

St. Mary's RECALL



A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, SLEEPY EYE, MN • VOLUME 39 • NUMBER 2 • SPRING 2023

Record Breaking Caribbean Knight Party!

St. Mary's Catholic School held its 8th annual Caribbean Knight Party on May 6, 2023. Over 500 people enjoyed another outstanding party with great food, fun games, silent and live auctions and live music by Up South. A huge thanks to the planning committee: **Judd ('98) and Jen Walter, Tim ('99) and Cassie Schwartz, Brent and Rachel (Mathiowetz '02) Kucera, and Jake ('06) and Katie (Sellner '08) Bloedow!** Thank you to **Matt Mages** for auctioneering.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Caribbean Knight Party and contributed to its success! And what a success it was! We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped behind the scenes and during the event, the individuals and businesses who donated items to the live and silent auctions, and to those who purchased items. Thank you to those who sold raffle tickets and to those who purchased tickets. Thank you to those who prepared and served the delicious food and to everyone who helped with the set-up and/or the clean-up process. We were blessed beyond all expectations with **proceeds of \$208,683** with \$38,126 of this amount being used for the fund-a-need this year: A/C in the gym and field house. The remaining funds are used to increase enrollment and maintain affordable tuition. The success of this event is a true testament to the love that people possess for St. Mary's Catholic School!

Raffle Ticket Winners

- \$4,000 - George & Mary Peichel
- \$1,000 - Blair Folkens
- \$ 500 - Dylan ('15) Owens
- \$ 500 - Mike ('14) Fischer
- \$ 100 - Craig Fischer
- \$ 100 - Irene Schwartz
- \$ 100 - Daniel ('59) Schnobrich
- \$ 100 - Chris Fitzloff
- \$ 100 - Pamela Krzmarzick
- \$ 100 - Stan Seifert
- \$ 100 - Leslie (Braulick '01) Henslin
- \$ 100 - Mike Maltby
- \$ 100 - Linda Hansen
- \$ 100 - Ann (Schmitz '84) Schotzko

Thank you to our sponsors!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
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MISS SLEEPY EYE 2023



Congratulations to the 2023 Miss Sleepy Eye Royalty who were crowned on March 12. **Abigail Schwartz**, daughter of **Mark ('80)** and **Anita Schwartz** was crowned Miss Sleepy Eye while **Elizabeth Schwint** (left), daughter of **George ('97)** and **Deanna (Fuchs '98)** and **Kenadi Steffl** (right), daughter of **Alan ('94)** and **Marie Steffl** were selected as princesses. These three ambassadors will spend the next year representing the community as they attend events in and around Sleepy Eye.

Congratulations Newlyweds



Rebecca Rosenhammer ('16) married Chad U'Ren on May 13, 2023.
Anna Berg ('17) married Brandon Berg on June 3, 2023

Join Our Email List

Email addresses wanted!
Visit the alumni page of our website: www.sesmschool.com to provide your email address.



Like our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/sesmschool

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Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament **Saturday, September 9, 2023**

Sleepy Eye Golf Club

Three Person Best Ball
10:00 AM Shotgun Start

To register your team contact:

Bruce Woitas 507-220-0410
Dan Schmid 507-276-5570
Judd Walter 507-227-0903

Entry Fee: \$60 per person (Includes lunch)

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1958 - 65-year reunion on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact: Bernadette (Braulick) Schneider at 507-359-9748.

Class of 1961 - "Get together" on Friday, September 15, 2023, at the Sleepy Golf Club. Contact Steve Schotzko at 507-220-0553.

Class of 1963 - 60-year reunion on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact: Dick Schroeffer at lindyschroeffer@gmail.com.

Class of 1966 - 57 year reunion on Friday, August 4, 2023, at the Gerald Braulick home. Contact Richard Sellner at 507-276-2750 or Jeanne (Miller) Hume at 507-257-3352.

Class of 1968 - 55-year reunion on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact: Bob Weiss at 507-381-1359.

