

## Marian Hall Demolition and Friary Renovation

Fr. Fred Gatschet

Even though it took quite a while for all the variables (insurances, contractors, schedules, the chancery, etc.) to fall together, Marian Hall has been taken down. We ended up with the project being done well and paid for.

As was reported in the bulletin, the cost breakdown for the project was as follows:

Asbestos removal.....	\$77,475.00
Project coordination.....	\$10,000.00
Demolition.....	\$91,500.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$178,975.00</b>

The funds for the project came from:

Rent payments from TMP.....	\$56,000.00
Generous parishioner gift .....	\$60,000.00
Unrestricted gift funds.....	\$10,000.00
Parish reserves/savings.....	\$52,975.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$178,975.00</b>

As many of you are aware, we finished the last fiscal year very much in the black. Those extra funds helped to finish this project with no additional need to ask the parish for more financial support. So again, my thanks to all who so generously and consistently support the mission of St. Joseph Parish!

The removal of the old convent/Marian Hall is not without its pain. Many people remember the days when the convent was full of sisters who were doing fantastic work in the Hays community. The convent was built as just that—a convent for religious sisters. We were fortunate that it was able to be re-purposed for a number of years as the girls' dormitory for the resident program at TMP. With that program now gone, and with the myriad of maintenance issues facing that building, the continuing expenses of insurance, utilities, and maintenance, and with no real prospects of being able to economically remodel it for some other use, there was simply no other solution other than to tear it down.

To me, the real pain and shame of tearing down the old convent is whatever happened to our culture that ceased encouraging young women to commit their lives to the service of the Gospel. Ideally the convent would still be full of sisters bearing great witness to Jesus. When the convent was built in 1958, it was considered to be a great and noble thing for a young lady to enter the convent. Now people wonder "what is wrong with her?" Maybe for the near future, the empty lot on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Fort could remind us all to pray for vocations and for a renewal in our culture that will foster vocations.

The next project will be the renovation of the Friary so that we can ultimately move the parish offices back there and turn the current parish office building over to a developer and have it converted into apartments for the elderly. The developer will assume the costs of renovating the parish service center so there will be no cost to the parish for that. We will, however, have to have some kind of a fund raiser for renovating the friary. We are hoping to do all of the fundraising "in house" without going to one of the professional fundraising organizations. Please pray for the success of this project and, through *The Carpenter* and the parish bulletin, try to stay informed as to what is going on. Feel free to contact me, our business manager, Tony Dreiling, or any of our parish or finance council members if you have any questions or concerns.



### MASSES & SACRAMENTS

**Saturday:** 5:00pm (Vigil Mass)  
LifeTeen Mass - 1st & 3rd Sat.

**Sunday:** 7:30am  
10:30am - Choir Mass (Sept - May)  
Liturgy for Little Ones (Sept - May)  
Campus Center 9:00am & 6:00pm

**Weekdays:** St. Joseph - Mon. - Fri. 6:30am  
Campus Center - Mon. - Thurs. 5:45pm  
*(Only when FHSU is in session)*

**Holy Days:** 5:30pm Vigil, 6:30am, 12:05pm, 5:30pm

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St. Joseph - Saturdays at 3:30 - 4:30pm  
Campus Center - Mon. - Thurs. 5:15 pm  
*(Only when FHSU is in session)*  
Sunday 5:00 - 5:30 pm

#### Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Office.  
Baptism Class is generally first Monday of the month.

#### Sacrament of Marriage:

Please contact Parish office no later than six months prior. Couples expecting a traditional Catholic Wedding are expected to be living a traditional Catholic lifestyle.

#### Sacrament of Anointing:

Please contact the parish office.

