

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2023



ALL SAINTS

AREA FAITH COMMUNITY



ST. ANDREW'S
FAIRFAX, MN



ST. WILLIBRORD'S
GIBBON, MN



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
WINTHROP, MN

Father Bruno OSB
Parochial Administrator
R: 426-7125 C: 507-217-3054
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Danette Polzin
Office Manager
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Kellie Sloat
Area Religious Ed Coordinator
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yesterdayskitchen@gmail.com

AFC Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm **AFC Address:** All Saints AFC, PO Box C, Fairfax MN 55332

AFC Website: www.allsaintsaafc.org

Diocese Website: www.dnu.org

Join Flocknote by visiting flocknote.com/asafc or text allsaints4 to 84576

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATORS

St. Andrew – Karen Guggisberg 507-426-7348

St. Willibrord – Genny Neyers 507-834-6659

St. Francis – Kellie Sloat 320-583-6755

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Please contact Fr. Bruno at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding. No wedding date is final until approved by Fr. Bruno.

BAPTISMS: Please make arrangements for attending a baptism session with Father Bruno anywhere from one to two months prior to the date of the baptism of a child.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm:

1-866-670-5163
(Confidential Counseling Services and Referral Information)

LITURGY SCHEDULE: In case of a funeral a regular scheduled morning Mass will be canceled that day.

Monday, February 27	NO MASS	Private	+Arnold Nelson
Tuesday, February 28	8:30 AM	Fairfax	+Anna Hacker
Wednesday, March 1	8:30 AM	Gibbon	Spec Int-Father Bruno
Thursday, March 2	8:30 AM	Fairfax	+Christian Mothers
Friday, March 3	9:30 AM	Winthrop	+Edwin, Marcella & Jackson Bieraugel
	7:00 PM	<i>Winthrop-Eucharist Adoration</i>	
Saturday, March 4	4:30 PM	<i>Reconciliation prior to Mass</i>	
	5:00 PM	Fairfax (Time Change)	People of the All Saints Area Faith Community
Sunday, March 5	8:00 AM	Gibbon (Time Change)	+James Moldan
	10:00 AM	Winthrop (Time Change)	+Richard & Verna Rein
	12:30 PM	Fairfax-Spanish Mass	

Reflection Question for First Sunday of Lent

When does my self-centeredness lead me to give into temptation? How can my Christian concern for others help me resist that temptation?



Readings for the Week of February 26, 2023

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22)/2

Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

With Ash Wednesday **we have already entered the grace-filled season of Lent.** Prayer, various forms of self-denial and acts of charity are the characteristics of this holy season. A reflection on the Gospel narrative about the temptation of Jesus, given every year on the First Sunday of Lent, makes us realize that temptations were meant for Jesus to position his life and activities to his own benefit. **They were what Jesus actually faced and overcame during the three years of his public ministry.** Just as Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and nights in the desert, we have the opportunity to fast to strengthen our self-control, give alms to strengthen our generosity, and pray to strengthen our faith in God's providence.

"Lent is a unique time: a divine aid which we should accept. Jesus is passing by and he hopes that we will take a great step forward – today, now!" ~ St. Josemaria Escriva

FIND A NEW HEART DURING LENT The root of the word "convert" means to "change," or "transform." Think of turning from sin and evil toward grace, virtue, goodness, and God. The conversion of the human heart is an act of God's grace.

Fr. Bruno OSB

STARTING MARCH 4TH & 5TH mass schedule times will change. Fairfax will have mass on Saturdays at 5:00 pm, Gibbon will be on Sundays at 8:00 am, followed by Winthrop at 10:00 am.

THERE ARE FEW MASS INTENTIONS SCHEDULED ON THE CALENDAR especially Winthrop. Infinite graces flow from prayers offered at Mass. Intentions can be offered for a variety of reasons: thanksgiving, birthday or anniversaries of the living and most commonly for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one. If you have been thinking you would like to have a Mass intention offered, you can put the request in the collection basket with the name of the person/persons to be prayed for and make a note of whether the person is deceased or living; or list the reason of the intention (e.g. thanksgiving, peace, living family members, etc.) If you have a specific date in mind, please make note of that as well. Include your financial gift (typically \$10 per Mass). Or call the All Saints AFC office or email the office and get the intention scheduled and send in your donation. Thank you!