Class of 1973 - 50-year reunion on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact Jane (Pelzel) Mages at 507-317-2832.

Class of 1978 - 45-year reunion on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact: Laurie (Bushard) Edick at ledick092493@gmail.com.

Class of 1983 - 40-year reunion on Saturday, August 19, 2023. Classmates - please email Mark Rausch at Rausch.Mark@comcast.net.

Class of 2003 - 20-year reunion on Sunday, August 20, 2023, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact Erica Hoffmann at 651-235-6991.

Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them

(Includes obituaries received through May 28, 2023)

Robert Dietz, 73, died on May 5, 2021. He graduated in 1965.

Helen (David) Volz, 97, died on November 7, 2021. She graduated in 1941 and is survived by her children, Ronald (Nancy), Kathleen (Paul) Macintosh, Jeanette (Kurt) Scherer, LuAnn (Paul) Kuehn, Michael (Robyn), Maryjo (Brett) Jacobson and Julie Johnson.

Mariann (Goblirsch) Trembl, 94, died on November 21, 2022. She graduated in 1946 and is survived by her children, Jeanne (Larry) Elg, Marilyn (Alan) Stokes and Roger.

Ronald Peters, 81, died on September 28, 2022. He graduated in 1959 and is survived by his wife, Donna.

Mary (Schumacher) Griffin, 91, died on December 26, 2022. She graduated in 1949 and is survived by her children, Michael (Sandra), Kathleen (Ted) Brault, Julie (Mark) Pederson, and Teresa.

Jan Zilka, 75, died on January 12, 2023. She is survived by her husband Bill and their children, Will ('86) (Julie), Sandy ('87), Scott ('89) (Karne) and Jean ('94) (Brian) Yeager.

Jerome Tauer, 66, died on January 17, 2023. He graduated in 1974 and is survived by his wife, Bonnie and their son, Anthony (Patricia).

Kathleen (Moran) Spaeth, 69, died on January 21, 2023. She graduated in 1972 and is survived by her husband, Chuck ('72) and their daughters, Laura ('97) (David) Fischer, Rachel ('99) (Joseph) Snyder, Amanda ('03) (Craig Murphy and Mary ('05) (Erik) Olson.

Michael Dietz, 77, died on January 23, 2023. He graduated in 1963.

Karolyn "Curly" (Frederickson) Marks, 71, died on January 25, 2023. She graduated in 1969 and is survived by her children, Kathy and Brian (Katie Wagner '05) and her stepdaughter, Amy (George) Grosam.

Lenora (Tauer) Schumacher, 89, died on February 4, 2023. She graduated in 1951 and is survived by her son, Dean ('76).

James Wenisch, 79, died on February 5, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Teresa (Seifert '64) and their children, Marnie (Thomas) Bute, Timothy, Jared (Mee), Greg (Crista), Colette (Brad) Defauw, and Anita (Mark) Vogel.

Audrey (Hengel) Braun, 88, died on February 7, 2023. She graduated in 1952 and is survived by her children, Bruce ('73), Sandra ('74) (Paul) Perkins, Jerilyn ('76) Welsh-Roe, Jaclyn ('79), and Brian ('82) (Chris Meyer '83).

Lorraine (Hauser) Seifert, 81, died on February 10, 2023. She graduated in 1959 and is survived by her husband, Lawrence and their children, Michael (Jean) and Denise (Larry) Mahoney.

William Zilka, 80, died on March 3, 2023. He is survived by his children, Will ('86) (Julie), Sandy ('87), Scott ('89) (Karne) and Jean ('94) (Brian) Yeager.

Florian "Doyle" Sellner, 79, died on March 6, 2023. He was a member of the class of 1961. He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Duscher '65) and their children, Lisa ('86) (Tom) Zuhlsdorf, Michael ('89) (Teresa), and Jenny ('91) Huiras.

Mary B. (Seidl) Sellner, 79, died on March 7, 2023. She was a member of the class of 1961 and is survived by her children, Steven ('79) (Joleen Walter '79) and Christine ('82) (Matt) Steffen.

