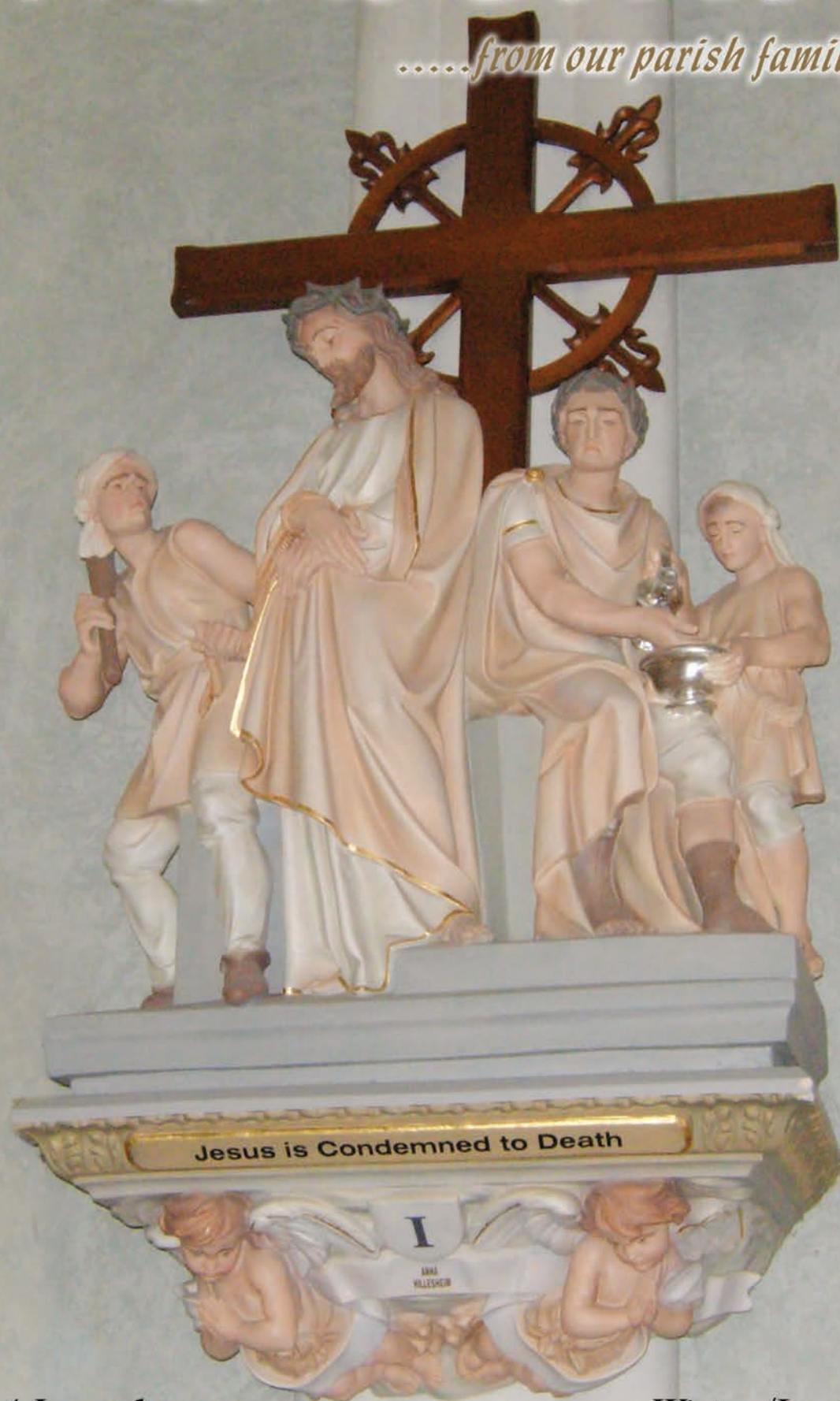


Immaculata

.....from our parish family to yours



Vol. 14 Issue 1

Winter/Lent Issue 2021



Calvary Begins

On the front cover of this issue is the first Station of the Cross in St. Mary's Church. Calvary begins as Jesus is Condemned to Death. So too, are we called to begin our own Calvary as we die to our selfishness in order to live for Christ.

