

Our Lady of the Prairie Area Faith Community

September 1, 2019

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor –Fr. Mark Steffl

Parochial Vicar –Fr. Todd Petersen, 507-532-5711 (Holy Redeemer Church, Marshall).

Websites: www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.org, www.holy-redeemer.com



St. Mary's Church, 249 6th Street, Tracy, MN 56175, 507-629-4075, stmary@iw.net

Mass times: 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Fridays, 10:30 a.m. Sundays

Confessions times: 30 Minutes before Sunday Masses

Contact information: **Secretary**: Becky Lanoue, 507-629-4075

Religious Education Coordinator: Diann Timmerman, 507-629-3667, resaintmary@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Amick, 507-829-5197

Prayer Network: Alita Lenertz, Cell: 507-993-2654, Home: 507-629-4145;

Lota Hannasch, 507-629-4866

WG Prayer Line: Pam Baumann, 507-859-2503



St. Mary's School, 225 6th Street, Tracy, MN 56175, 507-629-3270

www.stmarysschooltracy.org

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m, Monday – Friday

Contact information: **Principal**: Lisa Dieter, lisa.dieter.sms@gmail.com

Secretary: Chris Schons, chris.schons.sms@gmail.com

School Cafeteria: Kate Schmitt, 507-629-3841

Maintenance: Tim Amick, 507-829-5197



St. Michael's Church, 200 Euclid Ave, Milroy, MN 56263, 507-336-2505,

stmichael@mnval.net

Mass times: 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Sundays

Confessions times: 30 Minutes before Sunday Masses

Contact information: **Pastoral Associates**: Don & Jean Schmidt, 507-336-2583

stmichael@mnval.net, djschmidt@mnval.net

Religious Education Coordinator: Suzanne Lightfoot, 507-336-2505,

restmichaels@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Kami Parker, 507-828-6515

Church Cleaner: Linda Dolan, 507-829-1032

Groundskeeper: Larry Karsten, 507-336-2624

Baptisms: Contact Priest to set up a date.

Marriages: Contact Priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date for preparation requirements.

Hospitalized or ill parishioners: Contact Priest.

New Ulm Diocese Catholic Charities: Counseling and adoptions toll-free at 1-866-670-5163.

FORMED.org audio-videos: www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.formed.org, or www.formed.org access code #YW2JXQ

Other local Mass times:

Campus Religious Center, SMSU, Marshall: 12:00 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays (while school is in session), 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

Holy Redeemer Church, Marshall: 5:30 p.m. Mon's, 7 a.m. Tue – Fri, 5 p.m. Sat's, and 8 a.m, 10 a.m, & 12:30p.m. (Spanish) Sun's.

St. Clotilde, Green Valley: 7:00 p.m. Saturdays.

St. Mary's, Cottonwood: 9:00 a.m. Sundays, see the Bread of Life Area Faith Community bulletin for current daily Mass times.

UP COMING AT OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE AREA FAITH COMMUNITY:

Sun. Sept. 1	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00 a.m.	<u>Confessions at St. Michael's in Milroy</u>
8:30 a.m.	Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy <i>+Edwin Swalbowski Family</i>
10:00 a.m.	<u>Confessions at St. Mary's in Tracy</u>
	<u>CCW Rosary</u>
10:30 a.m.	Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy <i>+Dave Mann</i>
Mon. Sept. 2	LABOR DAY
Tues. Sept. 3	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
8:30 a.m.	Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy <i>+Edith Ousky</i>
	Healing & Deliverance Prayer Day at St. Michael's in Milroy
Wed. Sept. 4	8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy <i>+Gordon Landuyt</i>
Thur. Sept. 5	8 – Noon Adoration at St. Michael's in Milroy
	8:30 a.m. Mass at Country View in Walnut Grove <i>+Bernice Larson</i>
	5:30 p.m. Bp. Grace 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Meeting
Fri. Sept. 6	FIRST FRIDAY
8:30 a.m.	School Mass, Gr. 5th/6th, Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy <i>+Leona Peterson</i>
	<u>School Confessions after Mass</u>
9-12:30 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary's in Tracy
12:30 p.m.	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's in Tracy
Sat. Sept. 7	
Sun. Sept. 8	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:00 a.m.	<u>Confessions at St. Michael's in Milroy</u>
8:30 a.m.	Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy <i>+Brooklyn Larsen</i>
	2ND COLLECTION-THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA-MILROY & TRACY
10:00 a.m.	<u>Confessions at St. Mary's in Tracy</u>
	<u>CCW Rosary</u>
10:30 a.m.	Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy <i>+Dr. Mary Vroman Battle</i>