AREA CALENDAR

ST. WILLIBRORD'S ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING Tuesday, February 28th, 7:00 pm om Gibbon.

AREA PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 26 Mike Johnson, Thomas Forstner, Stephanie Howe, Anden Hoffmann, Lincoln McCue, Lee Zollner

Feb 27 Jennifer Palmer, Constance Tautges, Jacob Unger, Karen Weitzenkamp, Quinn Schmidt

Feb 28 Jean Bode, Emily Meyer, Chanel Pulley

Mar 1 Deb Nachreiner, Phyllis Gruenhagen

Mar 2 Grace Weldy, Andrea Nachreiner, Jody Busch, Tom & Charlotte Fahey Anniv., Deb Forstner, Mary Nelson

Mar 3 John Wenninger, Tristan Bautch

Mar 4 William Bastian, Greg Fahey, James Zitzman



Please Remember in Prayer

Casey O'Brien
St. Francis de Sales
Arvina Schweiss
St. Andrew's
Elsie Linsmeier
St. Andrew
Mary Schweiss
St. Andrew's
Millie Forst
St. Willibrord's
Lorraine Ravnaas
St. Francis de Sales
Adeline Roiger
St. Andrew
Pat Fahey
St. Andrew's

We welcome into the Area Faith Community through the waters of Baptism:

Valerie Mae Marin, daughter of Brandon & Melissa Marin, who was baptized at St. Francis de Sales on February 18th.

May this child and her family grow in faith and the love of God.



Liturgy Matters #17

The last part of the Liturgy of the Word is what is called the prayer of the faithful or general intercessions. These are called prayers of the faithful because it is the responsibility of the baptized persons who live in the world to bring before God in prayer the needs of the Church and the whole world. It is precisely their life in the world, enlightened and shaped by what they have heard today in the Word of God that equips these people with knowledge of what to pray for. The prayers are also called general intercessions, or sometimes even universal prayers, as an indication of the direction in which our prayer ought to go. These petitions should be very broad, all embracing. Individuals can pray for their particular needs in the quiet of their hearts. Here the Church is giving voice to her relationship with the whole world. If particular communities do not manage to think in their prayers beyond their own border and interests, it is a limited sense of Church that is being expressed. In the community that reflects Christ's own expansive heart, we pray first of all for the Church, but for the Church precisely so that she can be holy and pleasing to God and a sacrament of salvation for the world. Second, we must pray for the world, above all that the world may know the salvation offered in Christ and, short of that, that sufferings and hardships be relieved, that injustices be redressed. Many other intentions are included, speaking mostly for other special intentions that involve the Church, but lastly we pray for the faithful departed who are in need of our prayers just as much as we are in need of theirs.

The Liturgy of the Word culminates as the gifts are brought before the altar in preparation of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We include all the prayers presently spoken and include them with the bread and wine as the Church brings both herself and the world forward to be placed in Christ's hands for transformation.

JOIN US EACH WEEK ON WEDNESDAY AT 9:00 PM as we pray the Rosary live on Facebook on the All Saints Area Faith Community page!

Topic for THAT MAN IS YOU men's program – Week 16 – Silent Knight, Holy Knight. All men 18 and older are welcome. We meet on Thursdays at 5:45 am at CODE3 Bowling in Gibbon.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS last week to the Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

TODAY, OUR PARISH WILL TAKE UP THE 139TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution today. Thank you for your support.

RICE BOWL PROJECT! Our AFC parishioners will have a chance to make a difference this Lent! During Lent, we are called to give special attention to our relationship with God. Through opportunities to deepen our prayer such as, fasting and alms giving, we meet our Lord and encounter our sisters and brothers around the world. Lenten Rice Bowls will be sent home with all students and can also be picked up after Mass at church. Families are asked to make a donation to CRS Rice Bowl to help communities in other countries overcome hunger and malnutrition. Rice Bowls will be collected at Mass on Palm Sunday, April 1st & 2nd. Thank You! May your Lent be filled with Blessings as you prepare for Easter!

