



# OUR MISSION FIELD

SERVING THE PARISHES OF OUR LADY OF HOPE, ST. JOSEPH,  
RESURRECTION, & HOLY SPIRIT

*Our Mission Field*

# BLOCK PARTY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ST. JOSEPH, GILBERT

1:30pm-5:30pm

CLOSING MASS, 6pm

Join us as we celebrate our new life together as a  
Mission Field with music, food, kids' games,  
BINGO, a Mission Field Bags tournament\*, raffles,  
and so much more!

#### FEATURING:

Richie Yurkovich and  
Polkarioty 2pm-3:30pm  
Vitamin Brown 4pm -5:30  
pm

#### FOOD & REFRESHMENTS BY:

Eveleth Knights of Columbus,  
Marquette Catholic School  
Holy Spirit Women's Bible Study,  
& Bethany House



\*Email Fr. Daniel Hammer to register your team by Wednesday, Sept 11; Tournament will start promptly at 2pm



# Meet Our Priest Team!



## FR. BRANDON MORAVITZ

I am blessed to be the Pastor and Administrator of all four of the parishes in our Mission Field! I love dreaming of what is possible here in our Catholic life on the Iron Range and then working with our people to bring that dream alive. I strive to be always rooted in the Holy Spirit! My favorite canonized Saint is St. John Bosco! My favorite non-canonized saints are Mallory Norrell, Marc Westerbur and Bishop Sirba! The scripture passage that seems to be foundational in my life is John 10:10, where Jesus proclaims, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the FULL." We need to pray for those who have fallen away from the Faith and for the courage to invite them back. Secondly, we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to "fall upon" our Mission Field and begin a "new Pentecost" in ways we could never imagine! I am looking forward to watching the Holy Spirit begin to work in hearts, to seeing people come back to Church and watching us begin to live with a belief that Christ can bring us alive in the Spirit as unique parishes and as a united Mission Field!

## FR. DANIEL HAMMER

I am assigned as parochial vicar for our Mission Field, which includes Our Lady of Hope (Aurora), Resurrection (Eveleth), St. Joseph (Gilbert), Holy Spirit (Virginia), and Marquette Catholic School (Virginia). Our Mission Field includes not only our parishes and our school, it also includes every person (Catholic or not!) within our Mission Field. My assignment began 1 July 2024. I absolutely love hearing confessions, celebrating Mass, preaching, getting to know people, praying with people, and our team meetings, as we get to know one another, build one another up, and pray with one another. Two of my favorite Saints include St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross and Padre Pio. One of my favorite scripture verses at this time that has been speaking to my heart for the last few years is from the Book of Revelation: "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5). As a Mission Field, we need to pray for unity, joy, healing, and courage for each one of us (again not just Catholics, but ALL people in our Mission Field!) I am looking forward to the adventure that Jesus is inviting us to!



## FR. DAVID FORSMAN

My name is Fr. David Forsman. I am so pleased to be back on the Range after seventeen years away. I am excited to embrace my role as an assistant pastor here, a member of this team of priests and staff in this Mission Field. The Blessed Virgin Mary is my treasure and hope. Mary leads to Jesus and Jesus to the Father through the Spirit. I hope to enkindle the flame that burns within me in you. Through extraordinary and ordinary ways I pray my work here assists in a revitalization of the Catholic spirit. Mary said to the waiters "Do whatever he tells you" ... that is my charge.