Christine (Meidl) Gullickson, 43, died on March 12, 2023. She graduated in 1998 and is survived by her husband Chuck and children Jennifer (Nate), Jordan, Natalie, Amber and Jaspen.

Raymond A. Walter, Jr., 75, died on March 13, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Marlene and their children, Ricky ('87) and Teresa ('87) (Brian) Aschenbrenner.

Viola (Kotten) Watkins, 103, died on April 9, 2023. She graduated in 1937 and is survived by her children, Rita, Carol, Jessica, Peter, Patrick, Daniel, Samuel, Alice and Randal.

Yvonne "Vonnie" Windschitl, 82, died on April 13, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Harold ('51) and their children, Laurie ('81) (Tim) Lundstrom, Lester ('83), and Larry ('85) (Sharon).

Joel Hotovec, 48, died on April 14, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Kelly (Maurer '97) and their children, Jayden, Jarred, and Jenna.

Donald Zemler, 73, died on April 28, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Marsha (Neidecker '69) and their children, Marie (Sherman) Zemler Wu, Matthew (Ingrid), and David (Hnou).

Lucy Moldan, 83, died on April 24, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Gerald ('54) and their children, David (Cindy), Jane (Richard) Meidl, Laurie (Mike) Tabery, Julie (Kurt) Harries, Alisa (Bruce) Weber, Marty (Gwen), and Rachel (Travis) Lind.

Joan Bollig, 75, died on May 6, 2023. She graduated in 1966.

Jim Larson, 90, died on May 17, 2023. He graduated in 1950 and is survived by his sons, Jeff ('81) and Eric ('89).

Virginia Suker-Moldan, 43, died on May 20, 2023. She graduated in 1997 and is survived by her husband, Matt ('98) and their daughters, Lucia and Ellen.

Sr. Kay Wagner, 81, died on May 28, 2023. She was an elementary teacher at St. Mary's from 1967-1975.

St. Mary's Catholic High



Jaci Domeier

Gary & LeAnn (Lund '90) Domeier
South Central College - North Mankato, MN



Jake Heinrichs

Kris & Sara Heinrichs
South Dakota State University - Brookings, SD



Emily Helget

Rick & Becky (Wagner '92) Helget
University of Mary - Bismarck, ND



Isabella Hoffmann

Rusty ('91) & Tiffany (Bertrand '94) Hoffmann
South Dakota State University - Brookings, SD



Samantha Ibberson

Matt ('01) & Crystal Ibberson
University of Minnesota - Duluth, MN



Allison Labat

Craig & Tina (Schueller '95) Labat
South Dakota State University - Brookings, SD



Lacey Mathiowetz

Scott ('95) & Kayla Mathiowetz
Mayville State University - Mayville, ND



John Miller

Ron & Melissa Miller
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities



Annika Nosbush

Brad & Sara Nosbush
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities



Colten Roiger

Lisa Moravec
South Central College - North Mankato, MN



Kaden Ryer

Cameron & Christin Ryer
South Central College - North Mankato, MN



Abigail Schwartz

Mark ('80) & Anita Schwartz
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities



Elizabeth Schwint

George ('97) & Deanna (Fuchs '98) Schwint
University of Wisconsin - River Falls, WI



Gracie Sellner

Loran ('83) & Heidi Sellner
South Dakota State University - Brookings, SD



Kenadi Steffl

Al ('94) & Marie Steffl
South Dakota State University - Brookings, SD



Christian Surprenant

Scott & Cynthia (Van Keulen '81) Surprenant
University of Mary - Bismarck, ND

h School - Class of 2023



Brandon Tauer

Mike & Peggy Tauer
Alexandria Tech & Community College -
Alexandria, MN



Kaleb Wait

Tim & Jill (Hoffmann '92) Wait
Minnesota State University - Mankato, MN



Owen Weiss

Bryan & Naomi (Waller '99) Weiss
Minnesota State University - Mankato, MN



Kallie Zarn

Jeff & Stacey (Groebner '95) Zarn
Minnesota West Community & Technical
College - Luverne, MN

St. Mary's Catholic High School Graduation

Graduation Date: Sunday, May 28, 2023 2:00 pm - St. Mary's Catholic Church

Class Colors: Green & Gold

Class Flower: White Lily

Class Saint: St. Gertrude

Class Verse: "Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others."

