

A CANTICLE OF PRAISE

FALL 2026



St. Gianna & Pietro's wedding – September 24, 1955

SAINT GIANNA &
PIETRO MOLLA

Maternity Home

02 - 05 | Marriage
and Weddings

12 - 13 | The Joys
of Summer



Serving the Body of Christ as a Pro-Life Home of Formation For Pregnant Women and Their Children

Volume 25, No. 2, Fall 2026

Cover photo: Saint Gianna and Pietro's wedding
Kassity & Jacob's wedding photos:
Heather Samson Photography

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Hayley Kaffar

Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home

15605 Co. Rd. 15, Minto, ND 58261

701.248.3077

www.sgpmollahome.com

[f @ @sgpmollahome](https://www.facebook.com/sgpmollahome)

sgpmollahome@outlook.com

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But the Greatest of These is Love

1 Corinthians 13:13



Top: Tori & Greg's wedding day
Bottom left: Kassity & Jacob's wedding day
Bottom right: Viana & Keegan's wedding dance



Viana & Keegan's wedding party

► Wedding season

This spring and summer, we participated in more weddings than ever before. It has been beautiful to witness the beginning of this holy and life-giving vocation, a true sign of hope for the world!

One of our former mothers, **Victoria (Tori) Johnsrud**, who placed her little girl for adoption while she lived here, married **Greg Nowasatka** in a small ceremony in our Home's chapel of the Visitation in June. It was indeed an **immensely joyful, special, and sunny day**.

In August, we were blessed to participate in the wedding of **Viana Schlapp**, a former Housemother who has become a part of our family during her many summers spent in Warsaw. Her husband, **Keegan Link**, also visited our Home on a service trip during a fall break while they both attended college in Indiana.



Newly married Tori & Greg with family & friends



Kassity & Jacob's first look

► Marriage of the first child to live in our Home

July also featured a very special wedding for our Home as we celebrated the wedding of **Kassity Meade** and **Jacob Turbes** across the street at Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church. **Kassity was the first child to live at the Home and the first child baptized as part of the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home family**, and she spent the past year serving as a Housemother for the Home. This was truly a profound and historic step in our work, as the first little ones who ran around our Home are now old enough to enter into the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. —→

► Our hope and faith is in Jesus Christ

These weddings, along with several other local weddings in recent months, stand in stark contrast to mainstream headlines and news we consume each day. The media can make it seem as though we are living in hopeless times, where a culture of death and immorality prevails. Sometimes, it seems that the definitions of gender, marriage, and life itself are being destroyed.

Even so, we can place our hope and faith in Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, the Resurrection, and the Life. He is the Way, and He has already won the battle. It is a remarkable gift to be part of His Church, and we must live in this hope-filled reality with trust and fervor.



Life is beautiful and worth living, regardless of inevitable challenges ahead. The very core of civilization and community depends on healthy and holy marriages and family life. These beautiful weddings we witnessed, along with many other holy marriages, show us a different story, one of faith, renewal, and goodness.



Those of us who are a part of the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla family also have a constant source of hope and inspiration in our beautiful patrons: Saint Gianna and Holy Pietro Molla.



The Mollas: An Exemplary Couple

Valentina Di Marco's *An Exemplary Couple, Saint Gianna Beretta and Pietro Molla, Their Marital Journey and Message Today* beautifully states that, "Gianna and Pietro are the example of how it is possible to become a holy couple in everyday life as professionals, spouses, and parents." We see in the lives of our patrons the call to holiness that we must each pursue. As Cardinal Burke wrote in the forward of this book, "We live in a world in which the supreme goods of marriage and the family, and human life are so little known and so often violated. In stark contrast, Pietro and Gianna bring to the world a powerful testimony to the

faithful, enduring, and lifegiving love of marriage. Their testimony inspires hope and renewed commitment to the family as the foundation of the life of all society. Their story can inspire a conversion of life in those who are inattentive and careless in fulfilling the wonderful call to the married

life. [...] May her [Valentina Di Marco's] account of their [Saint Gianna and Holy Pietro] exemplary holiness inspire us all to recognize and respect more fully the union of man and woman in marriage in accord with God's plan for our salvation and the salvation of the world."



Let us ask our blessed patrons, Saint Gianna and Holy Pietro, to intercede for all newly married couples and those preparing for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony – that they may embrace the marital union as a true and noble vocation to renew the Church and the world through their married love and family life.