## FR. PETER AKUDUGU

I am assigned mainly to Holy Spirit Parish. I have been working here for one year now. I visit the sick, administer the sacraments, and help with Faith Formation. My other role is to provide weekend coverage, where there is a need to do so; more like a "Utility Infielder," if you like, for our Mission Field. I love celebrating the sacraments with people and I like visiting with people and getting to know their faith journey. I get inspired by people who remain strong in their faith despite the challenges they are facing in life. My favorite text is Psalm 36: 9-10: "For with you is the fountain of life; and in your light, we see light." This verse reminds us that true understanding and life come from God. It points to the reality that clarity, knowledge, and spiritual enlightenment are found in an authentic relationship with God. Padre Pio is my favorite Saint for his witness of silent suffering. Let us pray for unity and collaboration among the parish communities. Praying for deeper relationships can lead to more effective outreach, increased understanding of our different parish contexts, and greater impact in sharing the gospel message. I am most looking forward to the opportunity to witness and support growth in both personal and community faith journeys. Engaging in new initiatives, building stronger relationships within the communities, and seeing the fruits of collaborative efforts would be incredibly fulfilling to me. Also, I look forward to participating in transformative events and programs and witnessing the impact of prayer and service on people's lives, bringing a sense of healing, hope, and joy to our Mission Field.



# Meet Our Staff!



## **DCN MARK SKALA**

I have served as Deacon at Our Lady of Hope for the last sixteen years. My favorite part of my job is visiting homebound parishioners. My favorite scripture passage is John 1:1-14. I pray for the success of the mission field as a concept. I am looking forward to totally trusting in God's will and seeing what fruits this year will bring.



## **DCN BILL HAFDAHL**

I have served as Deacon at Holy Spirit Parish for two years. My favorite thing about my job is getting to serve at the altar. My favorite Saint is St. Athanasius. I believe our Mission Field should pray for courage. I am most looking forward to getting to know parishioners from the various parishes.



## **BEN FROST**

I have served as the Director of Faith Formation at Holy Spirit for six years. My favorite part of my job is journeying with adults through OCIA. My favorite scripture passage is 1 John 4:18. I believe our Mission Field should pray for growth and unity. I am most looking forward to meeting all the amazing people from our various communities.



## **DEIDRE WESTOVER**

I have worked as the secretary at Our Lady of Hope for the last two years. My favorite thing I do is making the bulletin, I enjoy being creative. My favorite Saint is St. Isabella of Portugal. I think that our Mission Field should pray for peace. I love Advent, I am most looking forward to the Advent Season.



## **TAMI WARD**

This is my second year at Marquette and my twenty-first year in education. This year I will serve as the principal. Praying with students, meeting parents, and working with the leadership team are my favorite aspects of my position. My favorite scripture passage is 1 Cor 10:31, "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." I pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we serve those in our communities.



## **KATHY MADZEY**

I have been the Office Assistant for Resurrection and St. Joseph for the the past five years. I enjoy my working relationship with the parish staff and helping the parishioners that call or come in to the office. I relate to St. Anastasia with her commitment to serve others. Positivity in the Mission Field is what I am praying for. I am most looking forward to the more extensive availability of Priests for our community.



## **STEFANIE SCHARBER**

I have worked at Holy Spirit as the Business Manager for the last three years. I enjoy working with spreadsheets and numbers in all forms. My favorite Saint is St. Lucy. I believe our Mission Field should pray for a spirit of true unity. I am most looking forward to watching my children enjoy another year at Marquette Catholic School.



## **NICOLE NGUYEN**

I have served as the bookkeeper/business manager at Resurrection and St. Joes for the last seven years. My favorite role is simply helping parishioners in any way that I can. My favorite scripture passage is Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Our Mission Field should pray for hope, renewal and revival. I am looking forward to the good things ahead, and not those behind.



## **JESSICA HAVERKAMP**

I have served as the Holy Spirit Parish Secretary for the last five years. I love interacting with the parishioners and being able to lend an ear or offer help to those in need. My favorite scripture passage is John 16:29-33. I pray that our Mission Field can stay united and joyful throughout these changes. I am looking forward to seeing everything come together and working alongside new people.