**St. Joseph Church**  
215 West 13th  
Hays, Ks. 67601  
[www.stj-church.com](http://www.stj-church.com)  
[stjoseph@ruraltel.net](mailto:stjoseph@ruraltel.net)



**BAPTISMS**

Naylee Katherine Begler  
Kenzee Lila Begler

*Daughters of Aaron and Shannon Begler*

Myah Mae Dreiling

*Daughter Luke & Lacey Dreiling*

Griffin Lee McNeil

*Son of Dillon & Alison McNeil*

Evangeline Joan Schmeidler

*Daughter of Jerome & Angela Schmeidler*

Pierce Douglas Schoenberger

*Son of Jason Schoenberger & Shannon Begler*

Magdalyn Rae Taylor

*Daughter of Anthony & Breanne Taylor*

Wesley Paul Yarmer

*Son of Drew & Whitney Yarmer*

**IN MEMORIAM**

Clarence Bieker

Christine M. Billinger

Carolyn M. Bird

Clara Kramer

Thomas "Tom" Runge

Wilfred "Will" Sander

Donald W. Schmidt

Marjorie Stegman

**WELCOME NEW  
PARISHIONERS**

Carol Bedore

Howard Jeffcoat

Jeff Keberlein

Jeffrey & Katherine Leiker

Shaun & Nicole Linenberger

Blake & Rachel Ruder

Elsie Schmeidler

Elden & Pauline Westhusing

**ADVENT**

Fr Fred Gatschet

Advent may be the most misunderstood and least appreciated of our liturgical seasons. Advent is not a kind of "miniature Lent before Christmas." While Lent is a time of penance and conversion, Advent is a time of joyful anticipation.

How might we best prepare? St. John the Baptist, echoing the words of the Prophet Isaiah, tells us to "Make straight a highway for our God." For this reason, we always offer extra confessions during Advent. Check the bulletin for these times.

But how else, in the hustle and mayhem of the holiday season can we enter joyfully into this period of preparation? We might start by thinking about past good times that we have enjoyed. When I reflect on my teaching years at TMP, and what a blessing it was to be invited to be a part of all those young peoples' lives, I find myself regretting that I did not spend a few moments in class, as the kids were working on their assignments, to just sit back and savor being with them; watching them grow and develop or taking more time to laugh at their youthful antics. Or when I think of the days of summer and spending time at the lake, I now wish I would have spent more time relishing the sun, the cool water, the sunsets, and the good times with family and friends.

I think Advent bids us to do just this. Advent is the invitation for us to relish and savor the moment. In these short days of winter, why not make a cup of hot coffee, cocoa, or tea, get into a comfortable chair, and reflect. Reflect on the blessings of family, whether your family



is young or your children have all grown and moved away, don't regret but reflect on how God guides us in our daily family life.

Since Christmas comes and goes so fast, why not take the time now, during Advent, to gaze in silence at the Manger. What did the Nativity Scene mean to me when I first helped Mom set it up as a 5 year old? What does it mean now?

It does no good to complain about the hyper-commercialization of Christmas. That is not going to change and none of us has any control over it. But we do have control over our own experiences. Advent beckons us to take some time and enter into the mystery of waiting for our Savior. We wait with our Blessed Mother. We wait with a world that is tired of empty promises. And we wait with our own experiences. Christmas will be here soon. Let's take advantage of Advent while we can.

*On behalf of  
Fr. Fred, Fr. Charles and  
the parish staff  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

**Wir wuenschen euch ein**  
(We wish you a)  
**glueckliches Neues Jahr,**  
(Happy New Year)  
**ein langes Leben,**  
(a long life)  
**Gesundheit,**  
(good health)  
**Friede und Einigkeit,**  
(peace and goodwill)  
**und nach dem Tod,**  
(and after death)  
**die ewige Glueckseligkeit.**  
(eternal happiness)

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH****ADVENT VESPERS & BENEDICTION**

Each Sunday during Advent  
5:30 p.m.

**ST. JOSEPH CHOIR MIDNIGHT  
MASS CHOIR PRELUDE**

**Join us at 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve** as the St. Joseph Choir fills the church with various Advent and Christmas Carols, all leading up to the Solemnity of Midnight Mass. Please join us.

## Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Fr. Charles Awotwi

At the Holy Door in St. Peter's basilica, right before the First Vespers of the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, on April 11, the Holy Father, Pope Francis announced an historic event, an Extraordinary Year of Mercy. The Extraordinary Year of Mercy runs from December 8, 2015, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to Nov. 20, 2016, the solemnity of Christ the King.

