

St. Michael's Parish Family

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Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

Winter officially arrives today and with it a big change in temperatures! The extended forecast has highs in the 30's but unfortunately little precipitation. I'm told that moisture is very much needed.

Even though these days are bleak and dark, I am looking toward the light of Christ reflected in the beautiful light from candles and Christmas tree lights. May the light of Christ shine in your heart this Christmas Season.

Peace,

PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

Annual Christmas Celebrations in Advent! December 17th was a busy day at St. Michael's. We had:

- ❖ **Christmas Pageant** with the K-7th grade youth was performed after Mass. There was a record number of pageant characters—23 K-3rd grade; 10 4th-6th grade youth were the choir and 3 7th grade youth were the narrators.
- ❖ **Live Nativity** with the 8th-10th grade youth and four area youth helping was from 6:00-7:00 p.m. There were donkeys, a cow and calf, goats, sheep and even a cat. Bob Stroda coordinates the animals and thought it was one of the best with characters and animals.
- ❖ **26th Annual Community Christmas Concert** followed the Live Nativity with vocal and instrumental performances from Chapman High School, Chapman NAZ and Methodist churches as well as St. Michael's. It was one of the bigger concerts in recent history.

Ecumenical Service Returns With Something New! When the Chapman Ministerial Alliance (Catholic, Methodist & Nazarene churches) met, we decided to have an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service after a year's hiatus. Chapman NAZ volunteered to host it and some of their members volunteered to provide a meal (in place of cookies) after the service. Fr. John, Eric Keating, Marlo Zumbrunn and Marita helped with the service.

Two Parishioners Join the 90 and Over Group! St. Michael's recognizes anyone who is 90 or older in the bulletin. This year two new members joined Agatha Corbett (95), Don Hasselman (99), and Bill Miller (94). They are:

- ❖ Noreen Zumbrunn turned 90 on October 13th. She celebrated with a road trip with her three daughters.
- ❖ John Meyer turned 90 on December 11th. His family hosted a reception for him after Mass on December 10th.

Parishioner Changes Residence: John Meyer is now a resident of Chapman Valley Manor.

A Change from Concepcion to Maynor! St. Michael's sponsors a child through Unbound (aka Christian Foundation for Children and Aging). Both Concepcion and Maynor are from Guatemala.

- In 2007 Concepcion Tacaxoy Ajtujal was chosen for the parish. Concepcion is now 19, completed the 9th grade and has decided to leave the program to work with her sisters making ornaments with glass beads to help support the family.
- Maynor Josue Lopez is our new sponsored child. He is 9 years old and wants to earn a Bachelor's degree and become a police officer.

San Lorenzo Mission Also Has Changes!

- Fr. Raja (from India) received his green card in June which enables him to stay in the U.S. for 10 years. Unfortunately, he was transferred in July to Holbrook in Arizona and to the Hopi Indian Reservation. He resided at the Mission.
- Fr. Pat and Fr. Francis are the new priests. The two priests take care of four parishes. Fr. Pat is originally from Scotland and Fr. Francis is originally from Nigeria. They reside at Zuni.
- Three small tornadoes came through the Mission the first part of May and took down the covering over their outside Stations of the Cross.
- Mary Ann McBeath, the long-time point of contact for us and head lay person at the parish, turned over these duties to Josie Blea. Mary Ann is still doing other jobs at the Mission.

Can You Hear Me Now? Parishioners made Marita, Parish Pastoral and Finance Council members aware of the need to aid in hearing in the church and parish center. Thanks to Memorial Funds and special collections, the following improvements were made:

- A sound system was installed in the parish center room where large gatherings take place. This was in place in time to use for the Live Auction at the Bazaar.
- Hearing assisted devices are now available to use in church. (Four parishioners are using these regularly.)
- A 24" microphone replaced the 18" mic at the ambo to accommodate a greater height range.
- A media player option was added to allow the playing of music or recorded messages directly through the sound system.
- New wireless microphones—hand-held and body-pack—replaced the old ones. This was required because of a change of frequency by the FCC. Fr. John also likes the new body-pack better.

Circle Drive Project Completion Close But Not Quite!

Plans to complete the Circle Drive Project in late spring and early summer were delayed by weather—rain! In early fall the grass was seeded, mulch and landscaping added and a light shining on the Holy Family installed. The stand with the Blessed Virgin Mary statue and housing and communion rails remain to be placed—hopefully in early spring.

New Bulletin Format! With the addition of a “Welcome” message to the bulletin and parishioners requesting larger font type, the bulletin went from 8½” x 11” to 8½” x 14”. The new bulletin uses Publisher instead of Word which makes it look more professional. You can check it out on the parish website.

Five Years and Counting! October 1st was the 5th Annual Parish Bazaar. It raised approximately \$6,300 which helps continue the traditions established at the parish. After five years there were still some changes and additions along with the familiar.