## **DCN RICHARD MORAVITZ**

I have served as a Deacon and helped with janitorial work at Holy Spirit for the last three years. My favorite thing to do is to bring a person into the life of Christ through Baptism. My favorite Saint is St. Lawrence (an early Deacon of the Church.) I think one of the most important things we should pray for as a Mission field is unity. I am looking forward to getting to meet and know more people in these communities!



## **DCN DAN SCHULTZ**

I have served as Deacon at Holy Spirit for nineteen years. My favorite part of my job is assisting the pastor in the liturgy. My favorite scripture passage is Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I pray our Mission Field can have a spirit of unity. I am most excited to see how the Lord brings about a stronger faith throughout our communities.



## **PAM RAPACZ**

I have served as the Director of Religious Education at Resurrection and St. Joe's for the last 25+ years. I love to see our younger students learning "little" catholic ways, like genuflecting. My favorite Saint is St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Please pray for all of the students and their families. I can't wait to see what the Lord has planned for us all.



## **NAOMI RINGHAND**

It has been my great joy to serve as Youth Minister at Holy Spirit and Marquette School for the past two years and lead the Bethany House for the last year. I love just being with young people as they live their stories and come to know Jesus. Isaiah 61:1-3 is one of my all time favorite scripture passages because it beautifully articulates Jesus' mission of Healing, Hope and Joy. I am praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit!



## **MARY HECIMOVICH**

I have worked as the Parish Secretary at Resurrection and St. Joseph for the last five years. My favorite part of this job is to interact with our amazing parishioners. It is through the Blessed Mother that I am able to put my full trust in our Lord, to do His will and accept whatever outcome. Our Mission Field should pray for unity of faith and compassion to all. I am most looking forward to watching our parishes work together.



## **DEBBIE SERVATY**

I have been working at Our Lady of Hope as the Business Manager and Bookkeeper for the last twelve years. My favorite thing is managing finances and the accessibility of daily mass and prayer. My favorite scripture passage is Malachi 3:8-10. Our Mission Field should pray for unity. My hope is that the Holy Spirit will heal our sorrows, calm our fears, and lead us to the blessed day that we are all united in our Mission Field.



## **JOE MAYERS**

I have served as custodian at Resurrection for the last 5 years. I feel lucky to take care of such a beautiful and historic Church. My favorite Saints are St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. I pray for peace in our lives and throughout all the world, that all may experience God's grace and love.. I hope to see our church enjoyed by all as it grows in the years to come.



## **JODI BACKMAN**

I have worked at Holy Spirit as the facilities manager for the last eight years. I enjoy maintaining the buildings and keeping things running smoothly. My favorite scripture passage is Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I think our Mission Field should pray that others encounter Jesus. I am most excited for the students and teachers to be back together in one location at the new Marquette Catholic School.



## **JOSH MILANI**

I am the Director of Music at Holy Spirit; I have served in this position for the last four years. My favorite thing to do is minister to the sick and dying, particularly through the singing of the divine mercy chapter. My favorite Saint is St. John Paul II. Our Mission Field should pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I am most looking forward to the unfolding of God's great plan for the life of Catholics in our area.

# Eucharistic Revival & Theology on Tap Nights

BRINGING THE HEALING, HOPE, & JOY OF  
JESUS TO OUR MISSION FIELD

## Theology on Tap

6PM Social, 7PM Talk

October 12 - Ore House, Gilbert:

Luke Spehar Concert & Talk

December 21 - Sawmill, Virginia:

Craig & Lori Norrell: Mallory's Story

February 15 - Roosevelt Bar, Eveleth:

The Westerburs: Marc's Story

April 12 - The Haven, Hoyt Lakes:

Alex Schindler Concert & Talk

## Eucharistic Revival Night

6:30PM Social, 7PM Programming

November 9 - Resurrection:

Naomi Ringhand

January 18 - Our Lady of Hope:

Bishop Daniel Felton

March 15 - Holy Spirit:

Fr. Scott Padmos

May 10 - St. Joseph:

