



# Immaculata

...from our parish family to yours

Vol. 18 Issue 2 Summer Issue 2025



## *A Message from Fr. Craig Timmerman*

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I Trust in You!*



I pray your summer has been as good as mine! I have one year under my belt, and it feels good. I have come to know a few names (honestly!) and a general flow of things here. I suppose I have to quit using the excuse 'it's my first year'... Thank you for your support and patience. I've been very blessed by your words of affirmation, willingness to lend a helping hand, food and gifts - you love your priests! I've been giving a lot of thanks to God for the crops in the fields this year. I encourage you to begin your day thanking God for three things. It shows faith in God's goodness. May God abundantly bless us and bring a fruitful harvest - not just to our crops but to all our efforts to love Him and others.

Our front cover is a photo of the altar at Church of the Japanese Martyrs! People have asked for more information explaining the new altar. Thanks to Josh Sellner for his article in this issue. As you know, we welcomed the Church of the Japanese Martyrs into the parish of St. Mary's when we merged. At that time, the Latin Mass was also moved to Leavenworth to become their home. Therefore, we have Saturday evening 8 PM Mass in English and Latin Mass at 11:30AM on Sunday. It is good for us to realize that there are many different forms of Mass in the Catholic Church. We usually only see one. Both the English 'Novus Ordo' Mass and TLM Latin Mass are forms of the 'Latin Rite' Catholic Church. We complement each other so well here. However, there are 24 different other 'rites' within the Catholic Church! We are so grateful for the life and families the TLM community brings here to our AFC. There has been a lot of coming together in the past years here. This year I asked the St. Mary's festival committee to intentionally reach out to Japanese Martyrs people who became members of St. Mary's. We want to be welcoming to all!

Speaking of welcoming - we welcomed three new members into the Catholic Church at Easter, and another four to five are going through classes this summer, with another handful ready to start in the fall! The buzzword is "evangelization." It is so important that we invite and welcome others to know more about Jesus in the Catholic Church: first our family of course, but also our neighbors. How are we being missionary disciples who evangelize? Disciples are followers of Jesus; those He calls His friends. This comes first. We come to know the love of Jesus, receive Him in the Church and prayer, learn more about Him and follow Him by how we live our life. This is a powerful witness to our world. Then, we have to be a missionary! Share your faith openly - not arrogant, of course, but do not hide it! Tell people you will pray for them and even take time to pray with them. Invite them to join you for Mass, adoration or a talk. Do not be afraid. Jesus sends us - each of us! Everything we do in the Church really should be about how we can evangelize and bring others to Jesus. That is our God-given mission.

Lastly, I am so excited that our Church project is moving forward! It will begin on June 8, 2026, with completion by Christmas 2026. We will have Mass in the social room for about seven months, but it will be worth it! Thank you for your donations and support. As you know, we exceeded our goal (yay!) but the amount can vary depending on the kind of donations given. After we made our goal, there were concerns expressed about the lighting in our church. We have decided to look into this since it makes sense to address it while the scaffolding is in place for our plaster/paint project. The current wires are very brittle and old, and people have complained about not being able to see well for some time. We are still in the planning stages and we will keep you informed as we learn more. Thank you for being diligent about your pledges and bringing in even more donations. Thank you for every dollar given - it shows such love for our Church! God bless you!





Thirty-two second graders from St. Mary's Parish received the sacrament of their First Holy Communion at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Pictured in the front row (left): Lakeyn Hose, George Kober, Madelyn Seifert, Haylee Pierson, Carwyn Mathiowetz, Carson Krzmarzick, Mason Peterson, Paisley Pelzel, Logan Fischer, Jacob Meyer, Janie Pelzel, Ethel Forster. Second row: Grayson Huiras, Addlie Berkner, Jorja Weicherding, Blake Portner, Oliver Murphy, Wesley Mathiowetz, James Cowan, Sully Krebs, Xander Helget, Charlee Domeier, Briley Bertrand, and Monca Halbur. Third row: Brooke Armbruster, Hunter Windschitl, Reagan Cook, Clarence Cook, Cameron Domeier, Lynnette Seidl, Nora Braulick, and Cheyenne Marti. Back row: Fr. Sam Perez, Fr. Nathan Hansen and Fr. Craig Timmerman.



