



St. Mary's Mission School News

Inspire Hope
Empower Love
Ignite Faith

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Greetings from St. Mary's Mission on the Red Lake Reservation!

Greetings to you from St. Mary's Mission in Red Lake, MN! Much gratitude goes out from my heart to all of you for your support of our mission here on the Red Lake Indian Reservation. My name is Fr. Tom Niehaus I have been assigned by Bishop Andrew Cozzens of the Diocese of Crookston as the new priest here at St. Mary's Mission. I want to thank Fr. John Christianson for his generous service to the people here in Red Lake over the past 3+ years and helping to guide the vision instituted by Fr. Jerry Rogers in helping to complete the building of the new church and further the spiritual care for the men, women, and children of this area.



Fr. Tom's first School Mass at St. Mary's Mission

What a blessing to celebrate Mass with the students and staff of St. Mary's Mission school at the new Church here in Red Lake, MN! It was a blustery frigid day with the snow being blown by the strong northwest winds as the students and staff bundled up to make the trek from the school for Mass. I was able to personally greet each of them at the Church door with gratitude in my heart. These children are God's blessings!

It was very moving for me to say my first school Mass at St. Mary's Mission, and I look forward to seeing what great things God will continue to do here in the lives of our youth!



Fr. Tom's first Sacrament of Baptism at St. Mary's Mission

One of the great joys as a priest is to welcome new members into the family of Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism. I was able to baptize 7 members of one Native family on February 8, 2025. The baptism took place at St. Philips in Bemidji due to many members of the family living in that place. As a priest it is a joy to work with families and to guide them into a living faith with Jesus and to help them to enter into the Sacramental life of the Church. This was the largest group I have ever baptized at one time in my 16+ years as a priest and the day was filled with joy for me as well as for each child who received baptism! Starting now, there is an invitation going out to all of our St. Mary's Mission families for a new baptism class. So far there are 17 students just from St. Mary's School who are registered

to be baptized in April! Wow! What a great response! I am humbled at the goodness of God and the way that grace is at work here at St. Mary's Mission!

Pews will arrive before Easter.



Fr. Tom and Fr. Lew sitting on future pews for St. Mary's Mission Church.

On Friday January 31st I went to the woodshop at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN to check in on the new pews being made for the new church at St. Mary's Mission in Red Lake, MN. As the new priest at St. Mary's Mission, I am learning that the Benedictine priests and brothers from St. John's Abbey as well as the Sisters of St. Benedict from St. Joseph, MN served at the mission for over 100 years having helped found the mission in 1859. How fitting then as I spoke with Fr. Lew

Grobe, O.S.B. one of the priests of St. John's Abbey who is working on the new pews, that the Benedictine touch would be upon each and every pew that will adorn the new church at St. Mary's! I am grateful for the hard work of those at the Benedictine wood shop. The pews should be ready to install before Easter 2025. The new pews will help parish members to sit and kneel more comfortably as we worship and pray during the celebration of Mass.

Thank you!



Fr. Thomas M. Niehaus

Fr. Tom Niehaus
St. Mary's Mission
Red Lake, MN

PS: Please keep St. Mary's Mission in your prayers and please remember to send us your special intentions.



MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of St. Mary's Mission School on the Red Lake Indian Reservation is the holistic formation and education of the mind, heart, body, and spirit of our students. We achieve this by providing a God-centered, culture enhancing, quality Catholic education in a nurturing, safe, and Christian environment.

This newsletter is mailed quarterly to all our donors, church families and student families. Thank you for sharing in our ministry...

"Never underestimate the good that you do!"

To learn more about us, please visit our website:
stmarysmmission.org

A special message from Bishop Cozzens

Friends of St. Mary's Mission,

I pray you are well, and this Lenten season is a time of great grace for you.

I wanted to be sure to share with you that after a time of prayerful discernment, I have assigned Father John Christianson to a period of studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he will work toward licensure in counseling. I am deeply grateful for his contributions as pastor of St. Mary's Mission for three and a half years.

I have assigned Father Tom Niehaus as administrator of St. Mary's Mission Church. Father Tom is a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, serving the Diocese of Crookston with fellow members of The Companions of Christ, a fraternity of priests and seminarians who live in community and follow an approved rule of life to support each other in holiness.

Father Tom is from Ivanhoe, Minnesota. He was ordained to priesthood in 2008. Father Tom has earned the following degrees: Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Baccalaureate in Theology, Master of Arts in Geography, and Licentiate in Canon Law. His past ministry experience includes missionary work with NET Ministries and Saint Paul's Outreach, as well as ministry for several parishes in southern Minnesota. He comes to the people of St. Mary's Mission and the Red Lake Nation with missionary zeal and energy for the important work of sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Please pray for him and others in ministry who make St. Mary's Mission a place of hope.

I am grateful for your prayers and support for the largest mission work we have in northwest Minnesota. Please know of my prayers for you.

Sincerely, yours in Christ,



+Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.
Bishop of Crookston