Connie Bruesch

## 40 Hours Mission

April 4-6 | St. Joseph | Deacon Mike Knuth

## A Journey of Faith

My name is Florence Petrovic LaPrath, 'Flo' to some of you, to 4th Grade Religious Ed Students I am 'Mrs. LaPrath'. Truthfully in my agreeing to become a Catechist some years ago, I disciplined myself to deeper study in learning more about our Catholic faith, in mind of my responsibility to teach others without errors of ignorance. I've loved learning! Those of you who are parents do this for & with your children. Through the years I have been enriched by formal Bible Studies, valuable online courses - The Bible & The Catechism of the Catholic Church in a Year, Hallow, Amen, many books which give me access to REFERENCES for the times when I 'forget facts' can't quite express something or seek answers to my own questions for greater clarity & prayer. My early background in faith formation stems from a Strong Family Unit. I'm fortunate to have had a dad, mom, two sisters & extended family physically present at Holy Family Church in Eveleth for my Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation (my grandma was my Sponsor) and my Marriage at Resurrection. I attended Mass & observed the sacraments growing up, with my First Teachers - my Family Model. I've carried these early strengths as I've grown, living elsewhere for college, work, making homes in other states. I've felt familiar in & welcomed by every Catholic Church I've entered! Been wholly inspired by some priests & religious & not so much by others. Like you, I am aware of & greatly saddened in learning of scandal. Yet, I always remember 'it's not the individual priest I'm asked to follow' it is The Faith. When travelling, among the first things I do (& will always do) is locate a Catholic Church/learn it's Mass times. You'll no doubt agree, putting the Eucharist & our prayers first not only enhances but 'amazingly e-x-p-a-n-d-s time' rather than shortening it. In conversations with friends who embrace other faiths or in my travels I understand I will encounter many viewpoints. Some people focus on Jesus only, some wrestle with the concept of God altogether - a few even deny Him. I'm interested in hearing or reading what non-Catholics say & do. Confidently I can tell you these encounters do not diminish my Faith, they strengthen it. I BELIEVE.

I most humbly realize I am not so wise or knowledgeable to place myself in the position to deny the lineage of two thousand + years & those who died to preserve it. Those who will question my views are on their own path to find Truth... I BELIEVE our Catholic Faith is 'not made of man but in the line of the apostles' along with the Magisterium which responds to the needs of every age and scholarly interprets Truths for the Faithful. I'm aware I don't have answers to many questions I encounter, I have access to find certain answers and I ask for help from Faith Scholars. I am very GRATEFUL that even in the extreme challenges in my life & ongoing ones I've been inspired to BELIEVE in the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit through the Catholic Church.

I KNOW the Holy Spirit gave me the confidence to write today!

*Florence LaPrath*  
Resurrection

# Q&A

## What is a Mission Field?

A Mission Field is a designated geographical region for which we are accountable for introducing Jesus Christ and our Catholic Faith. The mission field includes all of the individuals, families, Catholic communities and civic communities in our area. Our Mission Field includes not just the parishes and Catholic families in our region but all the people and communities here, from Hoyt Lakes to Mt. Iron.

## Why are we operating as a Mission Field?

This will make mission initiatives manageable, doable and accountable. Our Mission Field does not replace existing structures, rather it allows us to work together with more resources and opportunities in a way that reflects the shared life of the communities we live in and serve.

## Will my parish be closed?

No! Our Mission Field includes Our Lady of Hope parish in Aurora, St Joseph's parish in Gilbert, Resurrection parish in Eveleth and Holy Spirit Parish in Virginia. None of these parishes will be closed, rather we hope and pray they will grow in even greater vibrancy in the days ahead due to this new Mission Field model.

## Are our parishes being merged?

No. Our Lady of Hope, St Joseph's, Resurrection and Holy Spirit will continue to operate as separate parishes in our Mission Field. Yet, we will strive to grow in collaboration with one another, on Mission to bring healing, hope and joy to our entire region! We will be much stronger and more effective as we work together in the days ahead.