Thirty-four juniors were confirmed by Bishop John M. LeVoir on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye. Front row (left): Fr. Nathan Hansen, Hank Heiling, Hana Zeig, Jaylyn Welter, Kiara Murphy, Lucia Martinez Paredes, Jaylynn Sellner, Jasmine Petermann, Macy Wagner, Hannah Meyer, Jace Schauman, Danielle Schumacher, and Bishop John M. LeVoir. Second row: Fr. Tony Hesse, Colton Mages, Jackson Guetter, Wyatt Gewerth, Hudson Garrioch, Natalie Fischer, Reese Hoffmann, Ella Pollard, Kailey Nelson, Holly Sellner, Jaelynn Schauman, Josie Helget, and Jaclyn Schroepfer. Third row: Fr. Sam Perez, Austin Forster, Ryder Kodet, Ian Green, Carson Schiller, Hayden Zeig, Jack Windschitl, Michael Balko, Carlos Martinez, Logan Ludewig, Charlie Hoffmann, McCoy Marti, Tyler Mathiowetz, and Fr. Craig Timmerman.



# Parish Family Profile

By: Lisa Schmitz

What a blessing to have Dan and Linda Simones part of our parish family here at St. Mary's!

Dan and Linda grew up neighbors in the community of Lakeville, Minnesota. As a teenager Linda would pray, "God, please give me a good man that will love me." The four Simones brothers lived right next door and she told God, "I would love to marry one of them. Lord, you pick!" A chance reunion happened a year later when Linda was home for a visit from California. She ran out of gas, coasted down a hill and ended up right in front of Dan's home where he was out working on a tractor. After he assisted by adding gas to her tank she asked, "What do I owe you?" He replied, "Maybe I can come drive your car sometime!" This December they will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary!

Their hearts overflow with gratitude to God for their large, loving family of 12 children and 65 grandchildren. Over the years, two more young people joined their family as Linda provided home health services to children with physical and mental challenges. For many years, the Simones offered parental support while their children offered a needed family connection for these two young people.

In the early days of their marriage, they started out farming near New Market, Minnesota until Dan obtained a career operating heavy equipment at a local construction company for many years. Years later, Dan, with the help of his eight sons, built a beautiful expansive home on ten acres where he and Linda continued to raise their large family.

Their first children started out attending Catholic School but as more children arrived, Linda began homeschooling. She worked diligently to educate their children in the Catholic faith, rigorously developing a spiritual curriculum to include daily rosary, along with stories of the saints and the Bible. At one point, she expressed a desire for her daughters to attend a Catholic camp or retreat when an incredible chance conversation with a woman led her to seek out Schoenstatt on the Lake in Sleepy Eye. Over the years, their daughters all attended the summer camps for girls at Schoenstatt. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience while growing stronger in their faith and Marian mission. "The two hour drive home from these camps were filled with wonderful stories of their new friends and time spent with the Sisters of Schoenstatt," proclaimed Dan. They are proud to see their granddaughters now attending these amazing camps.

Eventually they desired to downsize and looked to retire somewhere that allowed them to visit the Blessed Sacrament often. Their community of New Market just 20 miles south of Minneapolis, was growing at such a fast pace they could not keep up with it all. Sr. Marie of the Schoenstatt order in Sleepy Eye coincidentally connected them to their peaceful retirement home, the brick rectory building beside the Church of Japanese Martyrs in Leavenworth. This has been their home for the past four years. Their living room is adorned with a beautiful carved wooden altar made by an artisan friend. This special place of prayer is reminiscent of the altar in the Schoenstatt Shrine and displays a picture of Mary holding the Christ child. Dan and Linda have drawn closer to God through their devotion to Mary as they have participated in the Marian Mission of the Schoenstatt order for the past 35 years.

