

St. Michael's Parish Family

P O Box 217 Chapman, KS 67431

785-922-6509

web site: www.smchapmanparish.org

e-mail: smichael-chapman@sbcglobal.net

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Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

As I begin this newsletter, it is the first day of summer and it feels like summer with the wind and the 90-degree temperature. It also makes me aware that this newsletter is being sent much later than normal. Hopefully, you will understand when you read about the weather and vacation bible school. In the middle of that I was gone for the National Association of Lay Ministry conference at Mundelein Seminary north of Chicago.

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying some rest and relaxation in these summer days.

Peace,

PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

Bishop/Priest News!

- ❖ **Fr. John** turned 78 on January 15th and celebrated his 52nd anniversary of his ordination on March 12th.
- ❖ **Fr. Larry Letourneau** takes care of Sunday Mass when Fr. John has other commitments or is gone.
- ❖ **Fr. Norbert Dlabal** helped out on Palm Sunday. Fr. Dlabal is 83 but just retired from active ministry last year.
- ❖ **Msgr. Jim Hake** returned for Memorial Day Mass. It was held in church due to the recent rain and the uncertain weather forecast.
- ❖ **Bishop Vincke** will return to St. Michael's on July 21st for a Mass of Healing followed by coffee, juice & rolls. The purpose of this Mass is for parishioners to participate and communicate their concerns to the Bishop. Mass that day will be at 8:30 a.m. with Solomon having an 11:00 a.m. Mass followed by a dinner.

Refinishing Pews! After almost 20 years, the finish on the pews was worn off and wear and tear was showing. In order to preserve them, they were washed, stained and re-sealed. This took one week and left a lingering smell for awhile, but the pews should last for another 20 years!

Community Dinner! In March, the Chapman United Methodist church started hosting a free community dinner once a month. It started out slow but the numbers attending continues to grow. Those attending enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship without the time spent preparing it and cleaning up afterwards. Naomi Larouche from St. Michael's can usually be found volunteering there.

Will It Ever Be Finished? The Circle Drive Project is so close to being finished but a few projects remain—the final landscaping has been hindered due to the rain and a new house for the Blessed Virgin Mary statue will be made as Brent Blocker has time. Even with it not completely finished, it is a beautiful area.

Weather! Over the last six months, weather has affected parish life much more than in past years.

- January-March—there were 10 times when ice melt was applied or snow removal was required. Some of this was to keep the sidewalks clear while the Senior Center was temporarily re-located in the parish center. (FYI: The last two winter seasons we only had two times each season that we needed this.)
- February 24—Bishop Vincke, Fr. John, and the 10 youth, sponsors and parents dealt with snow covered or icy roads for Confirmation, parish celebration and Bishop's welcome dinner afterward.
- March 3—Madisyn Vahsholtz's baptism was postponed until the following Sunday due to snow and ice. Over half of the parishioners were unable to make it to Mass so Religious Education was cancelled.
- Mid-May—the threat of flooding in Chapman including the parish property had sandbags placed in areas around the church, house and parish center where flooding might occur.
- May 21—a tornado touched down southwest of Chapman at the same time the town was under the threat of flooding.
- June—more rain than usual has been falling but forecast has a week with little or no rain so maybe planting and wheat harvest can take place.

Beautiful Music is a staple at St. Michael's but once again changes are coming. Marlo Zumbrunn continues to be our main accompanist, but Shaun Blocker has been helping her out for the last four years. This fall he leaves for college so Marlo will once again be our only accompanist so we will be calling on Sr. Carolyn Juenemann to help us out. In fact, she already returned on March 10th when both Marlo and Shaun were gone. Parishioners enjoy having Sr. Carolyn return and she enjoys coming back also. A win for everyone!

VBS a "Roaring" Success! For the first time in 20 years, St. Michael's Parish organized and hosted the Chapman Community Vacation Bible School from June 3-7 with Sara Cook as the leader. The theme was "Roar—Life is Wild—God is Good!" The other two churches who are sponsors are Chapman NAZ and Chapman United Methodist.

Our facilities worked so well for the various activities that the parish will be the site for VBS for the foreseeable future but with all three churches still taking their turn organizing it.

There were 93 total youth from age 3 years old to next school year's 5th grade who attended at least one day and there were 31 adult leaders and helpers and 16 youth helpers from the community. VBS went from 9:00-11:15 a.m. and on Friday it concluded with a program at 11:30 a.m. followed by a hot dog feed for everyone. This was the first year for the change to the final program. It was a great success!

Youth News!