## Which priest will be covering which Masses in our Mission Field?

At this point, we are discerning and discussing which priest will be covering which Masses. We are striving to work towards a more consistent schedule, but this will take some time. Our goal is that by October 1, we will have a good routine for our priests, deacons and parishioners. Our hope is that every parish will get to experience the blessing of each priest, serving in our Mission Field, at Mass, on a regular basis.

## I heard we can put our giving envelopes in any weekend Mass collection in our Mission Field, and it will return to the parish I am registered at. Is this true?

Yes. If you are at a different weekend Mass than the parish you are registered at, in our Mission Field, you can put your envelope in that collection and the envelope will get back to your specific parish.

## How does a "priest and deacon team" work in the Mission Field?

One of the exciting blessings of our new Mission Field is that every parish now has three priests and four deacons serving the community. Each priest and deacon bring particular strengths and weaknesses that will be used to build up the Body of Christ in our Mission Field. Our priests and deacons will serve all of our communities and will be serving in the areas that their gifts will bear the most fruit! This will lead to healthier, happier priests and, in turn, this will bring even more life to each of our parishes.

## Mission Field Briefings with Father Brandon

Now that we have settled into living this new Priest Team and Mission Field model, we want to open up a space for you to come, learn more, ask questions, and begin to understand this new model. Over the next few weeks, we invite you to join us after weekend masses for a time of refreshments, fellowship, and conversation.

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Holy Spirit      | August 24 & 25          |
| Our Lady of Hope | August 31 & September 1 |
| Resurrection     | September 7 & 8         |
| St. Joseph       | September 8             |



## Bethany House

*Missionaries of Healing, Hope, & Joy*

Bethany House is a new missionary community of women seeking to bring the Healing, Hope, and Joy of Jesus to our Mission Field through prayer, community life, and service. In imitation of Mary of Bethany, who sat at the feet of Jesus and poured out her life in imitation of His Eucharistic heart, the women of Bethany place themselves before Jesus' loving gaze to be transformed into His image "from glory to glory" by the Holy Spirit, equipped with His Power and Peace, and sent with missionary zeal and joy into our spheres of influence: our jobs, our friendships, the people we encounter in ordinary life. Simply, we desire to make a home for Jesus in our hearts and bring the Healing, Hope, and Joy of His presence to the world.

Bethany is a place for young women to come and rest in Jesus' heart as they discover the "next step" with Him. The women of Bethany live community life together, receive formation and discipleship, and grow in the gifts God has given them for the world through a variety of missional opportunities.

This year, the Bethany community is growing into two houses with six women total: a House of Formation for post-high school women and a House of Mission for post-college women. The Bethany community prays together, shares meals together, and moves on mission together while living in separate homes.

We are filled with hope, gratitude, and wonder at the gift it is to live mission during these truly historic times. Keep an eye out for us at your parish in September; we cannot wait to meet you!

<https://www.holyspiritvirginia.com/bethanyhouse>

*Naomi Ringhand*  
Bethany House



## Ministries Appeal

The Ministries Appeal is the way that Bishop Felton can ask the approximate 41,500 Catholics in the Diocese of Duluth to come together as one in support of the ministries that will continue to move this Diocese forward in mission. Support is provided to - Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Marriage, Family & Pro-life; Vocations; the Permanent Diaconate; Communications; Hospital Ministry; Divine Worship Parish Support Services. Ministries Appeal Goals should be collected by December 31, 2024.