Baptisms: Contact Priest to set up a date.

Marriages: Contact Priest at least six months in advance of proposed wedding date.

Hospitalized or ill parishioners: Contact Priest.

New Ulm Diocese Catholic Charities: Counseling & Adoptions toll-free 1-866-670-5163

Prayer Network prayers for healing for all the sick and other needs in the area faith community especially: David Algyer, Kevin & Kim Arnold, Ron Borchert, Linda Bruns, Larry Buysse, MaryJo Christopherson, Rhonda Cousin, Loanne Johns Dale, Paul DeSmith, Rachel Ewertz, Mike Foley, Linda Fultz, Phillip Goblisch, Rose Goltz, Joanie Gruver, Charles Hannasch, Glad Henning, Joseph Horner, Kristen Peterson Kaiser, Larry Karsten, Bob Kirsh, Mae Kirsh, Leonard Lanoue, Mark Lutterman, Rodney Maguire, Fr. Mark Mallak, Bob McCoy, Amy Perlenfein, Allan Rolling, Bonnie Schirlinger, Audrey Sik, Ron & Evie Stadick, Neil Steninkamp, Mike Thomas, Tammy Weber, Sloan Wohlman, Tom Zeug, Woman with ALS, & special intentions for 3 families and someone having surgery. *If you know of someone who should be now removed from the sick list, please let the rectory know. Names will be left on the list for 1 month and then taken off, if you wish them put on again please contact the office we will gladly put them on again.*

Pray for safety for all those serving in the military from our families and from our communities especially: Aaron Moudry, Samantha & Lucas Karnes, Troy Sik, Joe Goodnow, Stuart Stroman, Patrick Carnahan, Brad & Andrea Bond, Travis Davis, Martin Hamsa, Cole DeBlieck, Patricia Baker, Pat Weisbrich, and Troy Baumann.



OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS:

NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BULLETIN IN BY WEDNESDAY 10:00 A.M. PLEASE SEND ALL BULLETIN INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE - e-mail use: stmary@iw.net or call the office 629-4075.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION FOR THE AFC WEBSITE – E-MAIL IT TO BECKY LANOUE AT stmary@iw.net.

DID YOU MISS GETTING THE SUNDAY BULLETIN?- Feel free to look up the website to find the Sunday Area Faith Community bulletin, the Area Faith Community monthly calendar, and other information at the OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE WEBSITE: <https://www.ourladoftheprairie-afc.org>.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND is here so fuel up for the Box Car Days fun at the St. Mary's School sponsored Dad's Belgium Waffles. Serving on Sunday starting at 9:00 am.

CCW NEWS

TRACY: Next Large Function— St. Agnes: Bonnie Boerboom & Jolynn Johns

Next Small Function – St. Lillian: Jane Carlson & Carol Buyck

SHEPHERD OF THE FIELD for 2018-19: For St. Mary's in Tracy – Fr. Ron Huberty, Church of Sts. Peter & Paul, P.O. Box 49, Ivanhoe, MN 56142-0049, Ordination Date July 15, 1990, Birthday June 2.

MILROY: Next Funeral is Circle 1.

SHEPHERD OF THE FIELD for 2018-19: For St. Michael's in Milroy – Rev. Germain Rademacher, Ridgeway, 720 23rd St. N. Apt. 201, New Ulm, MN 56073, Ordination Feb. 23, 1958, Birthday Dec. 4.

