



Divine Mercy Area Faith Community

St. Mary's Catholic Church
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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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March 31, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

St. Mary's Catholic Church is our spiritual home. Over the years, our parishioners have always done what is necessary to care for this very unique and stunning church building. Of course, it is our intention as well to maintain this beautiful building and so I write to you today in hopes you will support these projects needing our attention.

PHASE 1 – Estimated cost: \$700,000.00 /Estimated time to begin: Summer of 2022

A. Floor – refer to #1 (enclosed)

For a number of years, there has been discussion about how to replace the floor in St. Mary's Church. The present wood (yellow pine) floor was exposed when the tile was removed to be refinished in 2000. The traffic in the church, along with the additional wear that comes with Minnesota weather, has worn it to the present day condition. The wood floor cannot be refinished again because it would expose the grooves that hold it together. It has served its purpose.

After consulting with many about our options, we have landed on replacing it with a terrazzo floor. Terrazzo is a composite material, poured in place and used for floor treatments. It consists of chips of marble, quartz, granite, and glass poured with a cementitious binder. Metal strips often divide the sections, separating the pattern changes in color or material. After it is cured, it is ground and polished smooth to produce a uniformly textured surface. It can be colored and designed, it's easy to maintain and clean, and it lasts at least 100 years ensuring it will not need replacing in our lifetime. All of this makes it the best choice for St. Mary's Church. Examples of terrazzo floors are in St. Michael's Church in Morgan, the Cathedral in New Ulm, or in St Mary's School here in Sleepy Eye. In addition, we have learned that the floor needs some additional reinforcement to the structure.

Illustration #2 depicts the "view from above" showing the pattern proposed in the aisles of the church with the solid color under the pews (no changes are being made to the marble floor in the sanctuary).

B. Stained Glass Windows – refer to #3

Some stained glass windows need to be repaired yet. Those remaining are in the sacristy (and the walkway in between) and the windows in the four levels of each bell tower (outlined in red on #3).

C. Pew Repair – Some of the pews that require repairs will be taken care of at this time.

In order for us to make this project happen, I need to ask you for a contribution. (If you would like to make a gift of stock or commodities, please call the parish office in advance.) **I will move forward when 100% of the money is raised. Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to offer to this project.** As we work towards our goal, updates will be published in the church bulletin. To proceed with the proposed timeline for Phase 1, we need the money by the end of summer 2021. Recognizing the beauty of our church building, consider this amount an investment in our parish as we strive to maintain this beautiful place of worship.

PROPOSED PHASE 2: Interior Repair Project – refer to # 4 /full page photo
Estimate: forthcoming

As we look ahead to the future we need to address the cracked and damaged plaster in the church. Since this project entails repainting, it may be a good time to bring back some murals and stenciling close to what was originally in the church. The full page photo (#4) provides a glimpse of what we have in mind at this time.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I am grateful for all the generous support you are able to give as we continue to “pay it forward” with the beautiful church building that was gifted to us by those who were here before us!

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Mark Steffl, Parish Priest
and St. Mary’s Parish Administrative Council

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The following options are available if you would like to give at this time.

Enclosed is my gift to the church floor project for \$_____

Check (Payable to St. Mary’s Church)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: ____/____ Security Code: _____

Name on the card: _____

Online Giving – safe and secure online giving is also an option at www.divinemericyafc.org
Found on the home page. Scroll down and click on the red line: St. Mary’s Online Giving.

Thank you!