

St. Michael's Parish Family

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Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

On a frigid morning (10 degrees feeling like 2) the church begins the "O Antiphons" which will take us to Christmas Eve. The "O Antiphons" are seven ancient Advent prayers based on Old Testament passages. They express the longing for Christ's coming, addressing Him by a different title each day.

I hope and pray that in these hectic days leading up to Christmas you find time to reflect on the meaning of Christ's coming into the world.

Peace,

PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

Bishop Vincke Returns and the Mass Time Changed! It is not often the parish has the Bishop celebrate Mass twice in five months but it happened this year. Bishop Vincke was here for Confirmation on February 24th and returned July 21st for a Mass of Healing having to do with the abuse crisis. Since we hosted a meal to welcome the Bishop in February, Solomon wanted to have a meal to welcome the Bishop. We gladly changed our Mass to 8:30 a.m. to allow this.

What Are the Odds?

- **April, 2019:** Kim Richardson, parishioner, had a heart transplant after her diagnosis of heart failure in 2004. Her health had declined since 2017 and her heart function worsened in early 2019. Kim returned home to Chapman July 3rd and continues to improve with various small setbacks. She has not been able to return to full-time work but hopes to return by the 1st anniversary of her transplant.
- **April, 1988:** Fr. Dick Lutgen, sacramental minister at St. Michael's from 1990-2002, had a heart transplant after his diagnosis of heart failure. He was one of the longest heart transplant survivors, over 20 years, at the time of his death ten years ago this month.
- **April, 2039:** With advances made, we are confident that Kim will be celebrating her 20th anniversary of her transplant and looking forward to another 10 or more years!

Celebrating the 90's—Birthdays That Is! Three parishioners celebrate their birthdays within one month of each other and are all in their 90's. George Zurmely turned 90 on September 25th, Noreen Zumbrunn turned 92 on October 13th and Ed Lindlar turned 91 on October 21st.

Parish Nurses! After a few years without a parish nurse, St. Michael's is blessed with two! Since September, Kari Barnes and Carleigh Cozad have taken blood pressures.

Marita's Sundays Are Busier—But That's Good! Afton Diehl and Ryan Foltz are learning about the Catholic faith preparing for Full Communion at the Easter Vigil. Since it works best to meet after Mass, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Marita is unavailable for parish activities during that time. Parishioners have stepped in to help cover the many tasks—1st Reconciliation & lunch, Ladies of St. Michael's meeting and Chapman Valley Manor services are some of those tasks.

Disruptions on December 15th Due to Snow! A forecast of 1-3 inches turned into twice that amount which caused most activities for the day to be cancelled.

- Fr. John was able to make it for Mass. Craig Altenhofen volunteered to pick him up and return him to Solomon but Fr. John, being from Minnesota, thought he could handle Kansas roads—and he did!
- The Annual Christmas Pageant involving Kindergarten through 7th grade youth was held after Mass. With many of the youth not able to come, adjustments were made but the pageant went on. We still had Mary and Joseph although Joseph was originally one of the kings; there was only one shepherd instead of five; there were only two kings instead of the usual three; there were only three in the choir instead of 14; and only six angels instead of 10 and one narrator stepped in without having read the script. The pageant turned out wonderfully.
- The Live Nativity and 28th Annual Community Christmas Concert were cancelled. With the school postponing their afternoon band and vocal concerts, we decided it was best for everyone to stay home. This was the first time in the 18 years Marita has been Parish Life Coordinator that the concert was cancelled. The Live Nativity has been cancelled a couple of times due to bitter temperatures.
- Parishioners Brent & Brenda Blocker were celebrating their son's graduation from K-State with a soup lunch at the parish center. With family unable to attend they invited parishioners to enjoy soup and celebrate Cody's accomplishment.

Never Too Old to March for Life! In January, John Christensen, almost 82 year old parishioner, will board a bus for Washington D.C. The bus ride is around 24 hours long with no overnight motel stays. The DC time includes rallies, Masses, the March and visits with legislators. All of this goes on regardless of the weather conditions!

The Knights of Columbus continue to be active and support charitable causes and the community. Shaun Blocker joined the Knights in August. In addition to the Labor Day Raffle for a variety of prizes, the Knights had a raffle for two hogs. Both raffles were successful. The Knights held their annual Tootsie Roll Drive in October with 80% of the proceeds benefitting Chapman School District special education needs. They also had a good turnout for their Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on November 17th. The Chapman Community looks forward to their breakfasts. The Knights also supported the families adopted for Christmas by the parish providing gift cards to Chapman Food Mart.

Ladies of St. Michael's continues to head the Red Cross Blood Drive for the community (holding one every three months) and provide bingo prizes for Chapman Valley Manor each month. They held their annual Labor Day Bake Sale and are planning another soup and cinnamon roll lunch on Jan. 12th to support their charitable causes like last year. Some causes are Kids in Crisis (Backpacks of food for children who would otherwise not have food when out of school.); a meal for those attending NCYC; area food pantry and Church Women United for Christmas food baskets for needy. The ladies also provide funeral lunches but there were none since April.

