

## St. Michael's Parish Family

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Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

The Dominican Sisters of Peace wrote: Advent is a time of waiting. Rather than waiting with trepidation or fear, Advent is a period of joyful waiting. A time for hope. We understand what it is that we await. At the end of this season of anticipation we will welcome the Messiah, Jesus. The Prince of Peace.

I pray during these unprecedented times, you remain hope-filled.

Peace,

## PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

### PASTOR NEWS!

**Switching Parishes!** Fr. John switched duties with St. Xavier, Junction City, August 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> so their pastor, Fr. Gnaneseekar could make the annual Mission Co-op Appeal for his order, The Heralds of Good News!

**Relief Priests!** When Fr. John took a vacation in October, Fr. Larry Letourneau was lined up to take care of the weekend Masses. Fr. Letourneau ended up being quarantined so he lined up Fr. Jerome (Jerry) Morgan to replace him.

**Seeing Much Better!** Fr. John had cataract surgery on both eyes the end of October and first part of November. He missed a weekday Mass but not any weekends. All went well.

**No Mass on November 21 and 22** was not due to another shutdown but because Fr. John was in quarantine. Thankfully, it worked out that he was only gone one weekend and that he did not get sick.

### WHAT CONTINUES!

**Two Masses** are offered each weekend. Saturday Mass is at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Mass returned to the 10:00 a.m. time on September 13<sup>th</sup> as Religious Education was due to start.

**Live Streaming** of the 10:00 a.m. Mass continues. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschapman/>.

**Worship Aids** will be used for this Liturgical Year with no Breaking Bread books ordered. This will be re-evaluated next spring.

**Reservations** for both Masses are necessary so enough Worship Aids are printed and to make sure there is enough room on Sundays. Capacity was almost reached one Sunday but families quarantining and no Religious Education has eased that concern.

**E-mail & Bulletin:** The bulletin, weekly reflection, and reminders are sent out each Thursday. This maintains a connection with all parishioners.

### WHAT WE'VE MISSED!

**Labor Day Activities** on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The town originally planned for all activities to proceed except the parade. All of this was cancelled the week prior. **Knights of Columbus** scaled back their raffles to just one—a whole processed hog—and ended up drawing for it at their meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. **Ladies of St. Michael's** had already decided to not have their Annual Bake Sale.

**Parish Bazaar** scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday) was cancelled after parishioners gave their recommendations. An appeal was made to parishioners to donate what they would have spent to offset the loss of income. So far \$3,610 has been donated toward the goal of \$4,000.

**Knights Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** was not planned for the Fall with limited seating due to social distancing requirements and probability of minimal community support with Methodist and Nazarene churches not meeting in person.

**Christmas Celebrations:** the Christmas Pageant (Pre-K-7<sup>th</sup> grades), the Live Nativity (8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades) and the Community Christmas Concert were all cancelled.

### WHAT WENT ON AS USUAL!

**Discernment for Parish Pastoral Council** took place July 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Paul Jacquet and Roger Krinhop were selected. Naomi Larouche was the other candidate.

**First Communion** on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for Dylan Barnes, Khloe Gilliland, Heather Gavillan and Hudson Wasylk.

**National Life Chain Sunday** on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Abilene. John Christensen, Deb Pelfrey and Ken & Vicki Simenson participated by holding placards along Buckeye.

**Annual Rosary Rally** on October 10<sup>th</sup> North of the Post Office in Chapman. John Christensen, Naomi Larouche, Deb Pelfrey and Vicki Simenson participated in a public praying of the rosary.

**Birthdays!** George Zurmely turned 91 on September 25<sup>th</sup> and Noreen Zumbrunn turned 93 on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Red Cross Blood Drives** in July, September and November with Express Drive June 30<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Donations have increased even though pre-packaged food and drink is all that is offered. The donors miss the ham salad sandwiches and pie.

**Tootsie Roll Drive** by the Knights of Columbus was held the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Less Tootsie Rolls were handed out but donations increased.

**Knights of Columbus** continued their monthly meetings and had a social gathering with a cookout in August—burgers, beans and beer!

**Catholic Charities** comes the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month to distribute non-perishable food and hygiene products with an average of 12-15 families helped each month.

**What Are the Numbers?** The average attendance at Mass is 27 on Saturday and 63 on Sunday. The parish families who attend Mass regularly are 64 with 37 families not attending.

**Parishioners Are Generous People!** The parish finances have not suffered during this pandemic thanks to the generosity of the parishioners. Parish families continue to support the parish even when not attending. They are also giving to other causes—Abilene Food Pantry (non-perishable food in July and during Advent), Catholic Charities (granola bars and deodorant) and Adopted Christmas Families (cash).

