

St. Mary's RECALL



A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, SLEEPY EYE, MN • VOLUME 42 • NUMBER 2 • SUMMER 2026

ALL SCHOOL REUNION

Saturday, July 25, 2026

- 4:00 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic School Open House
- 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church (in social room)
- 6:00 p.m. Social Hour at Sleepy Eye Event Center
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner & program featuring Girls Basketball State Champs & fun memories shared by Lillian (Haala '51) Stimpert

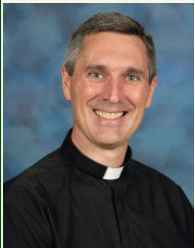
Registration due by July 13: \$30 ea/ payable to St. Mary's
or scan QR code to register online!



Join us for our Parish Festival on Sunday!



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



God is so generous! With life transitions, we are saying goodbye to a number of staff this year, including Lu-Ann (Losleben '75) Schwint (who won the Mike Maurer award), Brynn (Braulick '05) Mathiowetz, Ben and Mary Moritz, Sr. Cora Marie and volunteer Krista Heiderscheidt. We are so sad to see them go, and will feel their absence in the school halls.

However, God is so generous! As I write this we are in the process of finalizing our new hires. I have been so blessed by seeing the people who applied and accepted positions at St. Mary's. Some of them have kids at our school and desire to be here with us/ them. A few of them are college graduates who desire to work at a Catholic school. One of the new hires is a student I did Bible studies with in a previous parish. All of the new hires put their faith first. I had a real sense that they know there is something special about St. Mary's School and want to work here. What a gift!

I am grateful to all of you who responded to our need for funds to help pay for our teachers' and school personnel salaries through the Alumni Annual Appeal and special gifts to keep the benefit of small class sizes: to expand our preschool, split the kindergarten class and split the 2nd and 4th grade Math and English core classes.

I met with my spiritual director last week and as I shared all the ways God has provided, I was filled with amazement and awe at the Father's goodness! As we begin our big project at St. Mary's Church this month, I am encouraged: God is continuing to provide the people and resources we need to accomplish our mission of bringing our students and families to Christ by forming them in every aspect of their growth: spiritually, physically, socially, morally and intellectually.

Thank you for your support. Please continue to support us through your daily prayers and financial gifts. It is making St. Mary's something special where people want to be.

Jesus, I Trust in You!

Fr. Craig Timmerman



Congratulations Newlyweds

Olivia Berkner ('11) married Keegan Christensen on April 11, 2026.

Max Heiderscheidt ('18) married **Kelsie Kosak ('18)** on April 18, 2026.

Anthony Helget ('21) married Hannah Olson on May 16, 2026.

Jennifer Tauer ('97) married Jeremy Helget on May 30, 2026.

Nicholas Strate ('17) married Lillian Snow on June 6, 2026.

UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS FOR 2026

Class of 1961: 65-yr reunion-Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact person: Steve Schotzko 507-220-0553.

Class of 1966: 60-yr reunion-Saturday, August 1, at Gerald Braulick's home in Sleepy Eye. Contact person: Richard Sellner 507-276-2750.

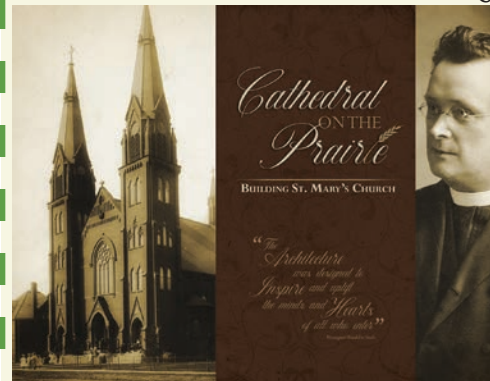
Class of 1971: 55-yr reunion-Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact person: Vicky (Cook) Helget 507-766-4122.

Class of 1976: 50-yr reunion-Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Sleepy Eye Golf Club. Contact person: Larry "Stretch" Fischer 507-240-0545.

Class of 1981: 45-yr reunion-Saturday, July 25, at Cynthia (Van Keulen) Surprenant's home in Sleepy Eye. Contact person: Cynthia Surprenant 507-227-4083.