-Colossians 3:23

Auxilium Christianorum Award: **Emily Helget, Owen Weiss**

Sue Windschitl Memorial Scholarship: **Lacey Mathiowetz**

American Legion and VFW Award: **Elizabeth Schwint**

Lion's Club Student of the Year: **Elizabeth Schwint**

John Philip Sousa Award: **Lacey Mathiowetz**

Charlie Hale Scholarship: **Owen Weiss**

Kaylie Hogue Scholarship: **Samantha Ibberson**

John Mangen Scholarship: **Owen Weiss, Allison Labat**

Tyler Hadley Athletic Achievement Award: **Elizabeth Schwint**

Americana Community Bank: **Elizabeth Schwint**

Rick Losleben ('77) Memorial Scholarship: **Jake Heinrichs**

Fischer-Groen Law Scholarship: **Elizabeth Schwint**

Gordie Osmonson Scholarship: **Elizabeth Schwint**

Payton Adams Hustle Award: **Kaleb Wait**

Sleepy Eye Chamber of Commerce Scholarship: **Isabella Hoffmann**

Denis ('62) and Lynn Goblirsch Memorial Scholarship: **Abigail Schwartz**

Murthy Medical Scholarship: **Annika Nosbush, Kallie Zarn, Allison Labat**

Esther "Sis" (Wagner '39) Dey Soukup Scholarship: **Emily Ericksen, Noah Simonsen**

Richard ('53) & Mary Lou Mathiowetz Family Scholarship: **Jake Heinrichs, Elizabeth Schwint, Owen Weiss, Kallie Zarn**

Miss Sleepy Eye Scholarship: **Abigail Schwartz, Elizabeth Schwint, Kenadi Steffl**

Nicole Fuchs Memorial Scholarship: **Kaleb Wait, Allison Labat, John Miller, Lacey Mathiowetz**

Charles "Chisey" Hansen ('42) Family Memorial Medical Scholarship: **Annika Nosbush**



Congratulations to our valedictorian **Annika Nosbush** (center) and co-salutatorians **Lacey Mathiowetz** (left) and **Abigail Schwartz** (right).

*“...be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart...”
(1 Samuel 12:24)*

**Thank you to all these individuals who have served our school and our students so well!
We wish them well in all of their future endeavors!**



Mary Beth (Sellner '76) Botz

Subjects Taught: Because of my degrees, I've taught mostly in science, ranging from 6th grade through seniors in upper level electives like Advanced Placement (AP) Biology, AP Chemistry, and Anatomy/Physiology. Because of my vocation to be of service to St. Mary's in the capacity of greatest need, I have also taught 10th and 12th grade English and 7th and 11th grade Theology.

Years at SMS: 40 years in the teaching profession; 37 at SMS

What She Will Miss Most About SMS: I will definitely miss the students. Because science is such an interactive subject, I was able to experience with them the joy of curiosity and discovery.

Favorite Memories of SMS: One vivid snapshot of the legacy of St. Mary's handing down faith and knowledge was taken when Gene Maurer retired. He taught me in 6th grade Science, I taught his daughter Lisa in Biology and Chemistry, and Lisa taught my son Philip in 6th grade Science. There is a photo of the four of us standing in a row passing down a science book.

Future Plans: I am currently involved in an innovative research project that is exploring the value of using algae as a soil nutrient supplement. Part of that is leading an independent research elective for high school students. Otherwise, I would enjoy working part time in an applied science lab like Frontier Labs or MN Valley Testing Labs in New Ulm.

Final Comments: I feel so blessed that I was able to spend my entire career as a Catholic educator in the field of science. The Science Department's scripture passage is Romans 1:20 "Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made." So I was able to share with students that the quest for scientific knowledge always leads us closer to God.