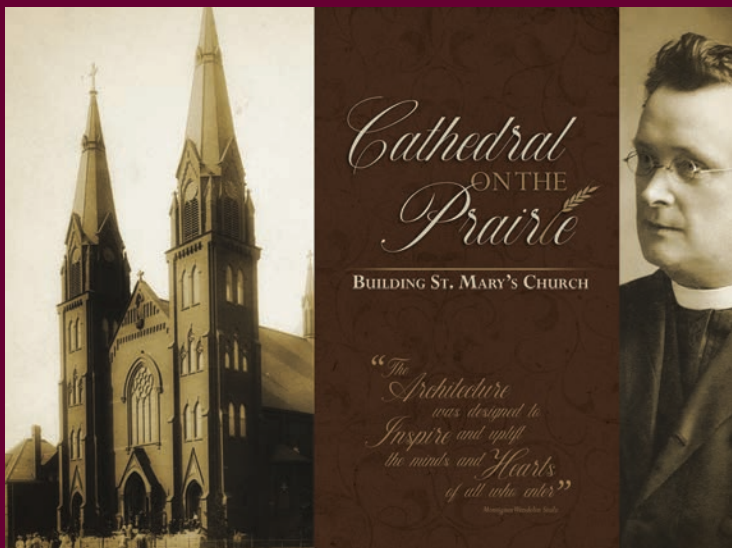




Their love for the outdoors is evident by the beautiful grounds and flowers they tend to surrounding Japanese Martyrs. The solitude of biking the quiet country roads has been a joyful pastime as well.

Their family continues to grow as seen in the photo taken at Japanese Martyrs during a recent family gathering. Their grandchildren enjoyed playing baseball on the nearby ballfield making the entire family feel “at home” in their new surroundings.

They cherish the opportunity to attend daily Mass and truly appreciate the weekend Masses still held at the Church of Japanese Martyrs. “Living here has been so peaceful and quiet and the people here are so beautiful!” Linda expressed. “Faith means everything to us and we wanted to retire in a faithful community.”



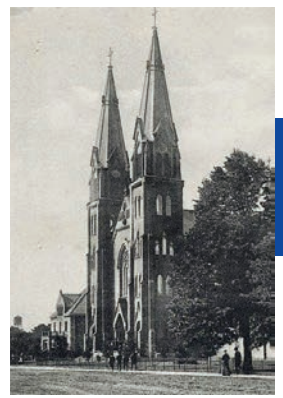
Step back in time and experience the building process and community effort involved in achieving such a grand endeavor. This beautiful keepsake book is the perfect gift for any time of year! The book is a beautifully crafted picture book detailing the building process, the church furnishings, the stained glass windows, the original interior decorations and the ceremonial events surrounding these historic events of St. Mary's Church. The text is a compilation of the original building committee minute notes, colorful newspaper articles and factual historic information written by Rev. Francis Schaefer.

*Books are available to purchase for \$25  
at the parish or school office, Randy's Family Drug & Gift,  
Nex-Tu-Nu II Store and Sleepy Eye Depot Museum.*



# A Piece of St. Mary's History

By: Josh Sellner



## *Background on the High Altar and Sanctuary Furnishings at Japanese Martyrs*

After the installation of the high altar and side altars at Japanese Martyrs on December 8, 2023, there were some questions posited about the symbolism and the different saints who are represented in the statues on the high altar.

First, some background on the sanctuary furnishings. The high altar, side altars, communion rail and statues were given to us by the former St. Joseph's Church in Henderson, which closed in the autumn of 2023. While there are no records from St. Joseph's indicating anything with certainty, the high altar was likely made by the Mayer of Munich Co. in Munich, Germany. The altar would have been built in the German workshops and then transported by ship and riverboat to Henderson. Some of the detail work of the carvings on this altar is identical to other known Mayer of Munich altars, having been laid out from the same stencils and patterns. The only markings on the altar is the name of the priest who ordered it, Fr. W.B.G. Jansen. Fr. Jansen was born and raised in Holland and was the parish priest of St. Joseph's in Henderson during two different periods of time, namely from 1888-1889 and again from 1902-1904, so we know that it was ordered during one of his two assignments at St. Joseph's; probably the earlier one. It was likely shipped and installed in 1889 while the church was being rebuilt following a fire. The two side altars of Our Lady and St. Joseph were ordered and installed at St. Joseph's Church in 1900.

The design of the high altar is somewhat unique in the United States, in that it has two side wing "doors" that can be closed during the Church's penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. This makes it what is called a "tryptic altarpiece." These type of altars are common in Europe.



