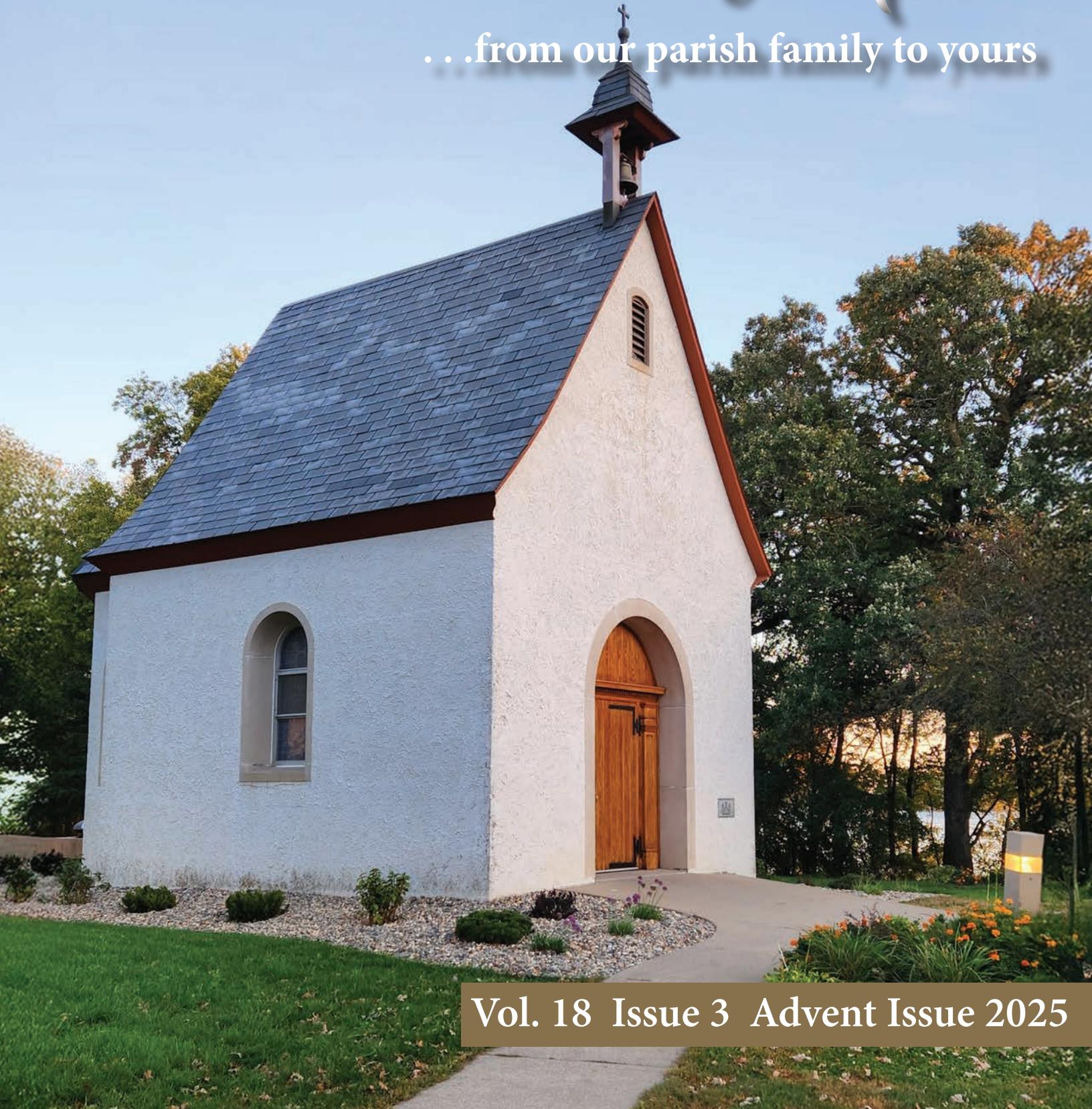
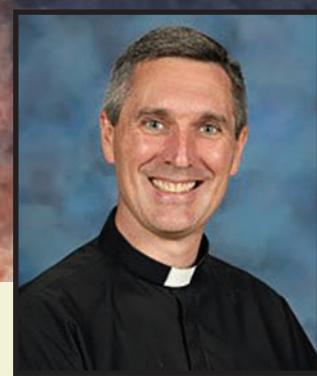


# Immaculata

...from our parish family to yours



Vol. 18 Issue 3 Advent Issue 2025



## *A Message from Fr. Craig Timmerman*

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



What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time I was brand new and trying to figure out which way was up in all the great ministries of our parish. This second year has mostly the same things going on, but I know more people, know more about what goes on and have enjoyed being here. Thank you for your love of our Church, our Church family, our school and also your love of us priests.