Bethany Derrickson

Subjects Taught: K-8 Music Teacher; I also taught one year of K-5 Keyboarding

Years at SMS: 4 years

What She Will Miss Most About SMS: It's been so special to work at a place where I could openly share my Catholic faith. Furthermore, I will miss continuing to build relationships with the students.

Favorite Memory of SMS: This past year, the Handmaids hosted a retreat for the teachers, and it was a very beautiful experience for me.

Future Plans: I'm planning to pursue more singing opportunities and continue teaching private voice lessons. I am also hoping to return to my HR roots and get a part-time job in Business/HR.

Final Comments: I'm grateful for my years of teaching these students, and I hope I've made a positive impact. Thank you to all who support music here at St. Mary's!



Crystal Ibberson

Job Title: Resource Teacher

Years at SMS: 1 year

What She Will Miss Most About SMS: I will miss so many things about St. Mary's!! I will definitely miss the focus on our faith and how it is incorporated in our everyday teachings as well as weekly Masses. The overall support and care teachers and staff give to our students, people's willingness to go out of their way for others and dedicate their time, and seeing my kids every day in school.

Favorite Memory of SMS: The first time we had the Divine Mercy Chaplet and all the students, staff and others came together; it was one of the most beautiful and inspirational moments this year hearing and seeing everyone together.

Future plans: New Ulm Middle School, Special Education Teacher

Final Comments: I am truly grateful for the teachings St. Mary's has had for our children and the past year working at St. Mary's has brought me an inside view of the amazing lessons being taught here. This year has been such a blessing beyond words in so many ways. I was able to really take time for my faith, more so than I have before and develop a more impactful and meaningful relationship with the Lord. The kids and staff at St. Mary's are truly the most amazing people and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to be here.



Rick Peters

Subjects Taught: Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus and Calculus

Years at SMS: 5 years

What He Will Miss Most About SMS: I will miss talking to the students about extra curricular activities but I plan to attend a few Saint Mary's events in the near future.

Favorite Memory of SMS: I leave with many fond memories of postseason tournaments in both girls and boys basketball, softball, baseball and volleyball.

Future Plans: I plan to spend even more time at and on the lake and on the golf course. I will continue to officiate volleyball at Lake Crystal High School in various roles this fall. My

long term plan is to start spending more time in Arizona during the winter months, where my brother and mom live, while continuing to have a home in the Mankato area.



Laurie (Hauser '76) Tauer

Job Title: School Nurse

Years at SMS: 23 years

What She Will You Miss Most About SMS: I will always have very fond memories of helping the students with their health needs along with an exceptionally supportive staff. Their smiles were ever so gratifying.

Future Plans: In retirement, I plan to spend more time with my family and grandkids. I'm also looking forward to gardening and spending additional time outdoors.

Dear Alumni & Benefactors of St. Mary's School,



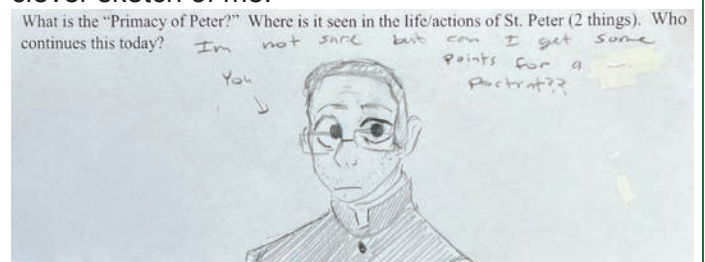
On Friday, May 19, twenty-two kindergartners participated in their "Kindergarten Graduation." These students will be, God willing, the St. Mary's High School Class of 2035! It is a fun event each year. After a school Mass, the children sing a song for their parents and grandparents before having their

name called to receive their "diploma" and shake the hand of the principal and myself. Then they go on to get a little blue mortar board and have their picture taken as a group before processing out to the hymn "Pomp and Circumstance" that we hear each year at graduations. At high school graduation receptions, it is a common thing to see these kindergarten mortar boards as part of the display put together honoring the accomplishments of the student who has spent 13 years at St. Mary's School.