The relief carving on the left-side door is the Death of St. Joseph. Here he is portrayed on his death-bed, surrounded by his foster son Jesus and Our Lady. Two angels are portrayed bearing lilies of purity and the crown of eternal life which awaited St. Joseph's soul after his bodily death. This relief is especially moving, with an expression of extreme grief being portrayed on Our Lady's face while she takes his hands in hers. The relief carving on the right-side door is the Holy



Family of Nazareth, shown in St. Joseph's workshop while he is instructing the child Jesus in the art of carpentry. Our Lady's spinning staff can also be seen the background, which was used for spinning wool into thread which was woven into cloth. The central portion of the altar portrays various saints in statuary. The two female saints to the left of the tabernacle are St. Rose of Lima (in black robes) and St. Ann (in brown robes) instructing Our Lady as a child. The two male saints to the right of the tabernacle are St. Patrick (in green vestments) and St. Boniface (in red vestments). These two statues were patrons of the two largest ethnic groups that made up St. Joseph's parish, St. Patrick being the patron of the Irish, and St. Boniface being the patron of the Germans. All four saints were likely patrons of the parish societies at St. Joseph's, which is why they were chosen for the high altar. In the center of the altar is seen the scene of our Lord's crucifixion on Calvary, with His Blessed Mother and St. John watching at the foot of the Cross. This scene reminds us that the Sacrifice of Calvary is made really and actually present for us (in an unbloody manner) at each and every celebration of the Holy Mass, and it is we who kneel at the foot of the Cross.

Below the altar table is the scene from the Last Supper where Christ really and truly left us His very Body and Blood under the appearances of bread and wine. The words portrayed in the ribbon-like text above the altar table read in Latin: "NOCTIS RECOLITUR COENA NOVISSIMA" which translates "At night the Last Supper is gathered" and is an explanation of sorts of both what occurred that night with Jesus and the Twelve Apostles, and for us at each Mass.

The statuary on the side altars are the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, as they were commonly displayed in all Catholic churches, with Our Lady on the left side altar and St. Joseph on the right. Also from the Mayer of Munich Co., this particular statue of the Blessed Virgin has an interesting history. According to the written history of St. Joseph's Parish in Henderson, this statue was rescued by a female parishioner while the original St. Joseph's Church was burning in 1887. It was one of the only things that was able to be saved from the church before the fire completely consumed the building. The three altars and the statues were repaired, restored, and gilded with 24K gold in June of 2025.

The altar rail symbolizes a sacred threshold between the earthly realm and the heavenly sanctuary. It represents the place where the laity approach the altar (it can be seen as an extension of the altar), the place of sacrifice and communion, to receive the Eucharist. In each church, the nave where are located the pews for the congregation represents our present life in this world. The sanctuary beyond the rail represents heaven, which we hope to obtain at the end of our earthly lives. We approach the edge of heaven when we receive Holy Communion (the "Bread from Heaven" as is read in the prayers for Benediction).





***“Go, therefore,  
and make disciples  
of all nations,  
baptizing them in the  
name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.”***

***Matthew 28:19***

Anastasia Sophia,  
daughter of Mikal & Samantha Mikkelson  
Vincent Adam, son of Ben & Kaitlin Orbeck  
Patrick James, son of Jamie & Melissa Pietig  
Malachi Killian, son of Matthew & Mandy Wagner  
Christina Agnes, daughter of Anthony & Maria Hagen  
Eve Noelle, daughter of Craig & Amanda Murphy  
Felicity Lucia, daughter of Joshua & Annemarie Taubel  
Vincent Alvaro, son of Alejandro & Ana Rodriguez  
Talia Ava, daughter of Alejandro & Ana Rodriguez  
Julia Rose, daughter of Michael & Elise Sprenger  
Leonard Daniel, son of Adam & Grace Steffl  
Daxton Archer, son of Christopher & Danielle Hose  
Hewitt Joseph, son of Sean & Karlie Mathiowetz  
Jasper Clement, son of Bryan & Maria Windschitl  
Anna Maria, daughter of Anthony & Maria Tanata  
Weston David, son of Macey Ludewig  
Veronica Rosalyn, daughter of William & Olivia Schroers  
Clay Austin, son of Austin & Megan Steffl  
Arman Jose, son of Roel Martinez & Claudia Sanchez  
Olivia Catherine, daughter of Bryan & Danielle Larson  
Ignatius Lawrence, son of Hunter & Cierra Brinkman  
Elian Guadalupe, son of Jesus & Stephanie Montemayor  
Brynlee Marie, daughter of Landon & Kelsey Seidl  
Alaia Miranda,  
daughter of Kevin Montemayor & Kimberly Infante  
Cash Marvin, son of Brandon & Cheyenne Kral





