

St. Michael's Parish Family

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Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

Today, as I look out my office window, the flag is at half staff in honor of former Senator, Robert "Bob" Dole, and for Pearl Harbor. In addition, it is the feast day of St. Ambrose and the vigil of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast day of the United States. All of this is a reminder of the connection between my faith and the world.

This newsletter is also a connection between you and St. Michael's parish. I am often reminded of the importance of this connection when you tell me how much you appreciate receiving this newsletter.

May these connections continue for many years to come.

Peace,

PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

Life with Fr. Peter! With Fr. Peter O'Donnell's assignment to St. Andrew's and St. Michael's, the parish returned to the "familiar" with a few twists!

- Mass on Sundays (9:00 a.m.) is sandwiched between two Masses at St. Andrew's (7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.) but Fr. Peter does stay after Mass to greet and visit with parishioners before heading back to Abilene in his familiar white pickup with the purple flash on the sides. Parishioners are more concerned about Fr. Peter getting back to Abilene than he seems to be.
- Visiting the Religious Ed classes regularly is not possible. Fr. Peter visits the classes when he needs to stay at St. Michael's after Mass i.e. bazaar and First Reconciliation. Marita lines up a priest to take his last Mass at St. Andrew's—something she's not done for five years.
- Baptisms are not during Mass but are scheduled for early Sunday afternoon.
- Confessions are now set up when Fr. Peter is going to be in Chapman—for a meeting, for a holy day Mass, or for a football game. So far confessions have been offered at least once a month.
- Meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council and Knights are set so Fr. Peter can attend.
- Having a younger priest is noticeable for the parish as well as Marita. It's been almost 20 years.

Advent/Christmas!

- ✓ **Adopted Families:** Working with the Chapman School District, the parish adopted three families, totaling 14 people, to help provide Christmas and some regular needs. Once again parishioners stepped up and bought items that the families provided. Cash donations were used to buy gift cards for fuel and groceries.
- ✓ **New Christmas Environment!** The Art & Environment committee of Mary Anderson, Jean Scanlan and Judy Smith, worked many hours to create new Christmas decorations for the windows and to decorate two new wreaths. New trees were also purchased. The parish Christmas card, designed by Jean Scanlan, was inspired by the new window decorations.

Normal Happenings and News!

Catechist Appreciation Dinner was held in the parish center on August 20th and catered by Chapman Food Mart. In past years it was held at the end of April or early May and at a restaurant. The catechists from last year and this year were invited. Catechists for this year are: Becky Kelley (Pre-K), Courtney Morgan (K-1), Abby Anderes (2), Jenny Whitehair (3-4), Janice Carroll (5-6), Jon & Jenna Norton (7-8), Sara Cook (9-11), Vicki Simenson (adult formation), Brenda Blocker (CYO) and Laurie McLaughlin (DRE).

Fr. Peter's Welcome was held on August 29th and headed by the Ladies of St. Michael's since the Knights headed Fr. John's Farewell. The menu was breakfast casserole, cinnamon rolls and fruit. Making the best use of the gathering, parents registered their children for Religious Ed, stewardship packets were handed out and parishioners could sign-up to help at the bazaar.

RCIA/RCIC: Two adults, Mary DeArmond and Bethany DeLorenzo, and a 6th grader, Riley DeLorenzo, are preparing to become members of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The adults meet during Religious Ed with Marita as their catechist. Riley is attending regular Religious Ed classes and meeting individually with Becky Kelley for further preparation. Riley is a catechumen (not baptized) and Mary and Bethany are candidates (baptized). The Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance was held during Mass on November 21st.

Almost Back to Pre-Pandemic!

- ❖ **Mass:** With the start of the new Liturgical Year on November 28th, all Liturgical Ministries are back and *Breaking Bread* books are in the pews replacing the weekly worship aids. The hosts are no longer brought up in a ciborium and the collection baskets are passed through the pews. The communion cup has not returned but that is not up to the parish to decide.
- ❖ **Religious Education:** Classes started the Sunday after Labor Day following the Covid guidelines of the Chapman School District—3' social distancing and masks optional. Pre-K resumed this year but started after the bazaar. The class sizes are: Pre-K – 5; K-1 – 13; 2 – 7; 3-4 – 11; 5-6 – 13; 7-8 – 7; 9-11 – 11. The seven 2nd grade youth made their First Reconciliation on November 21st.