MAKE PLANS FOR A FALL GET-AWAY WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE BEFORE YOUR CALENDAR FILLS UP!!

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from life's distractions that allows a husband and wife to focus on each other. The next available Weekends are Sep 14-15, 2019 in Marshall, MN and Nov 15-17, 2019 in OWATONNA, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact Miki at applications@southmnwwme.org or 507-227-8229.

DISCIPLESHIP DAY 2019, sponsored by the Diocese of New Ulm, will be Saturday, September 28 from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the St. Aloysius Jubilee Center in Olivia. Bishop LeVoir will preside at the Mass at 8:30 a.m. The theme is Entertaining Angels: Hospitality Training and is designed to train your first contact staff, such as administrative assistants, business managers, custodians, ushers, principals, Christian charity coordinators, and event planners to receive others in the name of Jesus Christ. The keynote speakers are Adam Janke and Denise Hirl from St. Paul Evangelization Institute. For further information or to register, contact Cindy Blickem (507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org).

This event is open to all parish employees and ANYONE interested in creating a culture of hospitality in your parish!

CHURCH OF ST. MARY, COTTONWOOD, MN, 59TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL AND RAFFLE, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, Turkey Dinner and all the Trimmings with Home Made Desserts, Mass at 9:30 a.m., Dinner Ticket Sales begin at 9:30 a.m. Serving at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome!

ST. CATHERINE CHURCH, REDWOOD FALLS, FALL FESTIVAL, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. with the Harry Wojahn Band, dinner 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Catered by Baune's) Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Glazed Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Homemade Pie. We look forward to having you join us for great food, entertainment and fellowship!

FALL FESTIVAL DINNER AT IHM IN CURRIE, MN., Sunday, Sept. 8th, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the IHM Church Basement. Menu-Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Salad, Pie and Desserts. Handicapped accessible, everyone welcome!

THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD IN MINNEOTA will be hosting our annual Fall Festival on Sunday, September 15, 2019. A Children's Carnival will be held from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the St. Edward School Gymnasium. A Roast Beef Dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the St. Edward Church Basement. The Fall Festival will include a dinner, cakewalk, silent auction, raffle, country store and baked goods store. Welcome Friends in Christ!



AREA FAITH COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

SEEKING CATECHISTS! St. Michael's is in need of catechists for grades K/1, 2, 4, and 5/6. Please prayerfully consider teaching our youth! Contact Suzanne if you are interested.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION: Registration forms were mailed out this week! Please look for your registration in the mail. If you didn't receive one, feel free to pick one up in the back of the church, or contact Diann Timmerman or Suzanne Lightfoot.

FAITH FORMATION PARENT MEETING-MILROY: There will be a short parent meeting on September 8th after the 8:30 am Mass in Milroy for parents of children who will be in the Wednesday night religious education program. Registrations can be handed in at this time or in the collection basket.

FAITH FORMATION PARENT MEETING-TRACY: There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, September 11th @ 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the church. Students will have class 6:30-7:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP: If you have a student that is currently in the 8th grade and might be interested in attending CHWC next Summer, please contact Diann or Suzanne.

All campers interested in CHWC 2020: A down payment of \$100.00 is needed by September 11th to ensure a spot!

BOX CAR DAYS CONCESSION STAND: Catholic Heart Work Camp and St. Mary's Religious Education have a food wagon by the Beer Tent in Tracy this weekend! Please stop by and support our youth!



ST. MARY'S AREA FAITH COMMUNITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

Sunday, September 1st, 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's, Dad's Belgium Waffle Brunch, 9:00 – 1:00, site: TBD

Monday, September 2nd, Labor Day, Arts & Crafts Show in the St. Mary's School gym, St. Mary's Food Stand, 11:00 – 4:00, Boxcar Days Grand Parade, 1:00 p.m. ~ St. Mary's School Float

Tuesday, September 3rd, First Day of School! WELCOME BACK!

All student assembly in the gym followed by bridge for incoming kindergarten students.