For our front cover we wanted to showcase the Schoenstatt Shrine, because the Schoenstatt Family (including Sisters, Priests and Lay Families) have been such an important part of St. Mary's. In the midst of the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope, which lasts until January 6, 2026, we are beginning our own jubilee! We have multiple 'Jubilees': 250 year Jubilee of the United States of America, the 150th Jubilee of St. Mary's Parish, 100th anniversary of the Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, and 50 year Jubilee of the Jubilee Family Shrine here in Sleepy Eye! That's a lot of celebration. The Holy See (Vatican) has granted a plenary indulgence for all pilgrimages to any Schoenstatt Shrine during this whole year! This is a great grace to us. The Schoenstatt shrine is called the Jubilee Family Shrine, because it was dedicated with special emphasis on family life. I have met and talked with many of you who belong to the Schoenstatt family, and who gather regularly to deepen your faith together and support one another in your faith and family life. What a beautiful charism needed today! Thank you to our Sisters and to you, the families who continue this movement of grace right here.

I have shared in the bulletin and the newsletter for St. Mary School that we are emphasizing prayer this year. We are teaching prayer to both the faculty and the students, to help them build their personal relationship with Jesus through prayer. We do very well with our celebration of the liturgy; truly, we have the most beautiful liturgy! I know it draws so many of you deeper into the meaning of the Mass. Alongside the Mass we also need a personal prayer life with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with Mary and the Saints. We are teaching first what prayer is: it is a conversation with God, where His Heart speaks to our heart. We use words for this, but it is something deeper than words. Prayer IS your relationship with God. We are teaching ways to pray: entering into silence, Lectio Divina, relational prayer and imaginative prayer. I encourage everyone here to join us in this focus on prayer this year. Every disciple of Jesus should be spending at least 10-15 minutes a day with Him in prayer. Of course we pray to Him throughout our day, just like we talk to people throughout our day. But if we never have one-on-one time alone, we are not giving Him the attention we need and the time God wants to have with us. God loves you so much. He loves every minute you give Him to 'waste time with God' in prayer. If you have not signed up for an adoration hour yet - I highly encourage you to commit to a weekly time. It has been the source of so many blessings here at St. Mary's, and it will do so much to deepen your personal relationship with Jesus. He is waiting for you in the Eucharist.

Update on our church project: We are still planning to start June 8, 2026 and be finished by Christmas Eve 2026! We are finalizing a bid and contract to put in new lights and system. Edwin Rambusch came in September to share the plan with us. If you want to see better lighting in our church, please contribute to this addition to our church project!

There is a lot of activity here at St. Mary's, and we are so blessed to be here! I am so grateful to be here as your pastor. If there is anything we priests can do to pray with you, accompany you in a tough time or even just get together and get to know each other better, we are so happy to be with you!