The papal bull, *Misericordiae Vultus* (*The Face of Mercy*) gave clear specification of the Holy Year. The opening words of the bull, "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy," revealed the motto chosen for the Jubilee Year, "Merciful like the Father," coming from Luke 6:36, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." Pope Francis, for whom mercy has become the signature of his pontificate, sees mercy as the appropriate response to the ills of the contemporary culture. The theme of mercy is not without precedence in our catholic tradition. John Paul II taught that, "the limit imposed upon evil, of which man is both perpetrator and victim, is ultimately Divine Mercy."

With that, the pope calls on all Christian to undertake a critical self-reflection, shining the light of faith in the Father of Jesus Christ on every strata of our life during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, that we may come to see ourselves "warts and all," as the Father sees us, and then see beyond that the Father's superabundant mercy. That is the posture that gives the Jubilee Year its great significance. The Extraordinary Year of Mercy is a time of special grace from God, and to attain indulgences.

Pope Francis made it clear in his letter to the president of the Pontifical Council, that "This Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one," and he took time to specify the different ways in which the diverse population that constituted the church, can in their particular context participate in and

benefit from the celebration of the Holy Year in order to ensure "for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God." The manner of participation is varied to commensurate with the varied circumstances church.

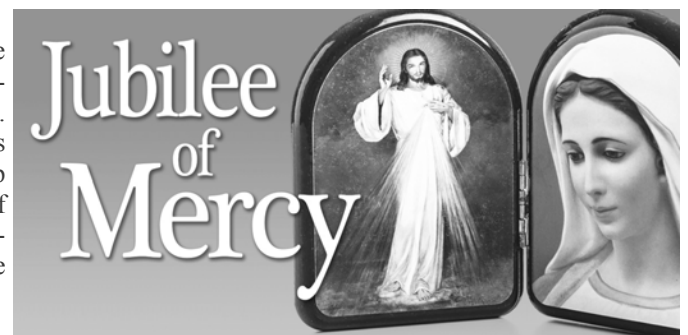
Now, what is a Jubilee Year? Christian Jubilee dates back to Old Testament times. In Leviticus the law of Moses prescribed a special year, *Yobel* (Hebrew for *Jubilee* cf. 25:10-14), the celebration of which includes the restitution of land to the original owners, the remission of debts, the liberation of slaves, and rest for the land, which was left to fallow. In his manifesto, Jesus presents himself as the One who brings the old Jubilee to fulfillment, as he declares that he has come to "preach the year of the Lord's favor" (Lk 4:18-19).

The tradition of Christian Jubilee began with Pope Boniface VIII, who on February 20, 1300 published the bull *Antiquorum habet fida relation*. He declared that he granted afresh and renews certain "great remissions and indulgences for sins." Since then the Church has celebrated 26 ordinary and three extraordinary Jubilee Years. Once again, the Holy Year is a grace-filled moment, an opportunity for reconciliation between adversaries and conversion. In this endeavor, the sacraments become efficacious medium. It is a time of solidarity, hope, justice and a renewed commitment to our faith with joy, to live peace with rest of the human family. A Jubilee Year is a time to focus on Christ who brings life and grace to humanity.

In the words of Pope Francis, "it is a favorable time to heal wounds" a time to realize the closeness of God, a time to "offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation." As the focal point is the attainment of indulgence, which connected to the Jubilee Year, has to do with full and entire remission of all sins. The buzzword is "remission" *a culpa et a poena* i.e. of guilt and of punishment. Guilt is remitted in the Catholic Church only in virtue of sacramental confession and sorrow of the penitent. Indulgence on the other hand, has to do with the remission of penalty. That is why the sacrament of reconciliation is so critical.

The celebration of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy calls for array of concrete practices. The Pope called on all to steep themselves in the Word of God through reading and meditating of Sacred Scriptures, in order to be capable of mercy. The Holy Father notes the special place the practice of pilgrimage occupies in this Holy Year. Traditionally, pilgrimages have been to Rome and engage in practices such passing through the Holy Doors of the Major Basilicas of Rome that are typically opened during such Jubilees. During this year, Holy Doors will be opened in the cathedrals, co-cathedrals, and particular local churches throughout the world. Pilgrimages to shrines under the patronage of Jesus, the Divine Mercy Incarnate are to be means of gaining indulgence. For pope Francis further, it is a 'burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and perform them readily."