Class of 1991: 35-yr reunion-Saturday, August 29, at Party by the Pond in New Ulm. Contact person: Patricia (Sellner) Ericksen 507-227-3878.

Cathedral on the Prairie book



This beautifully crafted book details the church's construction evoking its historical setting with numerous full-color and archival images that convey the majesty of this building. Readers will be transported back into time as they follow the progress of the church's construction through detailed notes from its building committee and archival news stories. As both a historical record and a beautiful picture book, the *Cathedral on the Prairie* is uniquely captivating and illuminating.

Available at the parish or school office, Nex-Tu-Nu II store, Sleepy Eye Depot Museum and Randy's Family Drug and Gift.

Please send payment of \$25 (plus \$10 for postage) to:

St. Mary's Rectory, 636 1st Ave N, Sleepy Eye MN 56085.

Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them

(Includes obituaries received through May 31, 2026)

John Bertrand, 84, died on August 7, 2025. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1959 and is survived by his former wife, Kay and his children, Jonora (Jack) Corns, Diane, Paula, and Juli (Stephen) Jacobson.

Jan (Kral) Schilling, 59, died on December 3, 2025. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1986 and is survived by her husband, Randy Schilling.

Patrick B. Steffen, 87, died on March 15, 2026. Patrick graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1956 and he is survived by his wife, Diana and their children, Phillip (Diane), Brian (Maribeth), Julie (Pat) Daugherty, Mark (Judith), Jeff (Jill), Craig (Lisa) and Christopher (Kristin).

Connie (Schleisman) Funk, 78, died on March 24, 2026. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1966. She is survived by her husband, Greg and their children, Andrea (Tom) Maher, Stephanie (Trevor) Swenson and Kristin Kleis.

Janet E. Kral, 79, died on March 31, 2026. She is survived by her children, Sandi (Corey) Koop and Shaun (Shannon).

Josephine (Tauer) Rose, 92, died on April 5, 2026. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1952 and is survived by her children, Peter ('75) (Celena), Paul ('78), and Pam ('84) (Bob) Fleck.

Paul J. Flannery, 85, died on April 5, 2026. He is survived by his children, Paulette (Brad) Pyan, Pam (Dean) Mithun, Peter and his stepchildren, Ann (Stadick '81) (Scott) Thorson and Mary (Stadick '83) (Jeff) Smith.

Phyllis (Jemming) Lux Schouvieller, 93, died on April 8, 2026. Phyllis graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1951. She is survived by her children, Mike ('74) (Barb), Diane ('74) (Leroy) Radtke, Dennis ('77) (Kathy Jo Carr '77), Mary Kay ('80) (Randy) Distad, Jim ('85) (Rhonda), John ('87), Barb ('89) (Keith) Kerkhoff and Becky (Craig) Hoffbeck.

Ervan Moldan, 91, died on April 11, 2026. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1953. He is survived by his children, Curtis ('87) and Susan ('88) Brown.

Michael Crouch, 80, died on April 23, 2026. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1963. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette and children, Lisa (Joel), Scott (Tammy) and Jason (Amy).

Rosella "Sally" (Mathiowetz) Helget, 88, died on April 26, 2026. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1955. She is survived by her children, Deb (Mike) Windschitl, Diane (Jeff) Kretsch, Tammy (Corey) Schewe, Scott, and Paula (Randy) Sturm.

Carolyn "Carrie" (Rausch) Ress, 74, died on April 27, 2026. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1970. She is survived by her husband, Michael and daughters, Sarah and Jennifer (Keith) Rosin.

Richard "Dick" Mueller, 83, died on May 1, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Monica (Seidl '61) and their children, Christine (John), Rick (Teresa) and Dean (Heather).

Ernest Kretsch, 91, died on May 8, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Theresia (Schroepfer '53) and their children, Bradley (Kellie) and Mary Bauer.

Paul Hoffman, 81, died on May 16, 2026. He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1962. He is survived by his wife, Eileen and their children, Robin ('84), Amy (Dave) Hengel, Jeff (Amy Braulick '88), Jenny (Paul) Vogel, Becky ('92) (Jeff) Lux and Carl ('95) (Rachel Meyer '94).

John Meidl, 71, died on May 23, 2026. John graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1973. He is survived by his children, Mandy Meidl, Ashley Sellner and Nikkie (Turner) Johnson.