*Jesus, I Trust in You!*

# Advent and Christmas Schedule 2025-Divine Mercy Area Faith Community

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

## Confession Times

|                          |              |  |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| Sun., Nov. 30            | 7:30-7:45am  | St. Michael's                            |
|                          | 9:30-9:45am  | St. Paul's                               |
|                          | 11-11:20am   | Japanese Martyrs                         |
| Mon., Dec. 1             | 6-7:00pm     | St. Mary's                               |
| Wed., Dec. 3             | 9:30-10:30am | St. Paul's w/Holy Hour                   |
|                          | 5:30-6:30pm  | St. Mary's                               |
| Thurs., Dec. 4           | 8:30-9:30am  | St. Michael's w/Holy Hour                |
| Fri., Dec. 5             | 8:30-9:30am  | St. Michael's w/ Holy Hour               |
| Sat., Dec. 6             | 8:30-9:30am  | St. Michael's                            |
|                          | 9-10:00am    | St. Mary's (2 priests)                   |
|                          | 4-5:00pm     | St. Mary's                               |
|                          | 7:30pm       | Japanese Martyrs                         |
| Sun., Dec. 7             | 7:30-7:45am  | St. Michael's                            |
|                          | 9:30-9:45am  | St. Paul's                               |
|                          | 11-11:20am   | Japanese Martyrs                         |
|                          | 3-4:00pm     | St. Michael's w/Holy Hour<br>(2 priests) |
|                          | 7-8:00pm     | St. Mary's w/Holy Hour<br>(2 priests)    |
| Mon., Dec. 8<br>Holy Day | 5:00pm       | St. Mary's (and 1/2 hr after Mass)       |
|                          | 5:00pm       | St. Michael's (1/2hr after Mass)         |
|                          | 5:30pm       | St. Paul's (and 1/2 hr after Mass)       |
| Wed., Dec. 10            | 5:30-6:30pm  | St. Mary's                               |
| Thurs., Dec. 11          | 8:30-9:30am  | St. Michael's w/Holy Hour                |
| Fri., Dec. 12            | 5:30pm       | St. Mary's                               |
| Sat., Dec. 13            | 9-10:00am    | St. Mary's (2 priests)                   |
|                          | 4-5:00pm     | St. Mary's                               |
|                          | 7:30pm       | Japanese Martyrs                         |
| Sun., Dec. 14            | 7:30-7:45am  | St. Michael's                            |
|                          | 9:30-9:45am  | St. Paul's                               |
|                          | 11-11:20am   | Japanese Martyrs                         |
| Mon., Dec. 15            | 6-7:00pm     | St. Mary's                               |
| Wed., Dec. 17            | 5:30-6:30pm  | St. Mary's                               |
| Thurs., Dec. 18          | 8:30-9:30am  | St. Michael's w/Holy Hour                |
| Sat., Dec. 20            | 9-10:00am    | St. Mary's (2 priests)                   |
|                          | 4-5:00pm     | St. Mary's                               |
|                          | 7-8:00pm     | Japanese Martyrs                         |
| Sun., Dec. 21            | 7:30-7:45am  | St. Michael's                            |
|                          | 9:30-9:45am  | St. Paul's                               |
|                          | 11-11:20am   | Japanese Martyrs                         |
|                          | 3-5:00pm     | St. Michael's                            |
|                          | 7:00 pm      | St. Mary's                               |
| Mon., Dec. 22            | 6-7:00pm     | St. Mary's (2 priests)                   |
| Tues., Dec. 23           | Noon-1:00pm  | St. Mary's                               |
|                          | 7-8:00pm     | St. Mary's                               |

## Mass Times for Christmas and Holy Days

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 8             |                                 |
| 7:10am  | St. Mary's                      |
| 8:15am  | St. Mary's (All School Mass)    |
| 11:30am   | Japanese Martyrs (Latin)        |
| 5:30pm  | St. Mary's                      |
| 5:30pm  | St. Michael's                   |
| 6:00pm  | St. Paul's                      |
| Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24                 |                                 |
| 4:00pm  | St. Mary's                      |
| 4:30pm  | St. Michael's                   |
| 5:00pm  | St. Paul's                      |
| 6:30pm  | Japanese Martyrs                |
| 8:00pm  | St. Mary's                      |
| Midnight  | Japanese Martyrs (Latin)        |
| Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25                  |                                 |
| 7:30am  | St. Mary's                      |
| 8:00am  | St. Michael's                   |
| 9:30am  | St. Mary's                      |
| 10:00am   | St. Paul's                      |
| Noon  | St. Andrew's, Fairfax (Spanish) |
| Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Eve, Wed., December 31   |                                 |
| 5:30pm  | St. Mary's                      |
| 8:00pm  | Japanese Martyrs                |
| Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1 |                                 |
| 8:00am  | St. Michael's                   |
| 9:30am  | St. Mary's                      |
| 10:00am   | St. Paul's                      |
| 11:30am   | Japanese Martyrs (Latin)        |

\*Subject to change- always refer to the bulletin

\*Confessions will also be offered before and after all Masses at St. Mary's

# Parish Family Profile

By: Sr. M. Deanne Niehaus

## *Jubilee Family Shrine - a hidden jewel in Minnesota!*

For over 49 years, the Jubilee Family Shrine on the shore of Lake Sleepy Eye has been active as a pilgrimage place. Have you been there? One recent person said: The Jubilee Family Shrine is a hidden jewel in Minnesota! Is that true for you, too? Have you made a visit to the Schoenstatt Shrine on the west side of town? Recently a man on a motorcycle ventured down our driveway. "Can I go in the chapel?" You sure can! Write down your intention on a little slip of paper and put it in the prayer jar. Mary and Jesus are here for everyone.