Watch out more on the celebration of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. There will bulletin inserts and other material to help us take full advantage of the opportune time experience the mercy of the Father.



## 2015 - Advent/Christmas Schedule - 2016

Our Lady Help of Christians - Antonino  
St. Anthony - Schoenchen  
St. Catherine - Catharine

St. Joseph - Hays  
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Hays  
St. Nicholas of Myra - Hays

St. Francis of Assisi - Munjor  
Comeau Catholic Campus Center

### December 6, 2015 - Second Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph - Advent Vesper/Benediction Services - 5:30pm

### December 7, 2015 - Monday, Vigil-Immaculate Conception

Antonino - 7:00pm  
IHM - 5:30pm  
Munjor - 5:30pm  
St. Joseph - 5:30pm  
St. Nicholas - 7:00pm

### December 8, 2015 - Tuesday, Immaculate Conception

Catharine - 7:00pm  
Catholic Campus Center - 4:45pm (*No Vigil Mass offered*)  
Catholic Campus Center - 9:00pm National Night of Prayer  
IHM - 8:00am & 12:15pm  
St. Joseph - 6:30am, 12:05pm, 5:30pm  
St. Nicholas - 7:00pm

### December 9, 2015 - Wednesday

Munjor - 7:00pm Communal Penance Service

### December 12, 2015 - Saturday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

IHM - Danza - 11:00pm Friday Night, Mananitas - 12:00am followed by breakfast in Activity Center. Mass - 7:00pm followed by fiesta in the Activity Center.

### December 13, 2015 - Third Sunday of Advent

IHM - Communal Penance Service, 3:00pm  
IHM - Evening Prayer, 9:00pm  
St. Joseph - Advent Vesper/Benediction Services - 5:30pm

### December 14, 2015 - Monday

IHM - Evening Prayer, 9:00 pm

### December 15, 2015 - Tuesday

IHM - Evening Prayer, 9:00pm  
St. Nicholas of Myra - 7:00pm Communal Penance Service

### December 16, 2015 - Wednesday

IHM - Faith Formation Advent Prayer Svc. 7:00pm in church  
IHM - Evening Prayer, 9:00pm  
IHM - Posadas 7:00pm in the Activity Center

### December 17, 2015 - Thursday

IHM - Evening Prayer, 9:00pm  
IHM - Posadas at 7:00pm in the Activity Center

### December 18, 2015 - Friday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00pm in the Activity Center

### December 19, 2015 - Saturday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00pm in the Activity Center

### December 20, 2015 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

IHM - Posadas at 7:00pm in the Activity Center  
St. Joseph - Advent Vesper/Benediction Services - 5:30pm

### December 21, 2015 - Monday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00pm in the Activity Center  
St. Joseph - 7:00pm Communal Penance Service

### December 22, 2015 - Tuesday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00pm in the Activity Center  
St. Joseph - Confessions at noon until ?

### December 23, 2015 - Wednesday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center  
St. Joseph - Confessions following the 6:30am Mass until ?

### December 24, 2015 - Christmas Eve - Thursday

Antonino - 4:00pm  
Comeau Campus Center - 10:00pm (*No Mass Christmas Day*)  
IHM - 5:00pm., 7:00pm (Spanish), & Midnight (*No Confessions*)  
Munjor - 9:00pm  
Schoenchen - 5:30p,  
St. Joseph - 5:00pm w/Christmas Pageant  
St. Joseph - 11:30pm Choir Christmas Music, Midnight Mass  
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00pm (Family Mass), Midnight

### December 25, 2015 - Christmas Day - Friday

IHM - 8:00am., 10:00am, **NO** 12pm or 6:00pm Mass  
Munjor - 10:30am  
Catharine - 9:00am  
St. Joseph - 7:30am, 10:30am  
St. Nicholas of Myra - 8:30am