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR – Sunday, March 5th, at St. Willibrord's, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Holy Hour will include praying the rosary, scripture readings, and time for silent meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone welcome!

RENEWED IN HOPE DMA Appeal Funds Summary as of February 20, 2023. Parish goals: St. Andrew's \$13,073.39, total cash received \$9,438.70; St. Willibrord's \$8,142.20, total cash received \$4,530.00; St. Francis's \$4,931.19, total cash received \$5,650.00. Remember that 20% of our donations come back to each parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 24th: Fairfax 7 pm lead by the women
Friday, March 3rd: Winthrop 7 pm lead by the women
Friday, March 10th: Gibbon 7 pm lead by the women
Friday, March 17th: Fairfax 7 pm lead by the men
Friday, March 24th: Winthrop 7 pm lead by the men
Friday, March 31st: Gibbon 7 pm lead by the men
Friday, April 7th: Winthrop 12:30 pm lead by the students, Good Friday Service at 1 pm

AREA COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

Sunday, March 12th- 2:00 pm (Winthrop)
Sunday, March 19th- 2:00 pm (Fairfax)

“WINE AND DIVINE” St. Willibrord's CCW (Council of Catholic Women) is again offering ALL the women of St. Willibrord's AND our Area Faith Community a relaxing and fun evening. You are invited to attend “Wine and Divine” night from 6:30 to about 8:30 p.m., on Sunday evening, February 26th, at St. Willibrord's church social hall. Bring a friend! The evening social includes Wine (wine tasting of several varieties), cheese & crackers, and “build your own cheesecake” (with fresh berries). There will be coffee or juice for those that do not want wine. We are going to have a tasting of **home-made Mead (Honey) Wine**, along with the recipe! Mead, or “honey wine,” is an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting honey. It's one of the oldest alcoholic beverages ever made, as it was consumed as far back as 4,000 years, common across many ancient cultures! Top that off with good conversation with other women (get to know some new faces), and closing with a faith inspiration presentation (the “divine” part). We have two door prizes this year, and you will also receive a thank you gift. **Please RSVP to Berny at jbberger1972@gmail.com, or call/text (320) 583-7975**, or call 834-6321 (leave a message) by February 21st, if possible, so we have an approximate number to plan for. But if you decide at the last minute that you are able to attend – no problem – come anyway! And please tell your friends or family members about this and join us...

UNITED FOR LIFE – FEBRUARY 28 – STATE CAPITOL, ST. PAUL Plan to join Bishop Chad Zielinski and people from around the diocese for a day of education and advocacy at the Capitol on February 28, from 10:00-2:30. The day will include educational speakers, as well as, opportunities to talk with your elected officials and advocate for the protection of the unborn. Go to dnu.org to register for the event and the bus. Both registrations are free. Lunch options include the cafeteria in the Capitol, as well as cafeterias in the surrounding state buildings. Check your parish postings or dnu.org for bus routes and pick-up times. The bus is being provided by the Diocese free of charge. Please register now to avoid change/elimination of any of the three bus routes. We want our buses to be full. We hope to see you there. Let us make our pro-life voice heard.

THE ANNUAL BISHOP LUCKER LECTURE will be held Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls featuring Fr. Matthew Monshau, O.P. Fr. Monshau serves as Professor and Formator at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul. He is commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as a national Eucharistic preacher to enkindle the flame of Eucharistic faith for the bishops' nationwide Eucharistic Revival.

JOIN US AT ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

Preschool Preregistration Night: Parents who want to register their children for next year's three year old or four year old preschool classes are invited to attend Preregistration Night on Monday, February 27, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. (open house) in Mrs. Schumacher's preschool classroom. This meeting is for parents only to learn about our preschool program. Email Mrs. Schumacher at mrs.schumacher@sesmschool.com for more information!