Our Schoenstatt Shrine here in Sleepy Eye is one of ten in the USA and one of 200 internationally where you can expect to find peace in the presence of Jesus and Mary. The small chapel is made as a replica of a medieval chapel in Schoenstatt, Germany, and offers a quiet space where the soul can breathe in the calm of Mary's love for Jesus.

The Schoenstatt Shrine in Minnesota was built in 1976, with its dedication on October 3, 1976. We will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dedication on Sunday, September 20, 2026, so save the date! The Schoenstatt movement, which began in Ivanhoe, Minnesota, in the 1960's had the desire to build a replica Schoenstatt Shrine in Minnesota on the shores of one of its 10,000 lakes. On December 7, 1974, the Schoenstatt Movement had a coronation celebration in which the picture of Our Lady of Schoenstatt, already purchased for the future Minnesota Shrine, was offered a crown with the petition of finding the place for her shrine. Two hours after this celebration, the land along Lake Sleepy Eye was mentioned and eventually acquired from the Diocese of New Ulm. Therefore, we can say that Mary chose to have her Schoenstatt Shrine in Sleepy Eye.

Presently, Sr. Rita-Marie (from Canby, MN), Sr. M. Candace and Sr. M. Deanne (both from Ivanhoe, MN) reside at Schoenstatt on the Lake. All three are blessed to minister from the Schoenstatt Shrine in Minnesota. Sr. Rita-Marie is one of the first Minnesotan vocations to the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Sr. M. Candace has a heart for families and is blessed to minister through the Family Life Office for the Diocese of New Ulm. Sr. M. Deanne

has a special place in her heart for the shrine, since as a teenager, she and her family helped with the building of the Jubilee Family Shrine in 1976.

In the past 49 years, some of you in St. Mary's parish have participated in Schoenstatt groups for women, youth, or families. Some of you have made your covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt and maybe also have what we call a home shrine – an image of Our Lady of Schoenstatt enthroned in your home as an extension of the graces of the Schoenstatt Shrine. Since 1986, several images called the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother have traveled among families in Sleepy Eye on a monthly rotation. We are happy to see our Schoenstatt Shrine connecting with parishioners and pilgrims at the Wednesday 4:00 pm rosary, the daily (except Sundays) rosary in the months of May and October, the Sunday adoration in the Schoenstatt Shrine from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, and the rosary walks from Schoenstatt to St. Mary's Parish three times a year.

At Schoenstatt on the Lake, we offer retreats sponsored by the Schoenstatt Movement for families (October), for couples (March), women (spring and fall), and summer camps for girls (June and July). We celebrate the founding day of Schoenstatt (official founding date is October 18, 1914) so on one of the Sundays before or after that date we have a Schoenstatt Family gathering. This year the event took place on Sunday, October 19, and we opened the golden jubilee year of the Jubilee Family Shrine.

The Schoenstatt Movement is active in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis and in the dioceses of New Ulm, Winona-Rochester, and St. Cloud. We have approximately 200 families presently active. Sometimes we even have





visitors from our International Schoenstatt family in South America, Germany, and South Africa.

Schoenstatt is an international Ecclesial Movement in the Catholic Church founded by Father Joseph Kentenich in 1914. It is a Marian movement that encourages people to make a covenant of love with Mary. Mary is the closest disciple to Jesus, her Son, and she would like to help us bring His love and peace into our everyday life. We are offered three pilgrimage graces from the shrine: the grace to experience a home in Mary's heart that leads us to the heart of God, the grace of transformation – to become more like Christ, and the grace to be evangelizers for Jesus and Mary.

People like to come to Schoenstatt on the Lake, especially in summer and fall because of the beauty of our grounds and the beauty of the Jubilee Family Shrine. Schoenstatt is a German word which means beautiful place. At this "beautiful place" Mary wants to intercede for us the grace to have a beautiful place in our heart where her Son can find a home. Of course, we encourage our friends to make a visit to our parish of St. Mary's. In 1994, an image of Our Lady of Schoenstatt was enthroned in St. Mary's Parish and last year she was re-enthroned after the re-gilding project next to the St. Joseph side altar. This image has been crowned as Cor Mariae – Heart of Mary – to help be the heart of the family, both our personal and parish families.