Let us also pray that the Church will soon be able to begin Pietro Molla's beatification and canonization process. Indeed, our world needs the example and intercession of this holy couple!

From our Home to Married Life

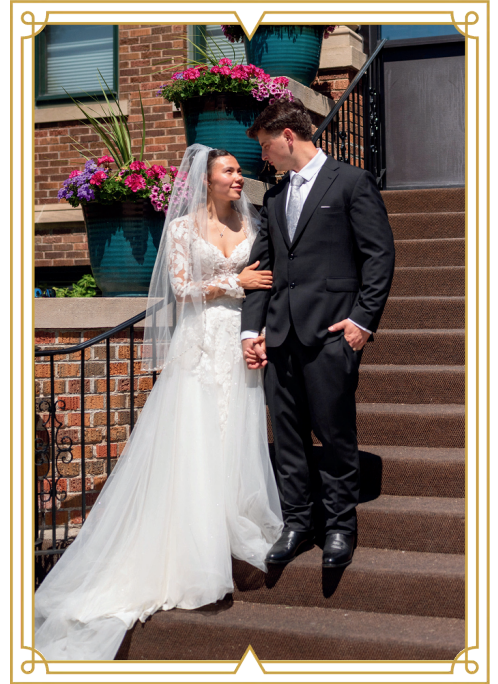
►► Mary Pat's reflections on Kassity's impact on her life

More than just a statistic as the first child welcomed into the (then) Blessed Gianna Maternity Home and the first baptized as part of our Home, beautiful Kassity is one of my girls—part of my family. She is the person who has lived at the Saint Gianna Home with me the longest.

When my house was built, she had her own room, and after finishing school, she lived at home for a year while working. She then spent her final year before marriage as a full-time Housemother here, cherishing that time with her family.

Kassity has been a gift in my life since I met her as a sweet, tiny one-year-old. She has taught me her simple, sincere, and uncomplicated way of looking at life. Her many gifts and unique talents have blessed everyone around her.

She has always been remarkably capable and mechanically minded, and despite being diagnosed with mixed dyslexia in middle school, she graduated with honors—a testament to her determination.



I am beyond proud of the woman Kass has become, and my heart is filled with joy because she married Jacob, a profoundly kind and good man. Every prayer I offered for Kassity and her future husband was beautifully answered on July 11th. Jake and Kassity are truly one heart and so happy together. Jake and his wonderful family are everything a parent could hope for in a son-in-law and extended family.

Their wedding day was a beautiful beginning to their life together. The day was also a bittersweet goodbye to Kassity, who now lives six hours away. Still, she will never be far from my heart and will always have a place at the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home.



Jacob and Kassity Turbes were united in Holy Matrimony on July 11th, 2026 at Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church in Warsaw, North Dakota

Franciscan Jubilee Year 2026

We are so blessed to have **Father Joseph Christensen, FMI**, as part of our work at Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home. His spiritual help and leadership, his tireless work, and his example of Fatherhood help each person who encounters the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home. Father Joseph founded the Franciscans of Mary Immaculate. Serving our Home, residents, and staff is one of the FMI's many Apostolates. Saint Gianna's birthday is on October 4th, the feast of Saint Francis, and we believe that these two great Saints planned from the beginning to be united in the holy work of our Home.

As we celebrate the Franciscan Jubilee Year, it is a special gift to have Father Joseph offering Mass each day in our chapel, preaching at the ambo with Saint Francis's image. Since this past January and until January of 2027, the Church celebrates the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis's death, and with that, an indulgence to all who come to any Franciscan conventual

Chapel or place of worship on pilgrimage to Mass or in pious meditation and in prayer to God so that, following the example of Saint Francis, charity and authentic harmony and peace may spring forth in their hearts. This indulgence is given as a sign of great mercy as requested long ago by Saint Francis, as an instrument to increase holiness of life, and for us to be an instrument of peace in the world. We will have three days of prayer leading up to Saint Francis's feast this Jubilee year. The public is welcome to join.

On another note, Father is always looking for men to join his Religious Community and to be a part of his work here at Saint Gianna and Pietro's and his other Apostolates. Please pray for this intention and if you know of any young men who may potentially discern a Franciscan vocation, let them know about the Franciscans of Mary Immaculate in Warsaw!