Learn more, and Give: <https://dioceseduluth.org/support-the-ministries-appeal>

| Parish           | Goal        | Collected   | Remaining Balance |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Our Lady of Hope | \$42,702.00 | \$26,700.00 | \$16,002.00       |
| St. Joseph       | \$29,680.0  | \$13,263.00 | \$16,417.00       |
| Resurrection     | \$49,474.00 | \$26,288.00 | \$23,186.00       |
| Holy Spirit      | \$73,637.00 | \$24,871.00 | \$48,766.00       |

\*If a parish in the Diocese does not reach its Ministries Appeal Goal, the deficit will come from the parish's savings and investments

# National Eucharistic Congress: Planting Seeds

Attending daily mass with thousands of catholic brothers and sisters, hundreds of religious brothers and sisters, seminarians, deacons, priests, bishops, and archbishops is amazing to say the least. The main-session speakers were informative, inspiring, bold, and unifying. The speakers in the breakout sessions were outstanding, the praise and worship music had something for everyone to enjoy and be moved by. The most impactful moments were during adoration. Each night was supernatural.

The Holy Spirit filled the arena and thousands of hearts during eucharistic adoration. It was seen and felt. During adoration, in an arena potentially filled with 50,000 people, it was silent. At times, I would close my eyes and enter into the silence. Upon my eyes opening I was stunned every time by the realization of how many people were calm, peaceful, and adoring Jesus in the arena. I am by nature an introvert, so, in some sense, observing what happens around me feels like I am participating. I will share with you some of the differences I observed between living in the secular world and a culture filled with people living in faith and walking with Jesus daily. Encountering others was a joyful experience. People made eye contact while talking, asked questions which led to conversation, smiled, and laughed as they walked through the halls to their destination; opened doors or offered seating to others; families were together and enjoying each other, children were well behaved, caring, helpful towards their brothers and sisters; everyone cleaned up after themselves, there was no trash laying around anywhere. People were praying with others. Jesus was present everywhere. I saw Him in the faces of so many. One of the goals of this Eucharistic Revival is teaching us how to become missionaries. Go out and evangelize. This can sound extremely uncomfortable for some - It makes me uncomfortable - yet if you break it down it becomes doable. This doesn't require us to run up to strangers and ask if they have met Jesus and go into a tangent of why they need to. It requires us to be loving, caring, and engaging with others. To give witness and testimony in any situation. It can be an encounter with a fellow catholic, a family member who is struggling, or one who has fallen away from God or the church; it can be a friend or someone you barely know. If we plant seeds everywhere some will be fruitful. Check out "Walk with One" [www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one) to discern how God is calling you to bring more souls to know Jesus Christ. This pilgrimage is an experience I hope to never forget. It is so much more than I can comprehend or put into one page of words. It has drawn me closer to Jesus and gives me renewed ways of how I can help change the world one person at a time as I walk through this life with the Holy Trinity as my guide. "I cannot save humanity but, through the grace of God I can help humanity save themselves."

Jesus, I trust in you

- Jodi Backman  
Holy Spirit

## Our Individual Parish Statistics

### Our Lady of Hope 2023-24

Registered Households: 321  
Ordinary Income: \$235,823.29  
Baptisms: 8  
Weddings: 1 (Convalidation)  
Confirmations: 3  
First Communion: 7  
Mass Attendance: 135  
Altar Servers: 2  
FF Students: 60  
OCIA/Converts: 1

### Resurrection 2023-24

Registered Households: 559  
Ordinary Income: \$233,605.00  
Baptisms: 8  
Weddings: 4  
Confirmations: 6  
First Communion: 9  
Mass Attendance: 375 (combined)  
Altar Servers: 11  
FF students: 85  
OCIA/Converts: NA

### St. Joseph's 2023-24

Registered Households: 217  
Ordinary Income: \$144,569.00  
Baptisms: 3  
Weddings: 0  
Confirmations: 1  
First Communion: 3  
Mass Attendance: 375 (combined)  
Altar Servers: 3  
FF students: *see Resurrection*  
OCIA/Converts: NA

### Holy Spirit 2023-24

Registered Households: 979  
Ordinary Income: \$460,465.67  
Baptisms: 24  
Weddings: 12  
Confirmations: 20  
First Communion: 15  
Mass Attendance: 550  
Altar Servers: 24  
FF students: 90  
OCIA/Converts: 12 youth, 15 adults