The Jubilee Family Shrine has its name because it was built in a year (1976) of jubilees: the 200th anniversary of the USA, the 100th anniversary of St. Mary's parish in Sleepy Eye, and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. If you do the math – then next year the jubilees will be the 250th anniversary of the USA, 150th anniversary of St. Mary's Parish, and 100th anniversary of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Something to celebrate! We also have the word: Family in the name of our Schoenstatt Shrine because families helped us build the shrine, and we want to encourage strong family life that is

often challenging to live in our present time.

For many Schoenstatt members, love for Mary has taught them how to develop a more personal and committed relationship with the persons of the Trinity. This is not surprising, given the close union of Mary with the mission of her Son. Nor is it surprising that this love has helped many people grow into more personal and fruitful relationships with neighbor and self, be it through a greater maturity in one's vocation, a stronger family life, a more Christian workplace, or a way of dealing with people. Through her intercessory active presence in the shrine, the Mother Thrice Admirable has helped many to overcome loneliness, anxiety, and low self-esteem, or to have the courage to reach out to others to find God-willed solutions to family, social, and political problems. Schoenstatt's role in the world is offering a network of grace through our Schoenstatt Shrines: A Genuine Place of Grace.

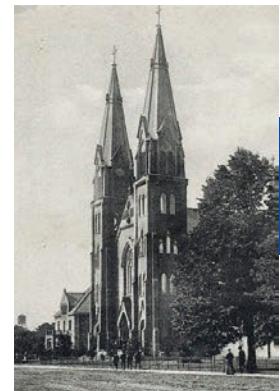
Our community of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary is celebrating 100 years of foundation. That might seem like a long time, but it is short in the 2,000-year history of the Church. We want to thank all the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary who have ministered in Minnesota in the past, presently, and in the future. We thank you, the people of St. Mary's parish, as well as the priests and deacons, who have been generous in supporting us at Schoenstatt on the Lake.

So, you are invited to visit our Jubilee Family Shrine at Schoenstatt on the Lake. We are happy to share that the indulgence blessings will continue through November 2026, since Rome has given the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary this special privilege for our Schoenstatt Shrines and house chapels. Discover the hidden jewel in Minnesota, under the archway, on the west side of town. See you soon! For more information about Schoenstatt in Minnesota and for our events go to: [schoenstattmn.com](http://schoenstattmn.com) We are also on Facebook at Schoenstatt MN Schoenstatt international website: [schoenstatt.com](http://schoenstatt.com) Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary – USA: [schoenstattssistersofmary.us](http://schoenstattssistersofmary.us)



# A Piece of St. Mary's History

By: Josh Sellner



## Christmas 1931

This Christmas program was performed in the old auditorium on the second floor of what is now the grade school building. The area now occupied by the four middle classrooms and the hallway was once one large room with auditorium seating facing the stage on the north end of the room. The old auditorium was partitioned off in 1940 into the four classrooms that we know today.

Photo by Fr. Robert E. Russell

## Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them

Charles Hansen Jr.

Michael Seifert

Linus Kral

Jennifer Blick

John Hauser

Melissa Meyer

James Schumacher

Edward Rosenstengel

Peter Windschitl

Richard Weiss

Craig Hansen

Jean Merkel

Dale Mudick

Thomas J. Schroepfer

Donna Haala

Brandon Hoffmann

Lawrence Heiderscheidt

James Goblirsch, Sr.

Linda Seifert

Florence Gangelhoff

Carol Wurtzberger

Donald Hacker

Peter Davis

Lester Helget

Leo Schmitz

Kathleen Helget

Charles Moldaschel

Pearl Schroepfer

LaNette Braun

Joan Rosenhamer

Edward Soukup

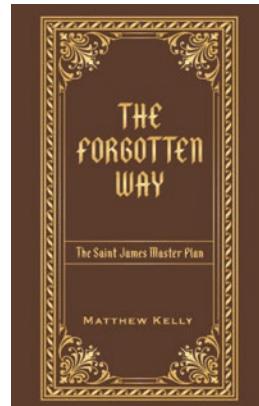
Robert Krambeer

John Mertz



*Please remember in prayer those who have died this past year.*

## CCW Christmas Gift To You...



The promise of this book is very simple: You can transform your life by changing the way you speak.