➤ October 1st & 2nd at 1:00 pm:

Holy Hour at Saint Gianna and Pietro Maternity Home's Visitation Chapel in Warsaw

➤ October 3rd at 1:00 pm:

The Celebration of Transitus (the passing of Saint Francis) at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Warsaw

"The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few, pray ye therefore the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest." -Matthew 9:37-38



Summer & Fall Housemothers

Summer at Saint Gianna and Pietro's is always extra busy and filled with so many blessings. We try to have extra help – housemothers or summer interns who share their time and energy to fill the beautiful, yet short summers with extra love and joy. With additional help, we are able to assist Father Joseph with his JMI summer camps in June, spend more time outdoors, and enjoy every moment of summer with our mothers, their little ones, and friends. This year, we welcomed Emily, Abby, and Clare – three very special, talented, and joyful women who spent their summer serving at our Home.



Emily, Abby, Ayla, and Pryslee



Clare



Emily, Ayla, and Abby

» Emily (Spartanburg, SC)

“A summer full of ‘I can’t believe this is my job’ moments! I wish I could tell all the stories of dancing in the kitchen, fireworks, disco Jesus, watching a tree get blessed, a storm sleepover, many fire pits, seeing the northern lights, and all the daily Masses! I am so grateful for everyone at the Gianna Home who showed me so much love and made a little piece of North Dakota feel like home!”

» Abby (Watertown, SD)

“My summer at the Gianna Home was spent with thoughtful and amazing people whose love and hospitality is unparalleled. I feel blessed to have been able to help the Home and the people it serves.”

» Clare (Alvarado, MN)

“Working at the Gianna Home this summer was such a meaningful experience for me. I loved being able to help wherever I was needed and grow in my faith through serving others. I’m so grateful for everything this experience taught me and for the memories I made along the way.”



“The Secret to happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all He, in His goodness, sends us day by day.” – Saint Gianna Molla

We also welcome Mary Huber (Strausburg, ND) and Ayla Rokusek (Scotland, SD), who join Anne Dunn (Modesto, CA) as full-time housemothers here as we begin the Fall season and the school year. These women make many sacrifices to serve the women who live here and each person who enters our Home. They are an incredible and vital blessing to our mission and work. **Please keep them and all of us here in your prayers.**



Mary, Anne, & Ayla



A family prays with Father Joseph at the shrine

► Shrine Blessings

Next to our Home's chapel, we have a shrine honoring Saint Gianna and her holy husband Pietro. The shrine includes a first-class relic and several second-class relics of Saint Gianna, along with a memento of Holy Pietro. We encourage people to come to our Home to pray with these holy items and receive a blessing from Fr. Joseph. Feel free to call or email for a visit, especially if you or a friend need healing or are struggling to conceive a child. More info: sgpmollahome.com

East Enclosure Renovation

The long-awaited renovation on our east chapel entrance and fire escape (to be called the Pietro Molla Entrance) has begun! This new entrance will be accessible for the elderly and those who need extra assistance.

We are fortunate to be working with our good friends from Kaz Brothers Construction. Josh, Jacob, Jonathan, and Jesse Kazmierczak handled the demolition in just one day!

Then, Gowan Construction removed the concrete foundation, sidewalk, driveway, curbs, and blacktop. Once this was completed, Jed, Dave, Jim, and Nick

poured the footings and erected foundation walls in just two days. This has been a fast-paced project with great professional help!

Special thank you to volunteers: Jed Carlson, Dave Weiler, Jim Bradley (Dave and Jim drove from Michigan with their wives, Ann and Cheryl, to help!), Nick Lane, Eric Stanislawski, and Gowan Construction.

Now it is back in the capable and generous hands of Kaz Brothers Construction. Hopefully by the next newsletter, we will be able to include completed pictures of the Pietro Molla entrance.

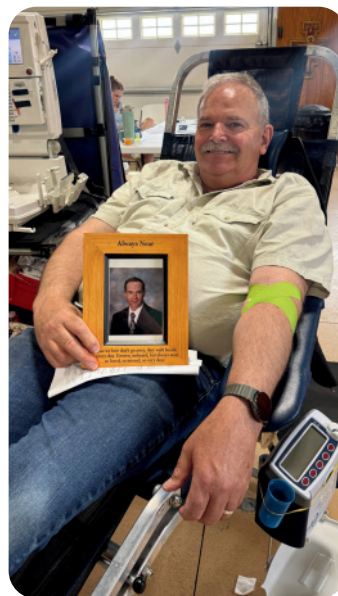


We praise
God from
Whom all
blessings
flow.



