Out Orders
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
\*\*St. Mary's School Parking Lot\*\*

#### MEAT SALES IN SCHOOL BUS GARAGE

USDA inspected sausage and other meats for sale. Saturday, March 2, 2024 ~ 9am-4:30pm ~ Sunday, March 3, 2024 ~ 9am-2pm