### December 31, 2015 - Thursday, Vigil - Solemnity of Mary

Comeau Campus Center - 6:00pm  
IHM - 5:30pm (English), 7:00pm (Spanish)  
Munjor - 7:00pm  
Schoenchen - 5:30pm  
St. Joseph - 5:00pm  
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00pm

### January 1, 2016 - Friday, Solemnity of Mary

IHM - 9:00am (English)  
Catharine - 9:00am  
St. Joseph - 9:00am  
St. Nicholas of Myra - 9:00am

### **St. Joseph Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Mass Annual Children Pageant.**

We need children grades K - 6 to portray Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, and kings. If you are interested please call Kevin at the parish office by Wednesday, December 23rd at 785-625-7356. Practice will be on Wednesday evening, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Children are also needed for the Children's choir that will help lead the singing for this Mass. Practice for the Children's Choir will be on Monday evening, December 23rd at about 7:00 p.m. directly following the pageant practice, all in the church.

## NCYC 2015 - Indianapolis, IN

Jerry & Renee Michaud

What is NCYC? An Opportunity... a Pilgrimage... a Life-Changer? It is all this and so much more! With an open heart, NCYC was a growing experience for each person who attended, each coming from where we were at on our faith journey. As the Speakers and Musicians shared their stories & talents, the Lord was undeniably present. As a body of believers, we experienced the beauty

and universality of the Church, full of energy, excitement, and deep meaning as we encountered Christ together. The theme, **HERE I AM, LORD**, has been modeled for us by many holy men & women in history, including our Blessed Mother Mary, who embraced this call as a holy example of bravery and faith. We dedicated our pilgrimage to the intercession and protection of our Lady with the Miraculous Medal. As the speakers developed the theme throughout NCYC, it became our prayer that the seeds planted there, joined with our own willingness to respond to this call, would bear much fruit in the lives of those who attended. Thank you to St. Joseph Parish for supporting Youth Ministry and experiences like these for our youth. Read the comments of our young parishioners and sponsors and be filled with great hope for the future of our Church! It has been a privilege to coordinate this experience for our parish, and they have represented you well across the miles! **Jerry and Renee Michaud**

I don't really know where to begin. It's hard to put on paper how something has changed your life once it has happened. How do you begin to do it justice? I wasn't sure what to expect as a parent going to NCYC. Would this just be another conference? Another "field trip"? another tiring weekend away? It was like nothing I've ever experienced before. It was full of energy, humor, love, and most importantly: God, his son Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and our faith. I have never experienced

something that has made me so excited about being Catholic. Often times, it becomes a bit predictable, routine and honestly, "boring" to repeat the same rituals over and over. NCYC breathes new life into all of that. It makes you rediscover your faith, view it from the eyes of our youth, and it makes it a new fire that burns within you. In a few words: it is life-changing. There is an intangible energy in the opening session, and it

flows all through the conference. Highlights for me were: the music (incredible) the humor (EmCees were funny and kept everyone's attention) the Eucharistic adoration (was breathtaking, and the priest from Haiti was amazing—25,000 people quiet enough to hear a pin drop-wow!) and the workshops (Leah Darrow was a game changer for the kids, and Jason Evert MUST come to speak to the Heartland Parish Youth about chastity.) On a personal note, the many opportunities to go to confession were so appreciated. I think every youth in our group was able to be forgiven through this sacrament. It is so important to have this available when

there is so much talk about beginning anew with God, how much he loves and forgives us, and how we are not our sins. I am so glad this was available, because the kids see each other taking advantage of this opportunity, so they want to do it as well. It was inspiring to see our kids excited about their faith and to be so proud of it. They learned a ton, as did I, and it will hopefully keep them armed with their faith in this messy world we live in. I could go on and on, but I'll just end with Thank You. Thank you for letting me be a part of this. I am forever changed, forever inspired, and forever blessed because of this. I hope to pass it on and spread this amazing fire for our faith. Every Catholic teen should experience this, and every

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Catholic adult should get a chance to be a part of this if possible—all parents should get a chance to watch their children soak up their faith in a way they have never seen before. God Bless all those who make NCYC possible, and again, thank you for allowing me to come. **Jessica Speno, St. Joseph Parish.**