Blood Drive Benefit in Honor of Bryan Grabanski

At the end of May, we hosted a legacy blood drive in memory of Bryan Grabanski, one of our founding board members. **Bryan** always believed that every life matters! We were very blessed to honor him in this way, as giving blood also saves life, thus making it a very pro-life work. We had 36 registered to donate, five deferrals, six incomplete donations, 11 first time donors, 20 whole blood donations, and five double red cell donations—a total of **30 lifesaving products** were collected in Bryan's honor!



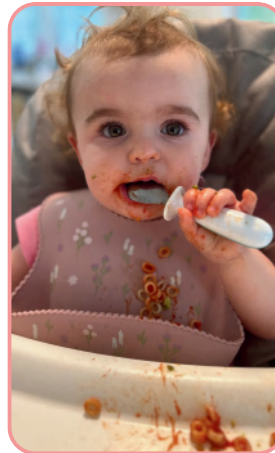
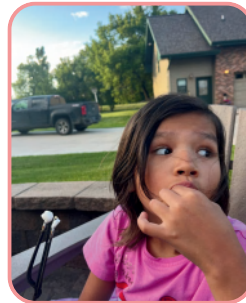
Please keep Pryslee in your prayers as she begins her senior year and hopes to graduate early, by the end of 2026.

Welcome to Baby Grace born on August 16th and congratulations to her mom!

We praise God with gratitude for this beautiful little life and her courageous mama.

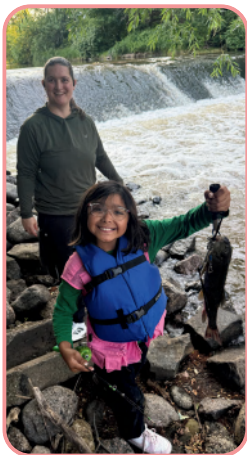


THE JOYS OF SUMMER! -----



“Our task is to make the truth visible and loveable in ourselves, offering ourselves as an attractive and if possible heroic example.” -Saint Gianna

Happy Family



In Memoriam

You and your intentions will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered each First Saturday of the month. These intentions were offered March 14th to August 12th.

In memory of...

+Carol Alford by Jerome Alford
All Veterans and their families by Roger & Mary Saylor
+Doris Altendorf by Rita Amiot, Andrew & Vanessa Curtis, Buzz & LeAnn Baldwin, Don & Susan Barclay, John Dusek, Wally Ebertowski, Ed & Ann Jiskra, Nick & Lynn Lane, Edward & Nancy Miller, Bonnie Riske, Rod & Joan Schanilec, Old National Bank
+William L. Andrews, E. Russell Bell by Christopher & Joan Bell
+Larry Astrub by Charles & Barbara Ruzicka family
+Allan & Leona Bayne, Yvonne Rogalla by Gwyndale & Marge Bpayne
+Tim Beaton, Lydia by Brian Beaton
+Remi Beauchamp by David & Artini Beauchamp, Robert & Lisa (Nelson) Beauchamp, Lorrie Beauchamp, Berg, Wally Ebertowski, Kaya Foley, Brian & Kate Greicar, Arthur & Glorianne Hiltner, Craig & Sandy Houska, Joni & Gerard Keller, Jenny Kramer, Sue Matcha, Nick & Lynn Lane, Mary Mondry, Marty & Sherry Pengilly, Rod & Joan Schanilec, Thomas & Julie Shorma, Jeff & Amy Sobolik, Ken & Dianne Stremick, Wanda Thompson, George & Peggy Van Kirk, Mike Wysocki, Peter Xenides
+Gerald L. Below by LaVonne Goetsch
+Leo Bittner by Lil Bittner
+Michele Bianco by Scott & Sara Bleth
+Deborah Bone by Rodger & Celinda Wetzel
+Gary Boyer, Dianne Larson by Jay & Karla Gellner
+Audrey Brumfield by James & Diane Nygaard
+Delores Burianek, Jon P. Koehmstedt, Deborah Slominski, Evelyn R. Slominski, Mary Wasylyow, Allan "AL" White, Diane Wray William by Brian & Mary Schuster
+Angie Carrier, Harriet Dosmann, Eugenia Dvorak, Bernadette Greenagel, Leona Grzadzilewski, Betty Lien, Betty Machart, Monica Rudnik, Rita Staffine, Betty Stark by Penny Anderson (wonderful friends that I did hair for.)
+Jesse Chalich, Marcel Sabourin by Karen Cudmore
+Rita Clancy by Curt & Christine Marshall
+Mary Collette by Lee & Linda Lessard
+Jerry Collins by Cathy Collins
+Tim Delzer, Marita Goering, Deacon James Hunt, Denise Lagasse by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
+Judy Dosch, Karen Dosch by Al Dosch
+Kathleen Drellacle by Melissa Hemberger
+Alphonse & Antoinette Dumont by John Dumont
+Dave Eckenrode, DoLores Johnson by Brenda K. Rohrich