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament Saturday, September 12, 2026

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)

Join Our Email List



Email addresses wanted!

Simply visit our newly designed website: www.sesmschool.com

Click on the "Alumni" page found at the top right and scroll down to sign up for our emails.



Like our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/sesmschool



Follow us on Instagram (sesmschool)

IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI

by Sister Mary Ann ('18) Portner

My name is Sr. Mary Ann (Crystal Portner) and I graduated from St. Mary's in 2018. My parents are Tom ('86) and Mary Portner and I was raised on our dairy farm just west of Sleepy Eye. In the Lord's Providence I have found myself back at St. Mary's teaching Theology to 8th and 11th grade students. I am a sister with the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus and I live at our Motherhouse in New Ulm. This past summer on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I professed my first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience with the Handmaids. St. Mary's parish and school has been a big part of my story and provided a foundation for me to say yes to the Lord's call in my life.

Looking back now, the community I experienced and the richness of the intellectual life of the faith were two of the most impactful aspects for me at St. Mary's. After my freshman year of high school, I experienced

Jesus in a profoundly personal way. At a Steubenville youth conference my heart was overwhelmed with Jesus' goodness and presence in our night of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Coming home from that



Sr. Mary Ann is pictured far right.

mountaintop moment was so much easier because of the community I encountered in our parish youth group. I had friends that also wanted to run toward the Lord, who had also met Him in a real way and a spiritual father to lead us was Msgr. Lozinski. As I continued to dive into quality friendships and prayer, I also fell in love with the Church. Through my AP European History Class my eyes were opened to the rich beauty of the history of

our faith. From the art of the Renaissance to the magnificent saints of the Counter Reformation my history class took seriously the massive impact that the Catholic Church has on culture and society and I was captivated. I am so happy to be back in the area and to share the joy that I have come to know in loving Jesus and His Church with my students.

MISS SLEEPY EYE 2026



Congratulations to the 2026 Miss Sleepy Eye Royalty who were crowned on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at the Sleepy Eye Event Center. **Alexandria Confer**, daughter of **Robert** and **Jackie Confer** was crowned Miss Sleepy Eye while **Kiara Murphy** (left), daughter of **Craig** and **Amanda (Spaeth '03) Murphy** and **Grace Siefkes**, (right), daughter of **Caleb** and **Katie Siefkes** were selected as princesses. These three ambassadors will spend the next year representing the community as they attend events in and around Sleepy Eye.

SLEEPY EYE UNITED GOLFERS DRIVE THEIR WAY TO STATE



Congratulations to (left) freshman **Nolan Kucera**, son of **Brent** and **Rachel (Mathiowetz '02) Kucera**; held by sophomore **Isaac Christensen**, son of **Mark** and **Ann Christensen**; and junior **Eli Christensen**, son of **Mark** and **Ann Christensen**; and (right) senior **Kiara Murphy**, daughter of **Craig** and **Amanda (Spaeth '03) Murphy**, on advancing to the State Golf Tournament following an exciting finish at the Section 2A Meet. The Sleepy Eye United boys captured the Section 2A Championship, while the girls earned Section 2A Runner-Up honors. Nolan paced the boys team as the individual Section 2A Champion. Isaac finished 4th overall, and Eli placed 15th. On the girls side, Kiara turned in an outstanding performance as she finished 5th overall. Congratulations to these talented student-athletes and to coaches **Bryant Mages ('14)** and **Kaleb Walter ('96)** for their dedication and leadership throughout the season. Good Luck at State!

MIKE MAURER AWARD



Congratulations to **LuAnn (Losleben '75) Schwint** (center) who was selected by the staff as this year's recipient of the Mike Maurer Award. Our principal, **Peter Roufs** (left) and pastor, **Fr. Craig Timmerman** (right) presented the award as we ended the school year. This honor is given to an individual who exemplifies Christian values, dedication, and loyalty to St. Mary's as well as a love for education and for the mission of St. Mary's. For the past 30 years, LuAnn's devoted service as a teacher's aide — her kindness, patience, and genuine love for every student — has forever shaped the heart of our school community. We wish her the best as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement.