- ✓ **New:** Grab bags—new or gently used donated items were wrapped and sold for \$1, \$2 or \$3. Quilt—four parishioners (Janice Carroll, Peggy Haynes McLaughlin Janke, Jean Scanlan and Vicki Zumbrunn Simenson) made a queen size quilt to raffle. Games were free for all to play and included face-painting (instead of tattoos).
- ✓ **Old:** Beef brisket & pork loin meal; bake sale, country store, games, bouncy house, popcorn & cotton candy, silent and live auctions.

Men’s and Women’s Organizations!

- The Knights of Columbus were busy this Fall with their Labor Day raffle and booth in September; the annual Tootsie Roll Drive in October; a pancake and sausage breakfast in November; and a meal at Brookville Fried Chicken restaurant for members and wives of current and deceased members the end of November. They also are continuing the 5th Sunday Rosary program and the Pennies from Heaven monthly collections to support Emergency Disaster Aid program.
- Ladies of St. Michael’s continues to serve funeral lunches; hold their annual Labor Day bake sale; host the Red Cross Blood Drives; provide prizes for bingo at Chapman Valley Manor; and donate to charitable causes.

Youth News!

Seven youth—Shaun Blocker, Alex Hoelscher, Paige Howard, Elizabeth Morgan, Isabel Porres, Talor Warner and Joshua Zumbrunn and sponsors, Brent and Brenda Blocker attended NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) in Indianapolis, IN from November 15-18.

Deaths of Family and Friends of St. Michael’s:

- +**Peg McCormally**, wife of John McCormally (deceased), died March 17th in Burlington, IA.
- +**Billy Foerschler**, son of Bill & Helen Foerschler (both deceased), died August 7th in Lakeside, CA.
- +**Cecelia Vance**, sister of George and Alberta Zurmely, died Sept. 13th in Salina, KS.
- +**Lon Flurer**, father of Courtney and Tim Morgan and grandfather to Elizabeth, David and Victoria, died Sept. 21st in Huntsville, AL.
- +**Sergei Neubauer**, son of Larry Loss and Mary Neubauer and grandson of Rudy and Louise Neubauer (both deceased), died Sept. 25th in Urbandale, IA.
- +**Monique (Barbieux) Fluker**, former parishioner, died Oct. 8th in Newton, KS.
- +**Alexander Leroux**, son of Teresa (Acker) and Rob Leroux and grandson of Dick Acker, died Nov. 17th in Kennesaw, GA.

No Appeal in 2018 for St. Patrick’s Cemetery! Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of many of you, an appeal will not be necessary in 2018 to cover expenses. However, donations are always welcome.

Preparing for Emergencies & Disasters! The Parish Pastoral Council and other interested parishioners are working with Catholic Charities on Disaster Preparedness. The process has just begun with identifying areas that we need to address now, in the future, not at all or have already addressed. Also, the parishioners working on this have identified five priorities. 2018 will be busy working on this.

Barbara (Bobbie) Jean (Meyer) Boyd died July 3, 2017. She is survived by husband, Don, son, Greg, and daughter, Mary Monosmith, and two brothers, John Meyer and George Meyer. No services were held.

Paul William “Bill” Stewart died September 15, 2017. He is survived by three daughters, Donna Sullivan, Tracy Nowland and Leslie Spence, son, Brian, 13 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and brother, Thomas Stewart. Burial is in Bala Cemetery west of Riley, KS.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Those enrolled since our last newsletter include:

Barbara Boyd (dec.) Dave Sites. (dec.)
Bill Stewart (dec.)

ST. PATRICK’S CEMETERY NEWS

+**Steven R. Miller** died August 2, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Terry (Riekeman), son, Luke and daughters, Amy Miller, Shannon Demory, Lindy Stroda, and Hillary Erickson, 10 grandchildren, father, William “Bill”, two brothers, Chris and Tim, and two sisters, Carole Skibbe and Jeanne Murray.

+**Dave Sites** died September 3, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth “Liz” (Marino), two sons, Alan and Steven, two daughters, Dina Sites and Miki Sites, and 5 grandchildren.

+**Michael Schuhs** died November 12, 2016. He is survived by two brothers, Kelley and Dan, one niece and two nephews.

+**Glenn Harlan DuBois** died November 3, 2017. He is survived by wife, Ann (Beckmeyer), one son, John, three daughters, Marie DuBois, Irene DuBois, and Maureen Hall, and 8 grandchildren.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Jasen Sare and **Alecia Moritz**, daughter of Sandra (Moritz) and Curtis Barbee, were married on September 23, 2017.

NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH

- **Marshall Dean** and **Alexander Paul**, sons of Richard Boggs and Julia (Aguirre) Boggs, were baptized on November 12, 2017.

New Parishioners:

- Julia Boggs and sons, Nicholas, Marshall and Alexander.
- Carleigh Cozad and boyfriend, Joe Krueger.
- Michael Allen
- Bob and Laurette Siebert