+Charles & Shirley Feeney by Susan Askegaard
+Tim Fornes by Charles & Barbara Ruzicka
+Todd & Kathryn Fray, Larry Lavish, Loretta Mehrer, Bernice Mueller, Ron Obritsch by Angie Marsh
+Fred Fritel, Jerry Kapaun by Wayne & Carol Denault
+Quirino Garza, Karla Kozel Harstad, Mike Wichmann by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
+Betty Gerszewski by Wally Ebertowski, Ann Jiskra
+Pat Griffin, Marge Gillespie by Bob & Karen Landman
+Leona Grzadzilewski by Family & Friends, James Dancer, Tim & Gail Dancer, Wally Desautel, Donna Retterath, Lee & Linda Lessard, Shirley Suda, Len & Janet Wysocki
+Millie Heilman by Glen & Tawnia Heilman
+Frank Huelskamp by Corey & Kim Dahl
+Jerry Hunsicker, Leslie Swanson by Randy & Lori Zimprich
+Fred & Pat Jahner by Angie Marsh, Deacon James Nistler
+Patricia Jahner by Joanne Anderson, Don & Susan Barclay, Kristen & Dan Bergee, Jerry & Anita Galloway, Chad & Roni Sue Gilchrist, Merlyn & Dolores Grabanski, Rick & Tess Haugen, Tom & Becky Ihringer, Gerald & Mary Jahner, Nate & Karla Johnson, Walter & Renee Johnson, Roque & Karen Kadmas, Edward & Marcella Kautzman, Paul & Amanda Kietzmann, Donna Kovash, Harley & Gloria Krein, Isabel Kudrna, Nick & Lynn Lane, Ken & Betty Lasneski, Dan & Dee Ann Magrum, Kenneth & Tiffany Marthaler, Bill & Kathy Miller, David & Marie Nasset, Richard & Susan Neameyer, Don & Val Nowosatka, David & Susanne Olson, Phil & Mary Pittman, Dorothy Plutowski, Rod & Joan Schanilec, Grant & Jackie Shaft, Kenneth & Toni Skinner, Michele Slawson, Sylvia Soeth, Peggy Steffen, Kelly & Val-Jean Syverson, David & Maureen Trnka, Jeremy & LuAnn Waliser, Janet Williams, Nancy Wilson, Heidi Zwetzig
+Edmund Jiskra by Wally Ebertowski, Craig & Dawn Jarolimek, Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski, Ray & Linda Lutovsky, Paul & Colleen Samson
+Loren Kadlec by Ken & Pat Kovarik
+Anton & Martha Knoll by Dave & Jane Fick
+Jim Kropp by Jackie Readell
+Barbara Langer by Doug & Tami Ulland
+Donna Laturnus by Dean & Kim Laturnus
+Mary Samson Lefevre by Shirley Ann Lefevre
+Lynnae Loeks by Paul & Barb Loegering

+Terry & Mary Ann McKenna by Colleen Thomson
+Orland & Mary McDermott by Rev. William McDermott
+Elaine McDonald by James & Nicole Desautel
+Dale Narlock by Gwyndale & Marge Bayne, Arlene Thune
+Henrietta Nistler by Deacon James Nistler
+Val Olson by Arthur Olson
+Robert Pape Jr. by Willie & Kathy Bayne
+Gemma Jude Pinta by Carl & Vida Carroll
+Vernon Praska by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
+Monica Rudnik by Merlyn & Dolores Grabanski
+Maxine Schanilec by Ray & Linda Lutovsky, Dorothy Plutowski, Paul & Colleen Samson, Brad & Nadine Schanilec, Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
+Julie Spaeth by Victor & Paige Sweeney
+Robert Thullner by Kevin & Julie Zikmund
+George Tibert, Vicki Votava by Brad & Nadine Schanilec
+Sharon Vanorny by Wayne & Carol Denault, Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre, Sharon Vanorny
+Becky Wald by Jacob & Molly Rodenbiker
+Rosemary Wold by Mary Wold
+Raymond & Caroline Wysocki by Mike Wysocki