I didn't really know what to expect, but I really liked it, it was a good experience. The Breakout Sessions were really cool, but I liked all of the music and the Mass when we were in the stadium, too. I thought it was good how we could donate things at Camp Tekawitha. I look forward to going again in two years. **Connor Staab, Freshman**

I thought I was just going to another camp, except with a religious setting. I didn't think I would have the experience I did. I know one thing for sure, though, now that I have gone to NCYC I know more about my faith than I ever have. NCYC is like a big family from all over the country coming together to praise and worship God. At NCYC I have had an unforgettable experience. I truly believe that I have changed as a person and as a follower of God. There is no doubt in my mind that I will definitely come again in two years to have an awesome life-changing experience like I had this time. **Jacob Schmeidler, Freshman**



## STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL FORMS COMING YOUR WAY

Terry Leiker, St. Joseph Stewardship Commission Chairperson

As we thank the Good Lord for all he has given us, let us look forward to the New Year with grateful hearts. The Stewardship Renewal Forms, the treasure forms and your individual donation statements will be mailed out to each St. Joseph Parish family the last week of January 2016. By prayerfully reviewing our previous renewal form and past commitments, we then recommit to the prior ministries or choose other ministries for the upcoming year. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance to help each of us take another step in life's journey toward the Stewardship Way of Life.

The Ark of the Covenant will again be located on the altar under the statue of St. Joseph. As a sign of our covenant with our Lord we place our completed Stewardship Renewal Forms in the Ark. Our treasure forms may be returned to the Parish Office in the envelope provided, placed in the Ark, or placed in the collection basket. All forms should be returned by the end of February 2016.

**A New Year, New Beginning for the Christian Steward** - From the International Catholic Stewardship Council

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years. The start of a New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start, a new beginning, and new opportunities. It is a time when people feel that they can begin anew with their lives.

Although there is nothing in the Bible or notable Christian tradition about New Year's resolutions, many good stewards take advantage of this time of year to become closer to the Lord. They may recommit themselves to pray more, to read the Bible, or to attend Mass more regularly. If you are looking for some help in your New Year's resolutions, here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ◆ **Practice gratitude** - Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Every day, express thankfulness to the Lord and to others. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.
- ◆ **Encounter the Lord each day** -

Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them. Our encounters will keep our eyes and ears open to the presence of Christ in our midst.

- ◆ **Be present to others** - There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in peoples' lives. What a blessing it is to be able to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence to others is much more valuable than you realize.
- ◆ **Resist overwork** - There is a pressure to produce, meet goals, be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance, down time and letting go of unrealistic goals.
- ◆ **Nurture friendship** - Our friends are those we choose to be with, those with whom we spend our evenings, with whom we vacation, to whom we go to for advice. Friends are gifts from God who give us a greater appreciation of God's love for us. Friends need our time and love.

## OLD CONVENT/ TMP DORM IS NO MORE

Ruth Firestone

Workers from Flatlander Dirt Works were tearing down the building at 13<sup>th</sup> and Fort as I arrived to interview St. Joseph Parish Business Manager Tony Dreiling and Pastor Fr. Fred Gatschet regarding its demolition. Tony explained, "The parish built the structure in 1958 to house the Sisters of St. Agnes, who were employed here in teaching, nursing and pastoral care."

Sr. Mary Ann Schippers, who lived there for more than a dozen years, briefly described the interior, "The first floor of the convent contained reception, dining and common rooms, as well as a laundry room. There was a chapel at the south end. Upstairs were private bedrooms for 20 sisters plus a common bath."

As their numbers declined, the sisters deemed it more practical to live in smaller quarters, so they leased private homes shared by three or four. After this, the convent became Marian Hall, a dormitory for students of TMP-Marian High School until the Resident Student program was discontinued in May, 2015.

Pastor Fr. Fred Gatschet, began by remarking, "There never was anything distinctive about the building - it could not be used for anything but a convent or dormitory." Later, in an e-mail, he added, "The building was facing major problems with wiring, heating, and plumbing. All of these issues would have had to be re-

solved and Lord knows at what cost."