Totally Back to Pre-Pandemic

- **Community Dinners:** On July 28th, the Chapman Methodist Community Dinners returned. They are held the fourth Wednesday of the month. No dinners were held in November or December due to the holidays.
- **Labor Day:** Knights of Columbus had raffles for a whole hog and for gift cards and wooden American flag. They also sold soda and water. Ladies of St. Michael's had their bake sale.
- **Stewardship Sunday:** Although the time of year changed to September from February, the parish once again committed to sharing their time, talent and treasure on September 12th. Over half of the parish families returned the forms.
- **Blood Drives:** In September, the blood donors once again enjoyed ham salad sandwiches and pie and the return of volunteers for the canteen and reception.
- **Bazaar:** The bazaar returned on the first Sunday in October with the traditional meal of smoked pork loin and brisket, games, country store/bake sale, silent and live auction. The time was adjusted to meet commitments by parishioners and worked out well with parishioners able to stay for the live auction—the last event of the day—and still make Life Chain in Abilene, youth volleyball, etc. The bazaar was a success, parishioners enjoyed themselves and funds raised were considerably more than the previous years.
- **Living Rosary** was held on October 10th with the 2nd through 11th grade youth and adult formation group leading it.
- **Pancake & Sausage Feed:** The Knights had their first community pancake and sausage feed on November 14th. The parishioners as well as the community were glad to see its return.
- **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service:** The Chapman Methodist church hosted the Thanksgiving Service with Chapman NAZ and St. Michael's helping. The time was changed from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Christmas:** The Christmas Pageant with K-8th grade, the Live Nativity with 9th-11th grade and the Community Christmas Concert for all ages, will be held on Sunday, December 19th. With larger class sizes, there could be 10 angels and 12 shepherds in addition to Mary, Joseph and the three Wisemen for the pageant.
- **Chapman Valley Manor:** Plans to resume ecumenical services the end of August were put on hold. St. Michael's will start providing a service every other month beginning February 27, 2022. Communion to the residents will be brought weekly by an Extraordinary Minister of Communion starting December 12, 2021.
- **Soup Luncheon:** The Ladies of St. Michael's will have a Soup Luncheon on January 30th. This fundraiser replaces the Alumni Luncheons that are no longer taking place. The women will offer, chili, potato and chicken & noodle soup along with homemade cinnamon rolls, relishes and drink.

Confirmation: The 9th, 10th and 11th grade youth are in their second year of preparation for Confirmation. Confirmation is scheduled for September 18, 2022. This year the 11 youth chose their sponsors and their saint's name. They will each give a short presentation on the saint they chose. They will have a retreat given by a team from St. Isidore's at K-State on February 27th together with the confirmation youth at St. Andrew's. They also must do 15 hours of community service.

Maynor! Correspondence to the parish's adopted child continues to be provided by Janice Carroll, catechist, and her 5th and 6th grade youth. She sends an e-letter and sometimes attaches pictures of the church and events. In the letter written by Maynor in June, it was winter and they were sowing corn and beans. Maynor just turned 13.

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

- Robert Foltz, grandfather of Andrea & Brett Koster and Ryan and Laci (Keating) Foltz, died on July 17th.
- Sandy Stevens, sister of Bill and Patsy Chamberlin, died July 25th.
- Rose Marie Shelton, sister of Liz Sites and aunt of Dina and Miki Sites, died on July 28th.
- Clarence Stroda, father of Bob and TeCoa Stroda, died on September 16th.
- Pat Fisher, mother of Joe and Loretta Fisher, died on October 15th.
- Douglas Schlesener, brother of Kim and Justin Richardson and uncle of Dawson Richardson, died on October 26th.
- Richard Lemon, father of Ty and Brenda Lemon, died on November 24th.

+Larry Blixt died on November 27th. He is survived by his wife, Judy (Acker) Blixt, three daughters, Cynthia, Lisa and Tamra three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEWS

+**Marita (Maloney) Beckmeyer** died Sept. 12, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Fred W. "Bill" Beckmeyer, son, William, and two granddaughters.

+**Mary Prusik** died Sept. 22, 2021. She is survived by two sons, Terrance (Terry) and Michael, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

- ❖ **Adalee Sue** and **Maverick Allen**, children of Marcus and Steffani Zumbrunn, were baptized on November 14, 2021.

New Parishioners

Bethany DeLorenzo & Billy Miller and son, Riley DeLorenzo.
Mary DeArmond.
Oscar & Tiffany Valenzuela and daughters, Savannah and Haley.
Jorgan & Holly Beck and children, Ivy, Jance, Kallan and Ladd.
Mary Jo Madsen.