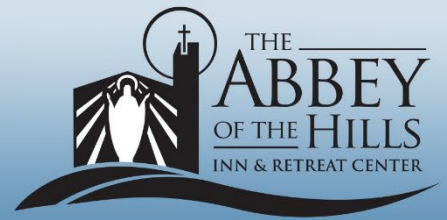


Newsletter

Winter 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

Days of Recollection
(Every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Feb 11 – Wade Van Dover
"Heaven, if you can only imagine!"
March 11 – Fr. Shawn Polman

April 8 – Fr. Rodney Farke

May 13 – Dcn. Mike McKeown

June 4 – Fr. Tom Hillenbrandt

Retreats

February 21-23

Men's 12-Step Retreat

February 28-March 2

Women's Lenten Retreat

March 7-9

Men's Lenten Retreat

March 28-30

Women's Weekend of Silence

April 4-6

Mixed 12-Step Retreat

April 11-13

Women's Silent Ignatian Retreat

May 2-4

Women's 12-Step Retreat

May 16-18

Communion of Hearts

Rosary Retreat

May 29-June 1

**Women's Ecclesia Domestica
Retreat**

Special Events at the Abbey

February 14

Vespers & Valentines

March 7

Annual Abbey Fish Fry

March 22

Journeymen Chorus Concert

March 27

Orchestra of St. Benedict St.

John's University Concert

May 14

Abbey Fish/Chicken Fry

July 16

Abbey Hog Roast

October 29

Abbey Banquet

December 6 & 7

Christmas Cantata



News from the Director

Dave Vetch, Executive Director

Seeing with "New Eyes"

As I began my role as Executive Director of the Abbey of the Hills in December 2024, I felt a sense of awe and wonder as I walked through the doors for the first time. Having spent many years attending retreats and events at the Abbey, I had a deep appreciation for its beauty and history. But seeing it with "new eyes" was a truly surreal experience.

As I strolled through the grounds, I felt a sense of wonder at the beauty of the Whetstone Valley and the peaceful atmosphere that surrounds us. I couldn't help but think of the Benedictine Monks who founded the Abbey 75 years ago and the countless individuals who have contributed to its growth over the years.

The Abbey is a place where people come to rediscover peace, and I feel blessed to be a part of it. Our daily prayer at 3pm in the Benedictine tradition reminds us that this is truly God's Abbey. As I reflect on this, I am reminded that our role is to serve at the service of God's people. I invite you to come and experience the Abbey with "new eyes" - to see the beauty, wonder, and peace that awaits you here.

My thanks to so many of you that have welcomed Sara and me to the Abbey.

If it has been a while since you've been to the Abbey, I encourage you to come and experience it with "New Eyes!"

God Bless, Dave



Abbey Events Coordinators

Renee Marzahn

Beth Motschenberger



We were blessed with beautiful weather at the Abbey of the Hills last month, allowing us to host 14 wonderful events! A highlight was our open house, where we honored Deacon Paul for his dedicated service and welcomed Dave as our new Executive Director. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

We look forward to an amazing year ahead. Contact Renee or Beth to schedule your next event at the Abbey.

Here's what one guest shared about their recent visit:

"This stay was an incredible experience. I love seeing what faithful, talented people can achieve. Thank you for helping others, see, understand, and feel the monks' amazing vision. I'm blown away by God's work. Thanks for the great stay!"

Visit the Abbey's website, www.abbeyofthehills.org to learn more about the Abbey or call (605) 398-9200. God Bless, Renee & Beth



Development News

Margaret Artz, *Chief Development Officer*

As we enter the new year, the Abbey team extends our heartfelt gratitude to God and to you, our faithful friends for your prayers, volunteer efforts, and generous donations that made 2024 a remarkable success. Your support has enabled the Abbey to enhance its ministry and better serve those seeking peace at the Abbey of the Hills.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited about projects that will revitalize the Abbey & its sacred space, including restoring the historic bell tower, necessary caulking and tuckpointing of windows, and upgrading Wi-Fi services. Many retreat participants have also expressed a desire for a six-person people mover to improve accessibility. *Thank you in advance for your charitable giving which makes all these projects possible.*

We also invite you to call Dave or myself or visit our website at www.abbeyofthehills.org to learn more about the recently established endowment. **All donations, large and small, will be matched 100% up to \$60,000**, fostering a legacy of support for generations to come.