So, as Fr. Fred's e-mail concluded, "The parish was left with an abandoned building in need of extensive maintenance, repair, and renovation. Given this situation, after consulting with the Parish and Finance Councils, who also saw no future for the building, and at the direction of the bishop, I made the decision as Pastor that the old convent would come down."

Despite the recognition that the building needed to go, both Lil Basgall and Sr. Mary Ann recall it with affection. Sr. Mary Ann said, "I enjoyed living in a convent that had all we sisters needed—it was spacious and accommodating to our needs. It was also close enough to the church, school, and to many of the homebound that I could come home for lunch." She continued, "I loved the chapel especially and cleaned it while I lived there."

Lil, founder of the Perpetual Eucharistic Adorers, also loved the building. "When we began on February 28, 1993, we met in a little room on the west side of the convent. After the sisters left, we moved to the chapel, where we remained until June, 2010, when we relocated to Immaculate Heart of Mary." Lil thinks the Lord and the chapel helped the Adorers get off to a good start—she added, "We are still thriving today.."

**SCHEDULES****Gift Bearers - Homebound - Ushers****December 5 & 6 - Second Sunday of Advent**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Rob Wasinger, Ralph Wellbrock,  
Eric Haas, Joe Billinger

7:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Karen Marsell/Irvin Leiker  
US: Michael Brull, Sam Banda,  
Steve Dreiling, Vern Gross

10:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Vickie Hawthorne/Twila Logsdon  
US: Leon Wolf, Eric Augustine,  
Jeremy Coulter, Jim Dinkel

**December 7/8 - Immaculate Conception**

5:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Lester Witthuhn, James Fieler  
Ralph Wellbrock, Mel Pfannenstiel

6:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: **Ushers Needed**

12:05 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Jerry Rome, Ed Heronema,  
Leon Wolf, Usher Needed

5:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Michael Brull, Sam Banda,  
Wilbert Pfeifer, Vernon Gross

**December 12 & 13 Third Sunday of Advent**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: James Fieler, Ed Heronema,  
Lester Witthuhn, Cletus Knipp

7:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Liz Schmeidler, Lila Staab  
US: Nick Flax, Mel Pfannenstiel,  
Jerry Rome, Joe Desch

10:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Mike Gnad/Troy Haas  
US: Shaun Linenberger, Wilbert Pfeifer,  
Doug Ptacek, Leon Richmeier

**December 19 & 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

5:00 - GB: Lori Krannawitter Family  
US: Rob Wasinger, Ralph Wellbrock,  
John Knoll, Joe Billinger

7:30 - GB: Cody & Karen Marintzer Family  
HB: Lucy Baier, Lisa Vonfeldt  
US: Derek Gray, Jacob Sack,  
Jeff Sack, Steve Dreiling

10:30 - GB: Shaun & Nicole Linenberger Fam.  
HB: Darrin Atherton, Troy Haas  
US: Jon Schmeidler, Eric Augustine,  
Jeremy Coulter, Jim Dinkel

**December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Robin Wasinger, Usher Needed,  
Usher Needed, Usher Needed

**Midnight** - GB: Shirley Bollig Family  
US: Jon Schmeidler, Wilbert Pfeifer,  
Doug Ptacek, Jim Dinkel

**December 25 - Christmas Day**

7:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Steve Dreiling, Jeff Sack,  
Usher Needed, Usher Needed

10:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Leon Wolf, Leon Richmeier,  
Usher Needed, Usher Needed

**December 26 & 27 - Feast of the Holy Family**

5:00 - GB: Andrew Allen  
US: James Fieler, Ed Heronema,  
Lester Witthuhn, Cletus Knipp

7:30 - GB: Nick & Kelli Flax Family  
HB: Lila Staab, Alan Leiker  
US: Michael Brull, Mel Pfannenstiel,  
Jerry Rome, Sam Banda

10:30 - GB: Brenda Lager Family  
HB: Vickie Hawthorne/Andy Mattison  
US: Shaun Linenberger, Wilbert Pfeifer,  
Doug Ptacek, Leon Richmeier