- **CHS Mixed Ensemble** sang two numbers at Mass on February 10th. Ashlynn Bledsoe and Shaun Blocker are members of the group.
- **Confirmation** was February 24th for ten youth. The youth are Ashlynn Bledsoe, Nicole Blocker, Joseph Mitchell, David Morgan, Elizabeth Morgan, Harley Pelfrey, Dawson Richardson, Jackson Wasylk, Emily Wolfe, and Joshua Zumbrunn.
- **CYO Convention** was March 23rd-24th at Salina with six youth attending. The youth are Nicole Blocker, Shaun Blocker, Alex Hoelscher, Paige Howard, David Morgan and Dawson Richardson. Their sponsor is Brenda Blocker.
- **First Communion** was May 5th for five 2nd grade youth. The youth are Tristan Gilliland, Kasen Krinhop, Carter Smith, Cooper Smith, and Hannah Zumbrunn. Abby Poland Anderes was their catechist.
- **Graduation** was May 19th for four Seniors. The Seniors are Shaun Blocker, Alexandra Hoelscher, Paige Howard and Cole Martinez. Brayden Lexow and Lilliann Roy were promoted from 8th grade.
- **NCYC** is in November in Indianapolis, Indiana. The seven youth helped with the Knights of Columbus fish fry and had Krispy Kreme and Pasta Shoppe fundraisers. The seven youth going are Nicole Blocker, Brayden Lexow, Joseph Mitchell, David Morgan, Elizabeth Morgan, Dawson Richardson and Josh Zumbrunn. The two sponsors are Brent and Brenda Blocker

Men's and Women's Organizations!

- The Knights of Columbus continue to be active with the Pro-Life Baby Shower in January that benefitted Catholic Charities, the 3rd Annual Fish Fry on March 15th and a pancake and sausage breakfast on April 28th. They awarded two \$500 scholarships to Shaun Blocker and Paige Howard. Four members, Daniel Anderes, Dave Anderson, Tim Morgan and John Norton, are the newest members of the Patriotic Degree (4th Degree).
- Ladies of St. Michael's continues to head the Red Cross Blood Drive (holding one every three months), provide bingo prizes for Chapman Valley Manor and provide funeral lunches. They had a soup and cinnamon roll lunch on January 20th that raised \$1,200 to benefit the Chapman Senior (Community) Center renovations. They also catered the Chapman Area Preservation Society (CAPS) annual meal on March 14th.

St. Patrick's Cemetery News! The members of the Cemetery Commission are diligent in keeping the cemetery as nice as possible. With all the rain, the road into the cemetery required some additional maintenance and gravel. Volunteers will remove items off the graves approximately 30 days after placement (except those in vases mounted on the tombstone) to help mowers/trimmers and to help maintain its beauty. Donations for the upkeep are most welcome.

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

- Lyle Koberstein of Junction City, Kansas died in February, 2019.
- William "Bill" Miller of Enterprise, Kansas died on February 16th. He is the father and father-in-law of Katie and Tim Wieters.
- Brenda Moritz Manning of Chapman, Kansas died on March 30th. She is the daughter of Darlene Moritz and the sister and sister-in-law of Loretta and Joe Fisher and Sandy and Curtis Barbee.
- Paul Herzog of Miles City, Montana died on April 8th. He is the father and father-in-law of Toni and Mike Fink.
- Edna Whitehair of Abilene, Kansas died on May 8th. She is the mother and mother-in-law of Leah and Randy Hern, the grandmother and grandmother-in-law of Kayla and Kyle Kinser and daughter, Kennedy.

+**Virginia "Ginny" Zumbrunn** died March 26, 2019. She is survived by her one son, Dennis Zumbrunn, three daughters, Sue Hite, Carolyn Gil and Cindy Zumbrunn, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two brothers, Bill Gfeller and Gary Gfeller.

+**Eugene "Gene" Larson** died June 18, 2019. He is survived by his wife Jenny Larson, four daughters, Amy Ford, Tina Tinkel, Becky Racette and Valerie Weber, nine grandchildren, one brother, Ronald Larson and one sister, Joyce Elsasser.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Those enrolled since our last newsletter include:

Rodger Jacquet (deceased)

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEWS

+**Robert "Bob" Esker** died February 26, 2019. He is survived by his two daughters, Kathryn Fastner and Victoria Crow, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one sister, Shirley Alyward.

+**Rodger Jacquet**, died March 25, 2019. He is survived by two sons, Paul Jacquet and Carl Jacquet, two daughters, Jeanne Jacquet and Joan Jacquet, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

+**Ira Scales** died April 13, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Janice, three sons, Ira Scales Jr., James Scales and Wayne Scales and one daughter, Kathy Jennings, four stepchildren, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and several step-grandchildren.

NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

- **Madisyn Elizabeth**, daughter of John Vahsholtz and Ashley Tonn was baptized on March 10, 2019.
- **Liam Matthew**, son of Ryan and Kayla (Krinhop) Herrman was baptized on May 4, 2019.
- **Marley Rosario**, daughter of Andrew and Mariah Calovich was baptized on May 12, 2019.

New Parishioners:

Kyle and Kayla (Hern) Kinser.