Kindergarten Information Night: Parents of 2023-2024 kindergarteners are invited to attend the Kindergarten Information Night on Monday, February 27, from 6:30-7:15 p.m. in Mrs. Pelzel's kindergarten classroom. This meeting is for parents only to learn about our kindergarten program. Email Mrs. Pelzel at mrs.bpelzel@sesmschool.com for more information You can also contact the school by calling 507-794-6141 with any questions!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Kindergarten Round-up for all potential kindergarteners and their parents will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 16!

**If you have friends or family members who may be interested in learning about St. Mary's Catholic School, we encourage you to invite them to attend any of these events!*

LENTEN LUNCHEON SERIES TO BE HOSTED BY WINTHROP AREA CHURCHES! NOON-1PM

Join with friends and neighbors for lunch and an ecumenical worship service each Wednesday during Lent. A light meal will be served at noon with a short service to follow. Hosting schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, March 1st-First Lutheran Church
- Wednesday, March 8th -- Faith United Church
- Wednesday, March 15th - St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
- Wednesday, March 22nd - Peace Lutheran Church
- Wednesday, March 29th - Covenant Church

<p>Enkindle, Rekindle, and Deepen a Living Relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist</p> <p>The U.S. Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis has launched a <i>Heart of the Revival</i> weekly email newsletter for ongoing inspiration and information as we journey forward toward the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress.</p> <p>CATHOLICS OF ALL AGES ENCOURAGED TO SIGN-UP!</p> <p>It's the simplest way to stay connected to what the National Eucharistic Revival is all about.</p> <p>Visit the Diocese of New Ulm website, dnu.org to sign-up for the newsletter, learn of various upcoming Eucharistic Revival events, and more.</p>	
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WEEKLY OFFERING

	St. Andrew's	St. Francis's	St. Willibrord's
Adult	1,243.00	671.00	1,220.00
Loose/Youth Plate	88.00	106.00	103.00
Catholic Education	105.00		
Maintenance/Building			75.00
Black & Indian Mission			
Turkey/Syria Earthquake	622.00	377.00	603.00
Central & Eastern Europe	25.00		40.00
Votive Lights			
Cemetery-Perpetual			
TOTAL	\$2,083.00	\$1,154.00	\$2,041.00

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:
 Please continue to pray for the following military personnel who are members of our parish families and are serving full time or active duty in the military: MSG William R. Schmidt, SSG Jeff Ziegler, Ryan E Lawrenz, SGT, Sgt. Chris Levinske, Amber Lindberg, Sgt Kenneth Coleman, SFC Timothy R. Green, Spc Adam Nosbush, Lt. Col. Steven Weber, Jackie Rieke and SGT Colin Jackson, CSM Rebecca (Zitzmann) Booker

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Wednesday March 1, 2023:** Class
- Wednesday March 8, 2023:** No Class
- Wednesday March 15, 2023:** Class
- Wednesday March 22, 2023:** Class
- Wednesday March 29, 2023:** Class

ST. WILLIBRORD'S – GIBBON

Sunday, **March 5th**-8:00 AM (Time Change)

Lector: Melvin Neyers/Regie Mattes **Dist:** Mavis Lindmeyer **Servers:** Abby & Kelly Willegal **Ushers:** Nick Stadtherr, Jesse Forstner, James Theis **Gifts:** Steve & Gail Herschman **Sacristan:** Kathy Bruns

Sunday, **March 12th**-8:00 AM

Lector: Jerome Petersen **Dist:** Genny Neyers **Servers:** Christopher Ruiz, Gabriel Ruiz, Regie Mattes **Ushers:** Nick Stadtherr, Jesse Forstner, James Theis **Gifts:** Roger & Karen Holm **Sacristan:** Connie Tautges

Sunday, **March 19th**-8:00 AM

Lector: Chuck/Ann Southworth **Dist:** Jerome Petersen **Servers:** Imani & Mandy Prigge **Ushers:** Nick Stadtherr, Jesse Forstner, James Theis **Gifts:** Brett & Shannonn Howe **Sacristan:** Charlene Forst

St. Willibrord's Catholic United Financial "Calendar Raffle Winner" of \$100 for Week #48, goes to **Amy Weber**, of Gibbon. Congratulations, and thank you for your support!