**San Lorenzo Mission** has been supported by St. Michael's for over 20 years both monetarily and non-monetarily. A few months ago Catholic Extension Magazine had an article titled "Navajo Nation Reaches Highest Infection Rate (Covid-19) in U.S. Fr. Patrick McGuire, SMA, the 71-year-old pastor of San Lorenzo as well as two other parishes, was mentioned in the article. Catholic Extension supports Mission Dioceses and Parishes and supports Salina Diocese and Gallup New Mexico Diocese (which St. Michael's and San Lorenzo are a part of). Catholic Extension supports 15 poor parishes spread across Navajo Nation which is the size of West Virginia. The community has many challenges even in "good times." Pre-pandemic, up to 70% of the population was unemployed. More than a third live below poverty and have no access to running water.

### **The Rollercoaster of Religious Education!**

- ✓ The Sunday after Labor Day start date was delayed to September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Putting into place the guidelines from the Diocese requiring 6 foot social distancing, assigned seating and masks worn at all times postponed the start date to October 11<sup>th</sup>. This was a good call when Middle and High Schools went remote for two weeks.
- ✓ Social distancing requirements meant no Pre-K and only chairs for grades 5-7 and 8-10 and no classes for grades 11-12. Also, individual packets of supplies were made up for each student.
- ✓ Absenteeism was high but most of this was due to students being quarantined or having Covid-19.
- ✓ With no mass on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and with the Middle and High Schools going remote until January 4<sup>th</sup>, Religious Education was cancelled until January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Catechists, Adult Formation and CYO:**

- **Catechists and DRE** (all returning) are: K-1 – Courtney Morgan; 2 – Abby Anderes, 3-4 – Tim Zumbrunn; 5-6-7 – Janice Carroll and 8-9-10 – Sara Cook; DRE - Laurie McLaughlin.
- **Adult Formation** continues to be offered with plexiglass dividers and tables spread out more to maintain social distancing. Vicki Simenson continues leading this group and making use of FORMED series.
- **CYO** is meeting occasionally. With continued conflicts with school play practice on Wednesdays, they are meeting Sunday evenings. Brenda Blocker continues as their sponsor.

**Praying the Rosary** before Sunday Mass resumed with the start of the Advent Season. This had not happened since the shutdown in March. Parishioners had missed it!

**Ladies of St. Michael's!** A small group of ladies met after Mass November 29<sup>th</sup> to decide the charitable donations for the year. They also came up with some options for funeral lunches during the pandemic to offer families while taking necessary precautions.

**Funeral and Weekday Mass Combined!** Due to the virus, only one brother was able to attend Jo Seley's funeral which he intended to be a graveside service. So we combined the funeral with the weekday Mass on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Transfiguration, and made the best of the limitations.

### **Death of Family and Friends of St. Michael's:**

- Jon Londeen, long-time resident of Chapman, Kansas, and funeral home director, died on October 8, 2020. He is survived by wife, Kay, three sons, Jon David "JD", Kevin and Eric and four granddaughters.
- Mary Lee (Scheetz) (Campbell) Brooks of Hays, Kansas died on October 7, 2020. She is the mother of Marita and sister of Fr. Joseph Scheetz and Fr. Dan Scheetz.
- Vernon "Vern" Neuschafer of Arlington, Texas died on October 29, 2020. He is the brother of Marvin Neuschafer, Janice Neuschafer and Mary Avery.
- Larry Blixt of Chapman, Kansas died on November 27, 2020. He is the husband of Judy (Acker) Blixt and father of Cynthia, Lisa and Tamra.

**Friends of St. Michael's** have donated over \$1,000 since the last newsletter which went to St. Patrick's Cemetery.

### **MEMORIAL FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS**

No Memorials have been established in the last six months.

### **ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEWS**

+**Johanna "Jo" Seley** died July 29, 2020. She is survived by her sisters, Josephine Askbaker and Geraldine Zlesak, brothers, James Guy, Charles Guy, John Guy, Richard Guy, Donald Guy, Mike Guy and Patrick Guy, 28 nieces and nephews.

+**Mary Jo Gorman** died August 5, 2020. She is survived by her children, Patrick Gorman, Terese Gorman, Dennis Gorman, Richard Gorman, M. Cathy McDermott and Beth Gorman, sisters, Cecilia Linnenbrink and Elizabeth Edwards, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

+**Marilyn (Foerschler) Revell** died November 16, 2019. She is survived by husband, Walter Revell, three sons, Christopher Thompson, Aaron Thompson, and Justin Revell, two daughters, Megan Godfrey and Amanda Revell, 11 grandchildren, three brothers, Dennis Foerschler, Kevin Foerschler, and Robert Foerschler and two sisters, Kathy Hoffman and Denise Letourneau.

+**Charlene (Dreiling) Herman** died October 21, 2020. She is survived by husband, George Herman, children, Sherry Hooper, Jerry Herman, Patty Canfield and Mary Beth Buchanan, nine grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

### **NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

Jasen & Alecia (Moritz) Sare  
Jason & Mary Krantz and son, Carson