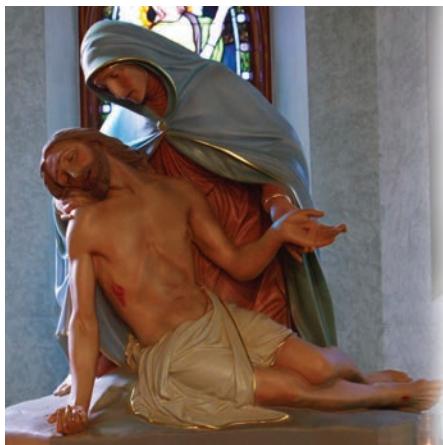
Matthew Kelly has crafted a uniquely powerful guide based on one epic spiritual truth: Governing your speech is a sure path to holiness. The simplicity and practicality of this great spiritual truth make it remarkable.

With each turn of the page you will discover insights and wisdom to help you...

- Harness the power of positive speech
- Eradicate negative forms of speech like gossip and profanity
- Flood your life and the lives of others with encouragement
- Revolutionize the way you talk to God
- Redefine the way you talk to yourself
- Grow in discipline and alignment with the truth

The Forgotten Way is a single truth that will reorient your life.

The only question left is: Will you let it?



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

*July - September 2025*

Peter Mitchell Davis 7/21/25

LaNette Braun 9/14/25

Lester Helget 8/8/25

Joan Rosenhamer 9/17/25

Leo Schmitz 8/22/25

Edward Soukup 9/20/25

Kathleen Helget 8/24/25

Robert Krambeer 9/21/25

Charles Moldaschel 9/6/25

John Mertz 9/26/25

Pearl Schroepfer 9/13/25



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

Regina Surprenant & Colby Aderhold 5/3/25

Kodan Kosak & Sarah Longtin 8/16/25

Tim Seifert & Jenna Zuhlsdorf 9/20/25

Alyssa Rubey & Mitchell Schirmers 9/27/25

Carter Fromm & Madesen Roberts 10/4/25

Zachary Schumacher & Paige Romberg 10/18/25

Jena Schroepfer & Jared Bozzone 11/7/25

## *UPCOMING EVENTS...*

### **NOVEMBER**

27-Thanksgiving Day

28-Parish/School Offices Closed

30-1st Sunday of Advent

### **DECEMBER**

6-KC/Parish Christmas Caroling

7-KC Donut Sunday

7-2nd Sunday of Advent

8-Immaculate Conception

12-Our Lady of Guadalupe

14-3rd Sunday

of Advent/Gaudete Sunday

14-Prairie Lakes Brass Concert

18-Church Cleaning

21-4th Sunday of Advent

21- Decorate the church for Christmas

24-Christmas Eve

25-Christmas Day

28-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &

Joseph

### **JANUARY**

1-Solemnity of Mary

4-The Epiphany of the Lord

4-CCW Donut Sunday

25-31-Catholic Schools Week

### **FEBRUARY**

7-SESM School Caribbean Knight Party

7-God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage

Class

18-Ash Wednesday



## *Born into God's Family*

*August - October 2025*

Owen Willard,  
son of Shawn & Emily Krzmarzick

Wesley Daniel,  
son of Mitchell Neid & Skylar Menke

Laila Irene,  
daughter of Jacob & Cherie-Lynn Schwartz

Ruby Carolyn, daughter of John & Sarah Melby

Lucy Imelda, daughter of Luke & Allison Miller

Nora Kincaid, daughter of Thaddeus & Megan VanZandt

Ruppert Gaylord, son of Joseph & Katherine Rosenhamer

Noelle Marie, daughter of Thomas & Autumn Windschitl

Sayler Mae, daughter of Jacob & Cristiana Mangen

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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[www.divinemercyafc.org](http://www.divinemercyafc.org)

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### 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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Chris Heiderscheidt;

Sr. M. Deanne Niehaus;

Joan Windschitl; Josh Sellner;

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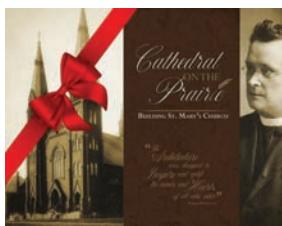
Schutz Creative Photography,  
Luverne, MN

Cover Photo provided by  
Schoenstatt Sisters

## Cathedral on the Prairie Book

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 and the Nex-Tu-Nu II store.