ENVELOPES ARE HERE. You can pick up in the back of church. Sorry for the wait but it was out of our hands. Thanks.

ENJOY SOCIAL GATHERINGS AFTER SUNDAY MORNING MASS! We are in need of support. Please sign up or call Genny at 834-6659 or Mavis at 834-6537 if you can bring or host a Sunday. Thank you.

"WINE AND DIVINE" St. Willibrord's CCW (Council of Catholic Women) is again offering ALL the women of St. Willibrord's AND our Area Faith Community a relaxing and fun evening. You are invited to attend "Wine and Divine" night from 6:30 to about 8:30 p.m., on Sunday evening, February 26th, at St. Willibrord's church social hall. Bring a friend! The evening social includes Wine (wine tasting of several varieties), cheese & crackers, and "build your own cheesecake" (with fresh berries). There will be coffee or juice for those that do not want wine. We are going to have a tasting of *home-made Mead (Honey) Wine*, along with the recipe! Mead, or "honey wine," is an alcoholic beverage made by fermenting honey. It's one of the oldest alcoholic beverages ever made, as it was consumed as far back as 4,000 years, common across many ancient cultures! Top that off with good conversation with other women (get to know some new faces), and closing with a faith inspiration presentation (the "divine" part). We have two door prizes this year, and you will also receive a thank you gift. **Please RSVP to Berny at jbberger1972@gmail.com, or call/text (320) 583-7975**, or call 834-6321 (leave a message) by February 21st, if possible, so we have an approximate number to plan for. But if you decide at the last minute that you are able to attend – no problem – come anyway! And please tell your friends or family members about this and join us...

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING – ST. WILLIBRORD'S CHURCH

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Giving July 1st, 2022-February 22nd, 2023

Income \$86,777.50 (\$11,500 Fall Festival)

Expenses \$59,109.26

Net Gain/Loss \$27,668.24

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – WINTHROP

Sunday, **March 5th**-10:00 AM (Day & Time Change)

Lector: Harry Slood **Eucharistic Ministers:** Dennis Dording **Servers:** Riley Hacker, Megan Hacker, Volunteer **Gifts:** Leon Lang, Ron Hillesheim **Ushers:** Barb Pagel, Mike Rein, Gary & Mary Renner **Money Counters:** Barb Pagel, Gary Renner **Sacristan:** Gary & Mary Renner

Sunday, **March 12th**-10:00 AM

Lector: Bob & Laurie Kaukola **Eucharistic Ministers:** Tom Witucki **Servers:** Jose Farias, Jossue Farias, Alan Banda **Gifts:** Lauretta Stutsman, Jean Groehler **Ushers:** Barb Pagel, Mike Rein, Gary & Mary Renner **Money Counters:** Barb Pagel, Gary Renner **Sacristan:** Gary & Mary Renner

Sunday, **March 19th**-10:00 AM

Lector: Barb Pagel **Eucharistic Ministers:** Tyler & Emilee Stehr **Servers:** Will Lang, Quinn Schmidt, Brynn Busse **Gifts:** Dennis & Joan Dording **Ushers:** Barb Pagel, Mike Rein, Gary & Mary Renner **Money Counters:** Barb Pagel, Gary Renner **Sacristan:** Gary & Mary Renner

SOCIAL GATHERINGS AFTER MASS! Please sign up to serve treats! The sign-up sheet is in the church kitchen. Or, you may call Mary Nelson (320-583-0538) or Mike Rein (507-217-6044) or Laurie Kaukola (507-276-0331). Thank You!

MINNESOTA FOODSHARE FOOD DRIVE will be from February 27 - April 9, 2023. Donations of food items in the past have been greatly appreciated by Sibley County FoodShare. Thank you for your past support. We are neighbors helping neighbors. There

will be a food donation box in the entrance area of the church. Thank you for continuing to donate and work toward ending hunger in Sibley County.