As we pray the Stations of the Cross, and follow Christ's footsteps in Calvary, we meditate on the events of Our Lord's Passion and Death on the Cross. This meditation goes back to the early centuries of the Church but found its way into what is called "popular piety" or the devotion of the Church, especially during Lent. St. Francis of Assisi and his early followers encouraged the devotion in the 12th and 13th centuries. They represent the "stations" or "stops" that are various shrines in Jerusalem that mark the events of Good Friday, called by their Latin names, Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) or Via Crucis (Way of the Cross).

As a spiritual meditation (or a "sacramental"), the Stations are recommended to us as a help in understanding the great pain and suffering that Our Lord endured for us. There are different versions of the Stations of the Cross, written by various authors over the centuries, and some of them have become quite well known and widely used such as the version that was written by the 18th century Saint Alphonsus Ligouri. Often times each Station concludes with a verse of a hymn called the Stabat Mater, poetically written in the 13th century by a Franciscan Friar named Jacopone da Todi, helping us to see each event through the eyes of the Blessed Virgin as she accompanied her Son to Calvary.

This year, I added some extra opportunities for us to pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent, in addition to Friday evening. You will find them on the Lenten and Holy Week schedule in this issue as well as the weekly parish bulletins.



Father Mark Steffl

In addition to the scheduled times for the parish, I will also leave some booklets for the Stations out during Lent for anyone who wishes to stop at church to pray them on their own or with their families. It is my hope that you join the Blessed Virgin in accompanying her Son to Calvary, and experience a transformation of dying to yourself, and desiring only to live for Him.

St. Mary's Church

"New Floor" Project – First Steps

In the last issue of the Immaculata, I mentioned a rather urgent project of replacing the wood floor in St. Mary's Church that has reached the end of its life. Keeping in mind the historical and artistic importance of St. Mary's, as well as the amount of use of the building, and having consulted with many knowledgeable people about options, it seems that a new terrazzo floor is the best way to move forward. This type of floor will enhance the beauty of the church space while at the same time be very functional for high traffic areas. Terrazzo is a floor that will last a lifetime. (If you are wondering what terrazzo looks like, see the floors in St. Mary's high school and cafeteria, as well the Cathedral in New Ulm and St. Michael's in Morgan.)

The goal would be to put the fundraising efforts for this project together with the remaining church windows that need to be re-leaded (the majority of the stained glass were completed recently). The remaining windows include the 12 smaller windows in the sacristies and 27 smaller windows in the bell towers and front entry ways.

I hope to have some specifics finalized in cost soon to present to the parish. As everyone knows, we have a beautiful church building that we have been entrusted with, therefore I ask everyone to prayerfully consider their contribution to these projects.

Divine Mercy AFC Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 7:00am; 8:15am HS; 11:30am Latin; 2:20pm GS; 6:45pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:30am; 6:15pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 6:00pm
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 8:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - Sundays 4:30pm; Mondays 5:00pm; Thursdays 5:30pm; Fridays 6:00pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - Fridays following the 5:30pm Mass
St. Paul's, Comfrey - Tuesdays following the 5:30pm Mass
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth/St. Paul's, Comfrey - Fridays at 7:00pm alternating weeks (Check the bulletin for location)

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - Sunday, March 7, 7:00pm 'Adoremus' with Adoration (3 priests available)
St. Michael's, Morgan - Sunday, March 21, 3-5:00pm with Adoration (2 priests available)
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - Sunday, March 28, 4:30pm with Adoration (3 priests available)

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION TIMES

Sunday's

St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:00-8:15am (weekly before the 8:30am Mass)
St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 11:00am (weekly before the 11:30am Latin Mass)
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 11:30-11:45am (weekly after the 10:30am Mass)

Monday's

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 6-7:00pm (weekly after the 5:30pm Mass)

Thursday's

St. Michael's, Morgan - (weekly following the 8:30am Mass with Holy Hour)

Friday's

St. Michael's, Morgan - 5:00pm (weekly before the 5:30pm Mass)
St. Paul's, Comfrey/Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - Following the 7:00pm Stations with Holy Hour (check bulletin for location)

Saturday's

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 9-10am; 4:00-5:00pm (weekly)
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 7:30-7:45pm (weekly before the 8:00pm Mass)