**December 31/January 1 - Mary, Mother of God**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Lester Witthuhn, Usher Needed,  
Usher Needed, Usher Needed

9:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Nick Flax, Mel Pfannenstiel,  
Vern Gross, Leon Wolf

**January 2 & 3**

5:00 - GB: Gene & Rita Gabel  
US: Rob Wasinger, Ralph Wellbrock,  
Eric Haas, Joe Billinger

7:30 - GB: Perry & Tammy Weigel Family  
HB: Karen Marsell, Lisa Vonfeldt  
US: Michael Brull, Sam Banda,  
Steve Dreiling, Vern Gross

10:30 - GB: Scott & Amy Casper Family  
HB: Vickie Hawthorne, Darrin Atherton  
US: Leon Wolf, Eric Augustine,  
Jeremy Coulter, Jim Dinkel

**January 9 & 10 - Baptism of the Lord**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: James Fieler, Ed Heronema,  
Lester Witthuhn, Cletus Knipp

7:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Lila Staab, Liz Schmeidler  
US: Nick Flax, Mel Pfannenstiel,  
Jerry Rome, Joe Desch

10:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Norma Arnhold, Troy Haas  
US: Shaun Linenberger, Wilbert Pfeifer,  
Doug Ptacek, Leon Richmeier

**January 16 & 17**

5:00 - GB: Henry & Roxie VonLintel  
US: Rob Wasinger, Ralph Wellbrock,  
John Knoll, Joe Billinger

7:30 - GB: Anthony & Breanna Taylor Family  
HB: Lucy Baier, Lisa Vonfeldt  
US: Derek Gray, Jacob Sack,  
Jeff Sack, Steve Dreiling

10:30 - GB: Chad & Kimberly Stoecklein Family  
HB: Mike Gnad, Darrin Atherton  
US: Jon Schmeidler, Eric Haas,  
Jeremy Coulter, Jim Dinkel

**January 23 & 24**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: James Fieler, Ed Heronema,  
Lester Witthuhn, Cletus Knipp

7:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Lila Staab, Alan Leiker  
US: Michael Brull, Mel Pfannenstiel,  
Jerry Rome, Sam Banda

10:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Vickie Hawthorne, Andy Mattison  
US: Shaun Linenberger, Wilbert Pfeifer,  
Doug Ptacek, Leon Richmeier

**January 30 & 31**

5:00 - GB: Knights of Columbus  
US: Irvin Leiker, Sam Banda,  
Ed Prewo, Robin Wasinger

7:30 - GB: Jeff & Angie Sack Family  
HB: Lila Staab, Alan Leiker  
US: Joe Desch, Vern Gross.,  
Jeff Sack, Jacob Sack

10:30 - GB: Tim & Jessica Speno Family  
HB: Andy Mattison, Mike Gnad  
US: Jon Schmeidler, Eric Augustine,  
Jeremy Coulter, Jim Dinkel

**February 6 & 7**

5:00 - GB: Usher Choice  
US: Rob Wasinger, Ralph Wellbrock  
Eric Haas, Joe Billinger

7:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Karen Marsell, Irvin Leiker  
US: Michael Brull, Sam Banda,  
Steve Dreiling, Vern Gross

10:30 - GB: Usher Choice  
HB: Vickie Hawthorne, Twila Logsdon  
US: Leon Wolf, Eric Augustine,  
Jeremy Coulter, Jim Dinkel

*Those who are scheduled to take up the gifts please arrive at least 10-15 before Mass to sign-in for the ushers.*

**RECONCILIATION TIMES**

Extra times have been set up to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during the month of December before Christmas. These times are:

- ◆ Mon. - Thurs, at 5:15pm at the Campus Center before the 5:45pm Mass begins.
- ◆ Sat. afternoons at 3:30pm at St. Joseph Church.
- ◆ Mon., Dec. 21st at 7:00pm, parish Reconciliation Service.
- ◆ Tues., Dec. 22nd, noon, at St. Joseph Church.
- ◆ Wed., December 23rd following the 6:30am Mass.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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