FAREWELL



As we conclude the 2025-2026 school year at St. Mary's, it is also time to say farewell to some special staff members: **Brynn (Braulick '05) Mathiowetz**, **Mary Moritz**, **Ben Moritz**, **LuAnn (Losleben '75) Schwint**, **Sr. Cora Marie** (not pictured) and volunteer **Krista Heiderscheidt**. Thank you all for the impact you made at St. Mary's. You will always be part of our school family, and we wish you nothing but the best in what's ahead!

GRAUSAM QUALIFIES FOR STATE SPEECH



The River Valley Speech team earned the second place runner-up plaque at the MSHSL Section 3A Speech tournament. Fourteen speakers advanced into the final rounds in their categories and eight of those students placed in the top 3, qualifying them to compete in the 2026 MSHSL State Speech tournament on Saturday, April 25th at Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park, MN.

Kiauna Suess, (junior) daughter of **Mike** and **Kristy (Forster '00)**, broke into the final round of Drama Interpretation and placed 4th overall, just missing qualifying for State by 1 placing.

Aiden Grausam, (sophomore) son of **Matt ('99)** and **Jessi**, broke into the final round of Great Speeches and placed 3rd overall, making him a 2026 State qualifier.

This is Kia's first year involved in speech and Aiden's second year involved. We celebrate the great achievements of our students and their coach, **Brianna (Mages '05) Jensen!**

St. Mary's Catholic High



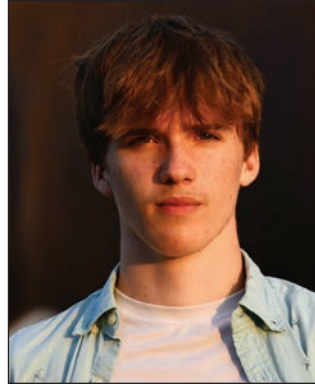
Michael Balko

Jason & Leah Balko
Southwest Minnesota State University-Marshall, MN



Natalie Fischer

Adam ('01) Fischer & Melissa (Braulick '01) Fischer
University of St. Thomas-St. Paul, MN



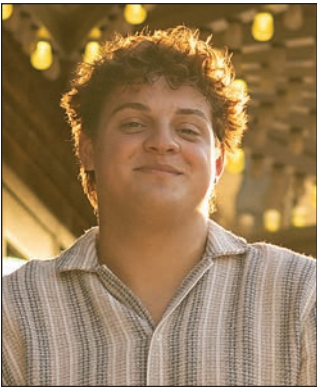
Austin Forster

David ('98) & Samarah Forster
Southwest Minnesota State University-Marshall, MN



Josie Helget

Rick & Becky (Wagner '92) Helget
South Dakota State University-Brookings, SD



Charlie Hoffmann

Andrew ('96) & Heather (Heiderscheidt '96) Hoffmann
University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, MN



Reese Hoffmann

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



McCoy Marti

Dell & Cindy Marti
South Central College-Mankato, MN



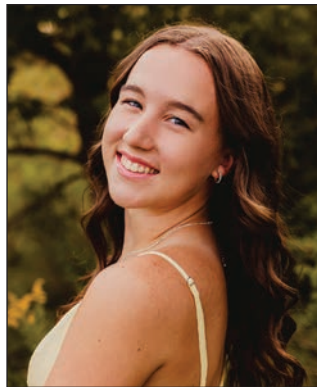
Lucia Martinez Paredes

Victor Martinez Torres & Edmée Paredes Tecuati
University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, MN



Tyler Mathiowetz

Scott ('95) & Kayla Mathiowetz
Alexandria Technical School-Alexandria, MN



Kiara Murphy

Craig & Amanda (Spaeth '03) Murphy
Bethany Lutheran College-Mankato, MN



Kailey Nelson

Joey ('87) & Stacy Nelson
Minnesota State University-Mankato, MN



Jasmine Petermann

Jon & Jackie (Schwint '99) Petermann
South Central College-Mankato, MN



Ella Pollard

Jason & Julie Pollard
University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI



Lucy Schmidt

Jonathan Schmidt
University of Wisconsin Stout-Menomonie, WI



Jaclyn Schroepfer

Jason & Amber Schroepfer
University of South Dakota-Vermillion, SD



Jaylynn Sellner

Randy ('91) & Sheila Sellner
Work

h School - Class of 2026



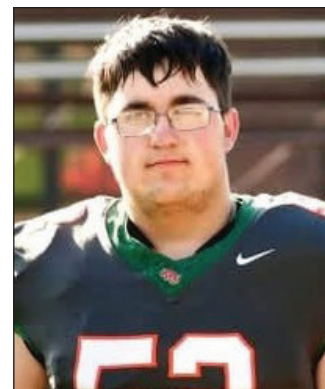
Macy Wagner
Matt ('00) & Mandy Wagner
Southeast Technical College-Sioux Falls, SD



Jack Windschitl
Gary ('89) & Rachel Windschitl
Minnesota State University-Mankato, MN



Hana Zeig
Chad Zeig & Tracey Zeig
South Central College-Mankato, MN



Hayden Zeig
Chad Zeig & Tracey Zeig
Bemidji State University-Bemidji, MN

St. Mary's Catholic High School Graduation

Graduation Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026, 3:00 pm at St. Mary's Church

Class Colors: Black & Gold

Class Flower: Lily

Class Saint: St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Class Verse: "God looked at everything he had created, and found it very good."

- Genesis 1:31

Auxilium Christianorum Award: **McCoy Marti, Lucia Martinez Paredes**

Sue Windschitl Memorial Scholarship: **Ella Pollard**

SouthPoint Foundation Scholarship: **Josie Helget**

American Legion and VFW Award: **Natalie Fischer**

Lion's Club Student of the Year: **Natalie Fischer**

Fischer (Alissa '05)-Groen Law Scholarship: **Josie Helget**

Chisey Hansen Family Medical Scholarship: **Josie Helget**

Charlie Hale Scholarship: **Tyler Mathiowetz**

John Mangen Scholarship: **Tyler Mathiowetz, Jack Windschitl**

Americana Community Bank: **Michael Balko**

Adam Jensen Scholarship: **Jasmine Peterman**

Rick Losleben ('77) Memorial Scholarship: **Jasmine Peterman**

Gordie Osmonson Scholarship: **Josie Helget**

Murthy Medical Scholarship: **Michael Balko, Josie Helget**

Sleepy Eye Chamber of Commerce Scholarship: **Kailey Nelson**

Denis ('62) and Lynn Goblirsch Memorial Scholarship: **Natalie Fischer**

Payton Adams Hustle Award: **Tyler Mathiowetz, Brynne Ibberson, Olivia Schieffert**

The Legacy in Reading Scholarship (in memory of Jennifer Blick '98): **Ella Pollard**

Esther "Sis" (Wagner '39) Dey Soukup Scholarship: **Rivers Helget, Conner Kyllonen**

Sleepy Eye Servicemen's Club Charitable Gambling Scholarship: **Kailey Nelson**

Richard ('53) & Mary Lou Mathiowetz Family Scholarship: **Tyler Mathiowetz, McCoy Marti, Ella Pollard, Kiara Murphy**

Marian (Boettger '62) Altmann Scholarship: **Jaclynn Schroepfer**

Nicole (Steffl '01) Fuchs Memorial Scholarship: **Kailey Nelson, Tyler Mathiowetz, McCoy Marti, Lucy Schmidt**

Deanne (Sellner '83) Fried Scholarship: **Tyler Mathiowetz, Jack Windschitl**

House Prefects: **Ella Pollard, Charlie Hoffmann, Reese Hoffmann, Tyler Mathiowetz**

Sleepy Eye Regional Foundation Scholarship: **Charlie Hoffmann, Jack Windschitl**



Congratulations to our salutatorian **Kiara Murphy** (left) and valedictorian **Ella Pollard**.

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

507-794-4171
www.sesmschool.com
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. Craig Timmerman - Pastor/Superintendent
Fr. Nathan Hansen and Fr. Sam Perez
Peter Roufs - Principal
Marti Schroepfer - 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

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CALENDAR RAFFLE



Please support this annual fundraiser. All tickets drawn are returned to the drawing which means you may win more than once, and it happens!

Daily prizes of \$25 with some as high as \$200! A limit of 1,500 tickets are sold. Each calendar raffle ticket cost only \$25. Must be 18 or older to be in the drawing. The drawing will be held on July 1, so please mail soon so we receive it before then!

We appreciate your support!

I would like to buy _____ calendar raffle ticket(s).

Payment is enclosed for \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____