Continuing Our Traditions—Some Old and Some New!

Family Life Commission hosted coffee & rolls once a month over the summer. We collected non-perishable food items for Abilene Food Pantry during July and Advent and helped returning soldiers by providing shower curtain liners in October. Parishioners, Steve Lewis, provided fresh garden produce each Sunday. The 7th Annual Bazaar was a success due to the time, talent and treasure of parishioners. Two families were adopted to provide Christmas gifts.

Sister Carolyn Returns! With Shaun Blocker off to college, Marlo Zumbrunn is once again the main accompanist with Marita Campbell as a last resort. Thankfully, Sister Carolyn still likes to return to St. Michael's and help out. This gives her an opportunity to visit with the parishioners. She was here October 6th and was able to attend the bazaar for the first time. She will be back January 26th. The parish has to book her early since her Sundays are busy as an accompanist at other churches—Catholic and non-Catholic. Marlo's only complaint is that she never gets to visit with her.

Religious Education/Adult Formation!

- **Catechists:** Once again the parish was blessed with all of last year's catechists returning. They are: Becky Kelley (Pre-K), Courtney Morgan (K-1), Abby Anderes (2), Tim Zumbrunn (3-4), Janice Carroll (5-7), Sara Cook (8-11), Vicki Simenson (adults), Brenda Blocker (CYO), Laurie McLaughlin (DRE) and Marita Campbell (RCIA).
- **Class Sizes Changing!** With smaller class sizes in the upper grades, more grades were combined (5-7 and 8-11). The lower grades maintained their numbers and have increased with two new families. The Education Commission works hard to do what's best for the youth under these circumstances.
- **Extra Help!** With 11 (now 13) in K-1 class, Elizabeth Morgan is helping her mother, Courtney, with the class each Sunday. Elizabeth is a Senior in National Honor Society and this helps meet her required volunteer hours.
- **Becoming More Techie!** Kyle Cook helped set up a laptop computer and projector for grades 5-7 so catechist, Janice Carroll, can integrate short videos with her lessons. He also helped Pre-K catechist, Becky Kelley, to play songs through a TV instead of her phone.
- **Traditions:** The Living Rosary was prayed October 13th with 2nd-11th and adults leading it. The youth in 8th-11th and K-1st helped with the Chapman Valley Manor Service October 27th. First Reconciliation was November 24th followed by a pizza lunch for youth and their families.

Not Your Ordinary Ushers! Over the last year, the parish has been working training ushers to provide safety and security for parishioners on Sundays. This includes medical emergency, severe weather, fire, distraught individual, and suspicious behavior. Last Sunday ushers began their service to the parish community.

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

- Lyle Diehl of Chapman died on July 3rd. He is the father and grandfather of Dan & Karman Diehl, Todd & Marci Smith & family and Michael & Afton Diehl.
- Glen Hite of Abilene died on July 4th. He is the father of Rich & Sue Hite.
- Daniel Redmann of Jamestown, North Dakota died on July 29th. He is the brother of Koren and Steve Lewis.
- Berthold (Bert) Hucke of Largo, Florida died August 19th. He is the father and grandfather of Wilma & John Calovich, Joel & April and Andrew & Mariah and their children.
- Evelyn Meitl of Oberlin, Kansas died on October 10th. She is the grandmother of Kyle & Kayla (Hern) Kinser and family.
- Janet Lemon of Plainville, Kansas died on October 14th. She is the mother of Ty & Brenda Lemon.
- Marilyn Jo (Foerschler) Revell of Topeka, Kansas died on November 16th. She is the daughter of former parishioners (both now deceased) Bill & Helen Foerschler.
- Don Boyd of Chapman died on November 18th. He is the husband of former parishioner (now deceased) Bobbi Meyer Boyd.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

No-one has enrolled since last newsletter.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEWS

A First! This newsletter is the first time since at least 2000 that there are no burials, parishioners or those brought back, at St. Patrick's since April.

New Marker! Permission was given to place a marker near the entrance to the cemetery by the Chapman Historical Trail Committee to preserve the historical legacy of the Smoky Hill Trail and specifically the Butterfield Overland Despatch (BOD).

NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

- **Kain Joseph**, son of Marty and Alyssa Wendel was baptized on July 28, 2019.
- **Kennedy Rae**, daughter of Kyle and Kayla (Hern) Kinser was baptized on October 27, 2019.

New Parishioners:

Karl and Jodi DeArmond and children, Lauren and Lucas Ryan and Laci (Keating) Foltz and son, Holden Paul Jacquet and son, Elijah.
Chris and Sheila Mandic
John and Jenna (Wallace) Norton and children, Madelynn, Lawson, Elise and Silas.
Blake and Ashley Stearns and children, Addison and Brice.