### Combined Statistics 2023-24

Registered Households: 2079  
Ordinary Income: \$1,074,462.29  
Baptisms: 43  
Weddings: 17  
Confirmations: 30  
First Communion: 34  
Mass Attendance: 1060  
Altar Servers: 40  
FF students: 235  
OCIA/Converts: 29

## 2024-25 Goals

Registered Households: 2100  
Ordinary Income: \$1,130,000.00  
Baptisms: 50  
Weddings: 20  
Confirmations: 35  
First Communion: 40  
Mass Attendance: 1200  
Altar Servers: 50  
FF students: 260  
OCIA/Converts: 35

# Our Mission Field Catholic School

*Marquette Catholic School is dedicated to academic excellence formed in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Marquette nurtures each child's growth in knowledge, faith and Christian stewardship fostering a life of holiness and virtue.*

Marquette Catholic School will open for its 109th year on Tuesday, September 3. All grades have been moved over to our new building on Chestnut Street in Virginia and will open September 3! We have had some incredibly dedicated volunteers in this moving process and continue to be amazed and grateful for God's guidance and provision as we move into another century of Catholic education.

Marquette serves students in grades PreK-8th. We have a unique four-day school week Monday-Thursday 7:45am-3:15pm and offer both before-care and after-care for students. We offer two preschool sections with options for 2, 3, or 4 day enrollments. Our elementary program (K-4) offers academics aligned to diocesan standards plus music, art, and physical education. We have developed a four year middle school program (5-8) that includes daily faith formation, human formation in our house system, project based learning, physical education, band, choir, and art. All of our programs (PreK, Elementary, and Middle) are taught by faithful and dedicated teachers.

We will be renewing our MNSAA accreditation this year and will need all of our mission field's input on how to make our school stronger and healthier. Please watch for information regarding that on our website, bulletins, and mailings. We are in the process of updating our website so please keep checking [www.marquettecatholicschool.com](http://www.marquettecatholicschool.com) for updates. If you are interested in enrolling, don't hesitate to email or call and tour our school.

You are all invited! We hope to showcase our beautiful new school at our Open House on Wednesday August 28th from 4:00-6:00pm. Once the school year begins, our daily mass schedule will be 10:40am for middle school students and 2:10pm for elementary students.

*-Tisha Frost*  
Marquette Catholic School



## It Takes an Army

Rosie:

My faith journey was quite an easy one. My parents immigrated from Slovenia following World War II and spending 5 years in an Austrian refuge camp. They survived the war and were devout Catholics. We had a large family (12) and in many ways it was like an "army" that kept us faithful. Our parents and older siblings set such a wonderful witness of faith. We prayed before every meal, said the rosary every evening, went to daily Mass during Lent and never missed a Sunday Mass. Curt and I got married in 1977, but he wasn't quite ready to enter the church. Father Dolsina was a family friend and told me not to put any pressure on him—let him come on his own. After 40 years of marriage, Curt came into the Church in September, 2020. We had no Easter Vigil that year because of Covid. It is wonderful to learn about our faith and to receive the sacraments together.

Curtis:

There really was an "army" that brought me into the Church. Rosie was always active with Church activities. After I retired, I had more time to help her in her Church fund raising such as the "Taste of Europe, and the Water Carnival Food Booth. I worked with Deacon Mark Skala in the food booth and we started a friendship that included "breakfasts with the Deacon". This friendship fueled the road to Catholicism. We both supported each other through retirement and the covid lockdowns. The spiritual growth committee was encouraging small group Bible reflections during Lent so I became a co-leader with Rosie. Carol and Tom Kolodzinski were part of my army that coordinated the RCIA program with a group of volunteers to take me through each lesson. Each parishioner shared their reason for being Catholic which was extremely convincing. Father Peter Lambert over saw each session. I continue to volunteer and I enjoy working with young people. I am a co-leader with Rosie for our Confirmation students. I continue to learn about the Catholic faith and I am rewarded by the enthusiasm and relationships we build. The army of people on the Spiritual Growth Committee made the difference with all their prayers, support and hospitality. The breakfasts still continue with Deacon Mark. Our faith journey and life journey are side by side on the same road. Commitment, dedication, and Catholic values with parishioner support make the journeys work. Every Army needs support, unity and recruitment. Faith Tag is Contagious! You're it! See you in Church.