Wednesday, September 4th, **Calendar Raffle:** ALL tickets and money are due today.

Thursday, September 5th, CHS "Friends of the Farm" Safety Day, 9:30 – 2:00, grades 3&4

Friday, September 6th, Mass at 8:30, confession to follow for all 3- 6 grade students, 5th & 6th grades will prepare the Mass. Please have your children wear nice clothing for Mass. Scrip orders can be picked up at the school office.

ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY FUND for St. Mary's School can be dropped off in the wagon behind St. Mary's Church.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL MEMORIAL in memory of Bob Ochocki.

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS: Aug. 23 - \$100 Mary Jo Henkel; Aug. 30 - \$100 Maria Grogan

ATTENTION ALL: this is the last weekend to purchase your St Mary's raffle ticket! 52 chances to win \$100, 4 chances at \$500 and 1 - \$1000 winner. Please contact a St. Mary's family today and purchase your ticket for \$52. Don't forget you can win multiple times!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A STUDENT'S TUITION? Tuition at St. Mary's school is only \$1,925.00 a year for one child, or about \$214 a month. What a great investment in the future! Contact the school or parish office if you would like to help. Thank you



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S IN TRACY

LOCKING THE CHURCH: St. Mary's basement will be locked at about 2:30 p.m. and the upper church about 6 p.m. If you need to get a pie see Jan LaVoy or one of the staff to let you in. If you need to get inside for meetings or other needs, contact Keith Schons 507-629-4289 or Jan LaVoy 507-829-2755 to get the doors opened for you.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH, and live in Tracy, you may receive communion weekly. Please contact Jeanine Vandendriessche @ 507- 212- 2018 for information.

DEANERY 2 CCW FALL GATHERING IN GRACEVILLE, MN. If anyone is interested in going, please call CCW President Joan Woodford-507-626-0307 or email me at woodfordroyjoan@yahoo.com. I will be driving up there.

ST. MARY'S PIES will be sold, frozen only, at the SMS Belgian Waffle Feed on Sunday, September 1 as well as at SMS on Monday during the craft fair.

PARKING: We would like to encourage people to begin to use our lot directly behind the church for parking. Please feel free to drive on either side of the rhubarb and park your car. The tree in the center has been taken down and stump will be removed soon. As we use this for parking, please leave a driving space on each side of the rhubarb. Do not block the two drives to this lot. The plan is to eventually gravel this area as funds would allow us to do so.

KITCHEN PROJECT: Our kitchen project is moving forward. This week we worked on cleaning the dining hall and everything is painted thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who jumped in and helped. THANKS TO ALL OF THEM!! The new doors have been put on and we are awaiting countertops, sinks and islands. We are continuing to take donations for new carpeting. Thank you for your support and generosity.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS DURING THE KITCHEN REMODEL: The Caboose has been very generous in offering the use of their facility at no cost should there be a funeral at St. Mary's this summer. They will allow us to bring in our salads, cakes and workers. All other food would have to be prepared and purchased through them. This information has been shared with the funeral directors in Tracy. Any questions please call Elise Lanoue. Please support and say thank you to Diane, John and Doug for their generosity and understanding of our situation.

MONTH EIGHT – DEVELOPING BABY

“I like to listen to my Mommy’s voice!” In the last two months the baby continues to gain weight. She is developing a layer of fat that will keep her warm after she is born. In the 9th month she will shift to a head-down position, preparing for birth. Her lungs are now fully developed and capable of making the transition to breathing air. After birth she will continue the human growth process for many years to come. She is about 18 inches in length. Your baby’s mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – More blessed shawls have been moved to the back of Church. A very big thank you to the donors of the latest shawls left at the Rectory. Your continued support of this special ministry is appreciated by the recipients of the blessed shawls. Parishioners, please continue to deliver a prayer shawl to those in need of the comfort they provide. Denise Weedman - Reverence Life Commission.