Last by not least - breaking news! Mark your calendars for the Abbeys much-anticipated **Fall Banquet Fundraiser on October 29th!** The Abbey is thrilled to feature John Stiegelmeier, better known as **“Coach Stig, the winningest head coach in SDSU football history”**, as the featured speaker. **Sponsorship opportunities are now open**—please call for more details and plan to come to the Abbey for an inspiring evening of connection and celebration of our faith in God! *This is your Abbey.* Thank you for your unwavering support and please keep us in your prayers as you are in ours. Peace to be with you and all those you love. Margaret



Thanks to your generous financial support, more than 100 events and over 4000 people visited the Abbey in 2024. Pictured above are photos from the mother-daughter retreat, Girls & Boys vocation camps, and Valentines & Vespers. Other events range from grief support, 12- step, Day of Recollection, churches from various denominations, marriage & seminarian retreats, family reunions and private stays.

Be sure to call the Abbey to book your next visit or gathering!

Abbey Staff

Executive Director: Dave Vetch

Chief Development Officer: Margaret Artz

Administrative Assistant: Cindi Tramonte

Events Coordinators: Renee Marzahn & Beth Motschenberger

HR/Bookkeeper: Kim Remily

Maintenance: Bryan Anderson

Kitchen Supervisor: Eugene Edwards

Housekeeping: Yara Figueroa

Caretaker: Dennis Justison & Yara Figueroa

Guest Testimonials

“Abbey of the Hills is a little piece of paradise in the Sioux Falls Diocese. It is a great reminder of what heaven must be like, a place of love, joy and peace.”

“I always appreciate going to the Abbey, but the best time is when I’m hurting. The more lost, confused, or broken I am, the more I need what the Abbey has to offer – safety, love and understanding offered in the presence of God.”

“Abbey of the Hills is a great gift to the diocese and the state of South Dakota.”

Gifts of Peace Honorariums/Memorials

Honorariums: Abbey of the Hills Staff, Jill Adelman, Brian & Sammy Baxter, Ed & Paula Baxter, Carey Berry, David & Kim Billings, Fr. David Breu, Dale & Jeanne Ennen, Levi & Vanessa Hoff, Pat Janke, Mary Virginia Kampeier, Dale & Jo Marihart, Jack Maude, Marie McGraw, Chuck & Jeanne Meidl, Ed Meidle, Paul & Sandy Mitteness, Quinn Marie Myers, Fr. Jack Nordick, Brittany Schwebach, Christopher & Emma Schwebach, Joshua & Cassie Schwebach, Renee Schwebach, Tom & Roxanne Schwebach, St. John Choir/Ortonville, David Stach, Glen & Meagan Stach, Dave & Avis Swenson, Darlene Synsteliën, Helen Taffe, Kathy Thoraldson, Cindi Tramonte, Dcn. Paul Treinen, David, Kristin, Parker & Austin Tritz, Daniel Tritz, John & Shirley Tritz’ 50th Anniversary, Lynn Tritz, Troy & Julie VanDover, Don & Deb Wanner

Memorials: Vince Ahlers, Marilyn Behrens, Carey Berry, Callens & Nguyen Families, Doris Gilsdorf, Max Gonzenbach, Bill Griffith, John Heffernan Family, Virginia Hennessey, Deb Hicks, Paul Hicks, Hicks Family & Children, Les & Peg Iverson, Robert Iverson, Iverson Family Intentions, Allie Kallstrom, Kathie Larson, Audrey Mogard, Marty Moran, Linda O Roberts, Marilyn O’Neill, Nancy Rademacher, Reiffenberger Family Intentions, Charles, Reiffenberger, Donald Reiffenberger, Joseph Reiffenberger, Norbert & Leona Reiffenberger, Roger Reiffenberger, Stacy Roy, Darius Small, Donald Stolpman, Wyatt Tritz

Follow us:



The Abbey of the Hills is a **non-profit** organization that is sustained solely by the generosity of those whom wish to contribute to the Abbey’s mission and help *foster the rediscovery of peace.*

For more information about our events or to donate visit our website at www.abbeyofthehills.org call 605-398-9200 or email abbey@abbeyofthehills.org