As we leave another academic year behind us, I am struck by the accomplishments and talents of our students. We had successful seasons in our sports teams as well as the fine arts with a musical, and our music and band programs. (As of writing this, both the baseball and softball teams are at the top of the Tomahawk Conference!)

This year I taught 9th and 10th grade religion/theology classes in the high school, and that same "creativity" shows itself in all sorts of interesting ways. I always give exams that are essay answers, and I tell the students that, if they don't know what the answer to the question is, to at least write something so that I

can give them partial credit. This year, aside from the usual "pleas for mercy" I have a student who wrote "I don't know this answer... but" and then went on to write the words of a car insurance ad frequently heard on the radio. Another came up with a very clever sketch of me!



What I frequently tell people is that St. Mary's School is truly what a parochial school should be – accessible to all who want a Catholic education and affordable. It is unfortunate that in many places, especially for Catholic high schools, they are often more "prep schools" and that their high tuition makes them inaccessible to the majority of people. We are fortunate to have the support of our parish, parents and alumni that make it possible for us to keep Catholic high school tuition affordable, and, a few years ago, we instituted a "tuition cap" of \$10,000 so that no matter how many students a family has in our school, they will be able to send them to St. Mary's. And on that note, we are making progress on our annual Alumni Appeal. Our goal is \$175,000 (by June 30) and we are at \$121,365 as of writing this article. Thanks to everyone who so generously gives to support the good work that is going on here, and gives us a chance to "pay it forward" for those who invested in our own Catholic school education!

St. Mary's Recall
St. Mary's Catholic School
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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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cheiderscheidt@sesmschool.com

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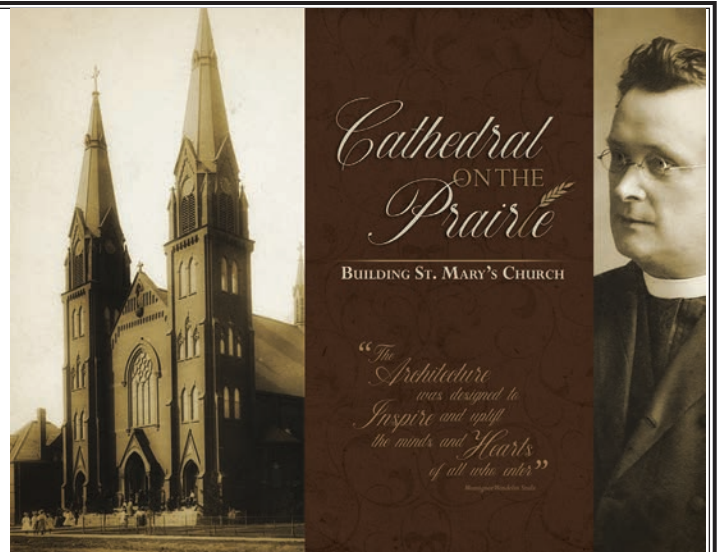


Mission Statement

St. Mary's Catholic School guides students to form an authentic relationship with God while achieving academic excellence to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

Administrative School Staff:

Fr. Mark Steffl - Pastor/Superintendent
Fr. Tanner Thooff and Fr. Sam Perez
Peter Roufs - Principal
Marti Schroeffer - HS Admin. Assistant
Tiffany Hoffmann - HS Admin. Assistant
Cassie Schwartz - GS Admin. Assistant
Bruce Woitas - Athletic/Activities Director
Matt Grausam - Business Manager
Chris Heiderscheidt - Development Director



Cathedral on the Prairie book \$25

This beautiful keepsake book is available to purchase at the parish or school office, Nex-Tu-Nu II store, and Sleepy Eye Depot Museum.

To receive your book in the mail send payment plus \$10 to
St. Mary's Rectory
636 1st Ave N
Sleepy Eye MN 56085