COFFEE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE, ground & whole beans, \$10/bag. Contact Alita Lenertz, 507-629-41

OUR GIFTS TO GOD: Aug. 25, 2019

Adult: \$2,146.04 **Youth:** \$0.00 **Loose Plate:** \$199.82 **TOTAL:** \$2,345.86
Total needed/week: \$3,923.07

Liturgical Ministers for Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Gifts: Jim & Jeanine Vandendriessche

Lectors: Brittany Peterson

Cantor: Carla VanDeWiele

Eucharistic Ministers: Jeanette Lanoue, Jolynn Johns, Richard & Sandy Tuszynski, Lota Hannasch

Servers: Sarito Canto, Carson Lanoue, Connor Lanoue

Ushers: Vincent Lanoue, Rod Benson, Mitchel Benson, Roy Woodford

Money Counters: Sept. 9 – Patty Lessman & Kathy Swift

Prairie View Nursing Home Communion: Sept. 11 – Linda, Sept. 18 – Rosemary, Sept. 25 – Fr. Mark



NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S IN MILROY

ADORATION is a time of silent reflection and prayer many Catholics practice regularly.

It is a time to commune with God, emptying all worries and anxiety out of your heart, body, mind and soul.

Starting the middle of August St. Michael's will have a time slot open for Adoration.

Would you consider spending an hour with Jesus once a week?

Please call 507-828-2171 and we can find the time that works for you. **8:00 – Noon.**

PLEASE COME JOIN THE LARSEN FAMILY on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 12:30 p.m. to honor and remember their sweet Brooklyn. Gathering will be held at the Milroy City Park. Main dish will be provided for all to share. Please, if able, consider bringing a dish. A Silent Auction will run from 1-3:00 p.m. in the park to benefit The Brooklyn Larsen Memorial Fund. **Funds raised will be used towards a scholarship in memory of Brooklyn and also donated to families in need during the loss of a child. **Be Love!! Be Light!!**

BENEFIT FOR LARRY KARSTEN ON SEPTEMBER 21ST

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 PM Place: Milroy Public School

Anyone interested in volunteering your time or donating Silent Auction items please call Jean Schmidt 507-828-2171 or Bev Welu

ST. MICHAEL'S IS IN NEED OF MASS INTENTIONS. Please contact Jean Schmidt or call the office.

You may also send to St. Michael's, 200 Euclid Ave. Milroy.

CHILDRENS LITURGY STARTING SUNDAY SEPT 8TH! Char and Bev will be leading the children's liturgy once again. We are inviting the 3 to 9 year old's to join us downstairs for a faith filled kids gospel and readings. Please join us each Sunday as we learn more about Jesus.

BLOOD DRIVE IN MILROY on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 from 2:00 – 7:00 at the Milroy School. This had originally set for September 3 but was changed by the Red Cross. Call 507-336-2436 if you have any questions or to set up an appointment. You can also be a walk-in.

ST. MICHAEL'S is looking for someone to help lead the Rosary before Mass on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the St. Michael's Office. Or, call Jean Schmidt. 507-828-2171. We also need someone to fill a spot for Adoration on Thursday Mornings. It is a gift to sit and be present with Jesus in this way – please consider it. Thanks.

WE NEED CATECHISTS! If you are interested in sharing your faith with the youth of our parish, please prayerfully consider being a catechist. We are in need of teachers for all grade levels. Please contact Suzanne Lightfoot or Diann Timmerman if you are interested.

Stewardship Report for Aug. 25, 2019

Adult: \$1,340.00 **Student:** \$-0- **Loose Plate:** \$90.00 **TOTAL:** \$1,430.00

Total needed/week: \$1,500.00

Liturgical Ministers for Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Gifts: Andrew Vroman Family

Organist: Doris Cauwels

Cantor: Camille Dolan & Margaret Dolan

Lector: Don Schmidt

EHMC: Taylor Mueller, Don Schmidt, Ken Lanoue, Cheryl Lanoue, Jean Schmidt, Robin Hauger

Servers: Elaina Leach, Faith Leach, Brody Hauger

Ushers: Dominic Dolan, Ron Schmidt, Jacob Welu, Cory Schmidt

Money Counters: Ken Parker, Don & Alice Zeug, Jeanette Bitker

From Fr. Steffl:

Time for school to start again! Please take a moment to offer a prayer especially for our teachers, students, and catechists from our parish programs, school and religious education. **St. Michael's in Milroy is still in need of a number of catechists** – please prayerfully consider if you could help with this!