HOLY WEEK

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, March 30

St. Michael's, Morgan - 3-5:00pm

Holy Thursday, April 1, Confession Times

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 11-noon; Following the 8:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - Following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - Following the 7:00pm Mass with Adoration until 10:00pm w/Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth

Good Friday, April 2, Confession Times - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 1-2:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 3, Confession Times - St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 9-10:00am

PALM SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday, March 27

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

Sunday, March 28

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

HOLY THURSDAY MASS TIMES - APRIL 1

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 6:00pm Latin Mass; 8:00pm Mass followed by Confessions & Adoration until 10:00pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - 7:00pm Mass followed by Confessions & Adoration until 10:00pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 7:00pm Mass followed by Confessions & Adoration until 10:00pm with Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE TIMES - APRIL 2

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 12:00pm; 3:00pm; 5:00pm Latin; 7:00pm Stations; 8:00pm Tenebrae Service
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth - 12:00pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - 3:00pm
St. Paul's, Comfrey - 5:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 3

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye - 8:00pm
St. Michael's, Morgan - 8:00pm
Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth 8:00pm with St. Paul's, Comfrey

EASTER SUNDAY MASS TIMES - APRIL 4

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

A Piece of St. Mary's History

By: Josh Sellner

Here is another photo taken by Miss Claudia Beck in 1911, shortly after the church was decorated for the first time. Notice the mural by the dome (portraying the Coronation of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven and Earth) and that the pointed areas (in architectural terms the “pendentives”) that contain the murals of the Four Evangelists are blank. The Four Evangelists were painted around the dome in the 1944 re-decoration of the church. Also take note of the wooden flooring in the sanctuary. The marble was installed in the 1920's.



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

JOURNEY in FAITH

FEATURING
Johnnette Benkovic Williams
founder of EWTN's *Women of Grace*



2021 BISHOP LUCKER LECTURE
this year it's a **VIRTUAL EVENT!**
Monday, March 8 at 7:00 pm
TO JOIN THE EVENT visit www.dnu.org
CLICK the registration form link to receive login information.

A non-practicing Catholic for many years, in 1981 Johnnette Benkovic Williams experienced a deep conversion back to her Catholic faith that sparked a new vocation of sharing the Gospel message through radio and television.

Tune-in to hear her JOURNEY IN FAITH.



SPONSORED BY Diocese of New Ulm Office of Adult Religious Education
(507) 233-5310; mmckeown@dnuc.org

Be Still and Know...

“Many people seem to worry themselves a great deal more over the things they cannot help than over the things that they can. ... This want of proportion is doubtless observable in myself. Do I think more of the accidents of birth, fortune, and personal appearance than of the self that I have created? For I myself am responsible for myself. ‘To be born a gentleman is an accident; to die one is an achievement.’ Other things, then, I may not be able to help; but myself, I can. As I am at this very moment, as my character is—truthful or untruthful, pure or impure, patient or impatient, slow to wrath or quick-tempered, eager, enthusiastic, energetic, or lazy and dull and wasteful of time—I have no one to thank but myself ... the fact remains that I myself alone am responsible for my own character; for character is an artificial thing that is not born, but made.” — Fr. Bede Jarrett, p. 371-2

An Excerpt From Classic Catholic Meditations



Born into God's Family

November 9, 2020 through January 25, 2021

Thaddeus Isidore Docter, son of Andrew & Abeni Docter

Hadley Rhae Mathiowetz, daughter of Jeff & Natalie Mathiowetz

Collyns Marie Severson, daughter of Mark & Rachel Severson

Jonathan Thomas Snyder, son of Joseph & Rachel Snyder

Anika Floane VanZandt, daughter of Thaddeus & Megan VanZandt

Mia Therese Kimec, daughter of John & Lindsay Kimec

Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's



Grace Steffl & Adam Roskam

1/2/2021

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, Oh Lord...

November 9, 2020 - January 25, 2021



Alfred Schmitz 11/20/2020

Charles Windschitl 12/07/2020

Raymond Rothmeier 12/11/2020

Robert 'Chisey' Sellner 12/11/2020

Lois Tauer 12/18/2020

Magdalen 'Maggie' Wintheiser
12/20/2020

Nicole Fuchs 12/21/2020

Donald Ludewig 12/25/2020

Dennis C. Sellner 1/25/2021

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.