*-Rosie & Curt Anttila*  
Our Lady of Hope

Return Service Requested

Our Mission Field  
306 2nd Street South  
Virginia, MN 55792

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
VIRGINIA, MN  
55792  
Permit NO. 12

# Anchored in Faith Through Life's Storms

Born in Prebačevo, Slovenia, parishioner Leopolda (Bajda) Schutte began her life in 1936. With WWII ramping up in most of Europe, Yugoslavia began to feel the affects of war as communism increased its presence in her backyard. As a young child, Leopolda (Polda) living in Voklo, Slovenia with her family was forced by the Partisan's to evacuate to Austrian refugee camps where they would reside for 5 additional years. This included Polda's family, her parents Paul and Mary Bajda, as well as her five siblings. During this time in the refugee camps, the Bajda's recognized that they would never be able to return to their homeland and thus awaited patiently to be accepted into a new country where they could rebuild, the United States of America. In 1949 the generosity, diligence and kindness of many good Catholic families and priests helped to provide housing, food, and clothing to immigrating families. In the Badja's circumstance, this blessing came from Mr and Mrs. Martin Stephon aided by Fr. Schweiger and Fr. Dolsina, who provided access to those comforts as well as a job for Polda's father Paul, while the family assimilated into their new home in Elcor (right outside of Gilbert). Fully settled, the Bajda family grew into their new life on the Iron Range adding additional siblings resulting in a total of 12.

As Leopolda grew older she helped take care of the Bajda home and then worked at Arrow Shirt Factory until she married Vincent Ferkul at the age of 19. The couple moved to Cleveland and had 4 children - Vincent Jr., Martin, William and Erika. Upon Vincent Sr.'s untimely death due to cancer, she found herself widowed at age 26 with children all under 5 years old. Faith and family helped sustain the Ferkuls, as they moved back to Gilbert for support. In spite of these headwinds, Leopolda kept moving forward and met life's challenges with immense strength, as she went back to the Arrow Shirt factory to support her young family. Proudly, during that time, she bought the home she currently lives in today and ensured that all 4 children were able to attend school and assimilate back into the Gilbert community. Years later she met another wonderful man Rudolph (Rudy) Schutte, married and had another son, Steven. However amid this joy came new heartache, mining was in decline on the Iron Range and many lost their jobs, including Rudy. Making lemonade out of these lemons, Rudy and Polda along with her sibling Albina and husband Jim Ahlin purchased Koshars Sausage Kitchen. For the first couple of years they all worked together, but as life would have it Albina and Jim found employment in California leaving operations of Koshars to Polda and Rudy. If the stress of running a business and taking care of a family wasn't enough, Polda would endure more in the years to come. She was widowed a second time in 1988 upon the death of Rudy from cancer. Again, with faith as her anchor she rose to meet life's challenges and worked hard to maintain her business, while seeing her youngest child through school. She continued this work as a business owner for twenty years after Rudy's death, making Koshars a Gilbert destination, until selling it to her son William in the early 2000s. Today she remains an active part of the Gilbert community, with an especially close tie to the Gilbert Catholic Church. And, in spite of all of the suffering Polda faced, she would tell you that her strong belief in God and His plan sustained her and made this wonderful life possible.

- Leopolda Schutte  
St. Joseph