On a beautiful June evening, we planted a tree donated in memory of Dorothy Koester, which Father Joseph then blessed. Dorothy's beloved husband, Ron, joined us for the special occasion.

In honor...

Father Phil Ackerman in his retirement by Frank & Susanne Argenziano
Saint Joan of Arc by Brian Beaton
Patti, Colleen, Don & Jean, Aaron by Aaron & Eva Carlson
Our religious leaders and teachers by John Dumont
Craig & Dawn Jarolimek's 50th wedding anniversary by Mike & Mary Dvorak, Don & Susan Barclay

Anniversary of ordination: Father Chad Wilhelm, Tim Kraemer, Peter Nau by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
Bev Schons by Chris & Julie Kaspari
Will & Lea Shulstad family, Joe & Bev Miranowski, John & Liz Bassett, Greg & Mary Lou Dahms, Ross, Tammy & Macy Desautel by John & Jan Klocke
Lucille Krump by Kevin & Dianne Krump
Laura Lutter & family by Angela Lutter

Joan Schanilec by Jim & Loretta Olson
Bishop Andrew Cozzens by James & Joanne Ranstrom
Margaret G. Hanson by Monica Winter
Newly ordained priest, Father Richie Stenger by Randy & Lori Zimprich
Father James Ermer's retirement by Randy & Lori Zimprich
Cheryl Lende's 70th birthday by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre

In celebration/thanksgiving...

Monsignor Dan Pilon's 50th anniversary of Priestly Ordination by Paul & Terri Clark
Marriage of Kyle Steffan & Amy Kuehl by Joe & Melinda Fridrich
Father Chad Wilhelm's birthday by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
Merlyn Grabanski's 90th birthday by Dolores Grabanski, David & Karen Kamrowski, Yvonne Feltman
Ellen Misialek's 80th birthday by Kurt & Jennifer Kelley

Jim & Nancy Narlock's 50th wedding anniversary by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
Keith & Helen Zikmund's 40th wedding anniversary by Nick & Lynn Lane
Kristy Kimball & Dan Fuzazzi's marriage by James & Kelly Moening, Donald & Mary Wink
Adaline Leona Thielges' 3rd birthday, birthdays of Jasmine Ghauri Schuster, William E. Schuster, Dominic T. Schuster by Brian & Mary Schuster

Margaret Rafferty's 80th birthday by Randy & Lori Zimprich
Mary Sears 80th birthday by Randy & Lori Zimprich
Sandy Schuster's 70th birthday by Paul & Colleen Samson
Anita Dobbs 90th birthday by Beverly Schons
To God for His goodness by Brian Beaton
Robert & Robyn Dion
Healthy babies Peter & Eveline by Gerald & Donna Gross

Prayers/special intentions

Peace in the world by Richard Dolan
For the Kern family of Greenbush Community by Elle Frislie, Mary Stauffenecker
Family by Ashlie R. Hallenbeck
Full healing of cancer for Max Johnson by Nick & Lynn Lane
Tish Haas, Jon & Ali Pierce by Angie Marsh
Mary Stapleton
All the mothers at the Home by Thomas & Julie Crummy
Paul & Michelle Feneis
Dave & Jane Fick
Joe & Melinda Fridrich

We want to acknowledge William Eismann who donated in memory of Mary Jane Eismann and David H. Eismann on Giving Hearts Day 2026. This was inadvertently omitted in our last newsletter.

► Happy 97th birthday, Irene!

Irene Duray, who lived across the street from us until just a couple of years ago, celebrated her 97th birthday on July 22nd. We were able to join her to celebrate! Father Joseph played the accordion and a group of us from Saint Gianna and Pietro's and other special friends sang and celebrated with her and many of the sweet residents at Tufte Manor in Grand Forks. Irene is a testament to the joy and blessing of a long life!



Let them praise His name in dance!

Psalms 149:3