Welcome To Our Parish



Jared & Ashley Ferk
and their children,
Louis and Gabriella



Anthony & Cecilia Ferk



Paula Barry

Carlos & Amabel Tovar
and their children
Aranza, Ainara
and Carlos



Not pictured: Kurt and Marion Kramer and
their children, Theresia, Philip, Samuel,
Thomas, Tobias, Odelia, Magdalena, and
Johannes

**Win a Caribbean
Vacation for Two
or \$4,000 Cash!**

**Join Us for a
Caribbean Knight Party**

**A Can't-Miss Tropical Night (Outside) with
Games, Pull Tabs, Raffles, Friends and
Tropical Food / Drinks**

*** * * Live Music * * ***

Live and Silent Auction

Saturday

May 15, 2021

5:30 PM—Midnight

**Sleepy Eye
St. Mary's**

All Are Welcome!



2nd Prize Wins

\$1,000

3rd & 4th Prize Wins

\$500

5th-14th Prize Wins

\$100

\$25 / Raffle Ticket

**Proceeds will go to
increasing enroll-
ment and maintaining
affordable tuition.**

*******Raffle*******

Drawing on

Feb. 13, 2021

**Need not be
present to win**



Tenebrae at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye
Good Friday, April 2, 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!

St. Mary's Sausage Dinner & Raffle

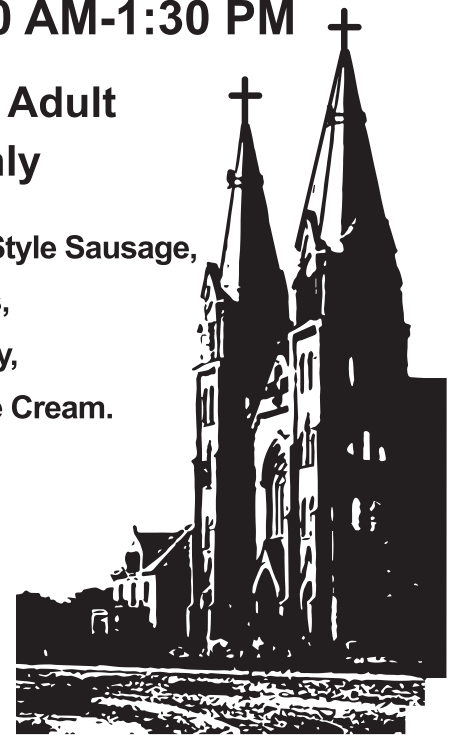
Sunday, March 7, 2021

9:30 AM-1:30 PM

**All Meals as Adult
Take-Out Only**

**MENU: Country Style Sausage,
Mashed Potatoes,
Sauerkraut, Gravy,
Applesauce & Ice Cream.**

**Meat for Sale,
Saturday
& Sunday
in Parish Garage.**



Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11, 2021
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.

Let's come together as the Divine Mercy AFC to 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

636 First Avenue North

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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Email: saintmaryse@sleepyeyetel.net

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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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:

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Deacon McKeown

Photo Credits:

Jason Schutz

Schutz Creative Photography, Luverne, MN

Cover Photo by Laura Laechel



Upcoming Events...

February

13-Caribbean Knight

Raffle Ticket Drawing

17-Ash Wednesday

March

7-Men's Sausage Dinner

8-Bishop Lucker Lecture

14-Daylight Saving

Time Ends

14-AFC Confirmation

19-Solemnity

of St. Joseph

20-God's Plan for

a Joy-Filled Marriage

25-Chrism Mass

28-Palm Sunday

April

1-3 Sacred Triduum

4-Easter

11-Divine Mercy Sunday

17-Cadillac Dinner Raffle

Drawing Only

May

2-1st Holy Communion

7-SESM Grandparents

Day/May Crowning

9-Mother's Day

15-Caribbean Knight Party

16-Baccalaureate

21-SEPS Graduation

23-Pentecost Sunday

30-The Most Holy Trinity

30-SESM Graduation

June

6-The Most Holy Body
& Blood of Christ

20-Father's Day

July

25-Japanese Martyrs

Parish Festival

August

1-St. Mary's Parish Festival