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

*February - August 2025*

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Richard Weiss 2/25/25	Lawrence Heiderscheidt 5/20/25
Craig Hansen 2/27/25	James Goblirsch, Sr. 5/20/25
Dale Mudick 5/7/25	Linda Seifert 6/4/25
Thomas J. Schroepfer 5/8/25	Florence Gangelhoff 6/21/25
Donna Haala 5/9/25	Carol Wurtzberger 6/29/25
Brandon Hoffmann 5/16/25	Donald Hacker 7/19/25

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## *Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's*



Jody Hansen & Jevan Richert 3/8/25  
Nicholas Eyjen & Kirstin Doeden 6/14/25  
Callie Bohnen & Josiah Glowicki 6/14/25  
Kyle Borth & Aubrey Hauser 6/21/25  
Molly Lax & Cody McKown 6/28/25  
Jared Beltz & Lindi Ludwigs 7/12/25  
Gabriella Helget & Brandon Volmer 7/19/25

## *Welcome to our Parish*

Nadia Cardenas-Diaz and her children, Oscar,  
Erick, Milan, and Damian

Bradley T. Helget

John & Sarah Melby and their daughter, Ruby

Gabriella Rodriguez and her daughter, Rita

### *UPCOMING EVENTS...*

#### AUGUST

15-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
15-16-17-Sleepy Eye Summerfest  
17-Rosary Procession  
19-SE Public School begins  
26-St. Mary's School begins

#### SEPTEMBER

1-Labor Day  
3-CCD begins  
6-Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney  
18-First Choice Pregnancy  
Services Banquet

#### OCTOBER

3-Marathon/Homecoming  
5-Respect Life Sunday  
12-St. Michael's, Morgan-Beef Dinner  
14/15-Clergy Days  
16/17-MEA-No School  
25-God's Plan for a  
Joy-Filled Marriage Class  
26-St. Paul's, Comfrey-Sausage Dinner

#### NOVEMBER

1-All Saints Day  
2-All Souls Day  
2-Daylight Saving Time Ends  
11-Veterans Day  
27-Thanksgiving Day  
28-Parish/School Offices Closed



# SUMMER FESTIVAL 2025



JULY 27, 2025



# Pilgrimage of Hope by Matthew Collins



I was one of the pilgrims on the Pilgrimage of Hope around the diocese of New Ulm. The pilgrimage was a rededication of the diocese to Mary under her title, “Our Lady of the Prairie.” Bishop Chad Zielinski commissioned the artist Damien Walker to paint our Lady. The pilgrimage was a 90-mile journey traveling to every AFC in the diocese with the intention to rejuvenate and bring our love of Mary to everyone in the diocese.

The reason I went on the pilgrimage was because they asked me too. However, as I started walking that question kept coming up, “Why does Mary want me to walk this pilgrimage?” After the long walks, the blisters and pure exhaustion, it made me reflect on the suffering Christ did on the cross. In my own small way, I could offer my suffering up for everyone. I had the amazing opportunity to meet many different people along the pilgrimage and one thing that really stuck out with me was offering my pain up for everyone else. I would ask and hold all of their prayer requests when I was walking.

Mary also showed what she wants for the diocese. As I was hurting and exhausted, I knew I couldn’t do it on my own. But Mary was holding me in her arms just as she held Jesus in the painting. She wants to hold the diocese and everyone in it in her arms.



Matthew is in the back row wearing the gray hat.



## **St. Mary's Catholic Church**

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### ***Parish Staff:***

Fr. Craig Timmerman – Pastor

Fr. Nathan Hansen – Associate Pastor

Fr. Sam Perez – Associate Pastor

Deacon Mark Kober - Permanent Deacon

Deacon Mike McKeown - Permanent Deacon

Nicholas Liese - Parish Liturgist

Shelly Roufs - Director of Religious Education

Matt Grausam - Business Manager

Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director/  
Office Manager

Joan Windschitl - Parish Secretary

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