ST. ANDREW'S – FAIRFAX

Saturday, **March 4th-5:00 PM (Day & Time Change)**

Lector: Pat Buboltz **Dist:** Karen Bastian **Servers:** Maddy, Lydia, Kellen & Sylvia Nachreiner **Ushers:** George Wendinger, Jim Prax, Tom Nachreiner, Dave Borth **Gifts:** Curtis & Lisa Nachreiner **Sacristan:** Chuck Marlowe/Carol Gregory

Saturday, **March 11th-5:00 PM**

Lector: Anita Weir **Dist:** Eloina & Rodrigo Carillo **Servers:** Annika Nosbush, Keyden Buboltz, Micahl Nachreiner **Ushers:** Randy Boehm, Kevin Schweiss, Frank Ziegler, Kevin Roiger **Gifts:** Ross & Andrea Nachreiner **Sacristan:** Agnes Wendinger

Saturday, **March 18th-5:00 PM**

Lector: Jan Simonsen **Dist:** LeRoy Schwiess **Servers:** Luke & William Bastian, Kaden Weir **Ushers:** David Runck, Leander Nachreiner, Gilbert Borth, Ron Marlowe **Gifts:** Leander & Mary Nachreiner **Sacristan:** Chuck Marlowe/Carol Gregory

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES You can now pick up your contribution envelopes in the back of the church. Sorry for the wait but it was out of our hands. Thanks.

MARCH IS "FOOD SHELF MONTH" The donation boxes will be at both entrances of the church. Any canned food or non-perishable food can be donated. If you wish to make a cash donation, please make checks to "Renville County Food Shelf." Donations will be accepted from March 1st thru March 31st. any questions or concerns, please call Agnes Wendinger (426-7675) or Sandy Hellendrung (426-7480). Thank you for your generosity.

ST. ANN'S FUNERAL GROUP 5: Denine Hellendrung, Desiree Ziegler

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Giving July 1st, 2022 – February 22nd, 2023

Income	\$ 124,756.95	Donations to Maintenance Fund	\$53,905.28
Expenses	<u>\$ 92,023.78</u>	Roof Payment	<u>93,578.75</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 32,733.17	Shortfall	(\$39,673.47)

D I O C E S E
of NEW ULM

Office of the Bishop

February 9, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of the Black and Indian Mission Collection! The Black and Indian Mission Collection, established as the first National Collection in 1874, has proven itself to be a successful vehicle for sharing the resources of the Church's members to provide for the needs of our African American, Native American, and Alaska Native brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis reminds us that everyone is meant to evangelize. This Collection so clearly authenticates Pope Francis' call to us to work as a family to help all of our brothers and sisters and to share the Love, Faith and Hope of Jesus Christ. As we embark on another year of evangelization in the African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities, everyone is encouraged to make a difference by offering their prayers for the fruitful support of the missions in the United States and to consider expressing concretely their Christian solidarity through sacrificial offerings.

We all agree that never have the needs for African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities been so great especially during this unprecedented pandemic. History tells us that lasting change to a community can all come through faith, hope and charity. Please continue to support this mission of faith and hope by your most generous charity.

Your support provides the presence of missionaries here in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native missions, parishes, schools, religious education programs and the many, many diocesan programs and projects that strengthen the work of the Gospel. **Your partnership** places Bibles and catechetical materials in the hands of priests, consecrated men and women, and lay leaders. **Your sacrifice** impacts pastoral work across the country and addresses the need to train catechists, permanent deacons, and seminarians for future generations here in many of our neighborhoods and backyards. It is only through the constant generosity of everyone that evangelization efforts are multiplied a thousand fold.

In 2023, we ask everyone to make a sacrificial gift to the 2023 National Black and Indian Mission Collection and continue to support the evangelization efforts for African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities in the United States. Learn more about the Black and Indian Missions at www.blackandindianmission.org and help us invite all peoples to open the door of faith and begin the journey of a lifetime!

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski
Bishop of New Ulm

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