This year at St. Mary's School, I asked that this year's school prayer be the *Memorare*. It is a very beautiful prayer reminding us of Our Lady's care and concern for us:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Also beginning again this fall is **THAT MAN IS YOU at Holy Redeemer in Marshall, and I want to extend this invitation to everyone in our parishes**. This is the 5th year that this program is running at Holy Redeemer, and MANY have found it to be very helpful in growing closer to the Lord and His Church, and I would encourage every man in our parishes to consider participating. It has born great fruit for many! Even if you haven't been a part of it in the past, it is a great opportunity. It meets early on Friday mornings in Carlin Hall in Holy Redeemer, from 5:45 am ending with an opportunity to attend the 7 am Friday morning Mass afterwards.

A new monthly **“family friendly” gathering** is being kicked-off, beginning on Sunday evening, September 29th at 4:30 pm at Independence Park in Marshall. It is a pot-luck gathering that is meant for a casual opportunity for parish families to gather and be with each other. It was suggested by a young family who has moved here from Sioux Falls, whose parish there had such a monthly event like the one we are starting here. Everyone from all our parishes is invited!

RCIA – the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** – is the program that parishes have annually for those who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church with the possibility, after it is over, to enter into “full communion” with the Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in this program, please contact me at the Holy Redeemer Parish Office or Diann Timmerman in the St. Mary's Tracy Faith Formation Office to have a class in Tracy. There is no obligation to enter the Church, but is an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic Church and what we believe. It is a good opportunity for anyone who has “questions” too, or is married to a Catholic or simply is “searching.” Perhaps YOU know someone who might benefit from knowing about this.

St. Mary's in Cottonwood is having its annual “fall festival” next Sunday, September 8th. Mass at St. Mary's is at 9:30 am instead of its usual time of 9 am for its festival weekend, and they are having a turkey dinner and many other activities.

Lastly, last week in the bulletin was a note sent from Fr. Mallak about why he is no longer with us at St. Mary's in Tracy and St. Michael's in Milroy. Because we ran out of bulletins last week and many people did not see it, I am having it published again this week. Fr. Mallak's comments are below:

DEAR MILROY AND TRACY PARISHIONERS, I want to let you know what is going on in my life and ministry at the present time. This has been a tough year for me, especially this winter and spring, as my anxiety disorder has been running at a high level. Along with my anxious moments, there have also been a number of health and depression episodes that have made my attendance at Mass or other events difficult at times. As of mid-July, I have stepped away from full-time parish ministry and am focusing on more intensive anxiety therapy for a couple of months, as well as occasional parish help.

I had been in the Tracy-Milroy-Marshall/Spanish assignment for 13 months as an associate pastor under the Marshall pastor, and while there was so much that I appreciated, there were numerous factors that were not conducive to my peace of mind. My sobriety is 7½ years, so mercifully alcohol is no longer an aggravating factor. But my diagnosis, Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), is a significant challenge to me who suffers from it and those with whom I interact. BPD is not something that is ever over and done with, but a pervasive difficulty that is ongoing and at best can be managed.

The kind of therapy I am lining up is Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), which attempts to achieve balance in the mind between extremes by accepting some aspects of life and situations and working to change other aspects (just like the Serenity Prayer). This will entail a couple of months of weekly individual therapy, a weekly group skills training class, as well as practicing new skills, completing assigned homework and charting progress.

Thank you for reading this letter to understand my present status. Please know of my continued prayers and support for you, your families and the joys and challenges you experience, and how we are each called to grow in charity through it all! **BLESSINGS, FR. MARK MALLAK**