

St. Michael's Parish Family

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Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

The gospel writer says that John was sent from God (John 1:5) but this did not keep religious authorities from asking: "Who are you?" (John 1:19). It is unlikely that Church authorities will ask us who we are but during these remaining days of 2011 it might be good for us to reflect on who we are and what we are sent to do—and then do it!

Blessings in the New Year,

Marita

PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

The Loss of Three Pillars of the Parish in less than three weeks has lasting effect on our parish and parishioners:

- Rudy Neubauer died October 8th. Rudy was long-time sacristan, funeral server, bell keeper, and liturgical minister in all areas. Nickey Babin and Ken Simenson are learning the duties of sacristan. John Christensen and Rodger Jacquet volunteered as funeral servers and other parishioners were honored to cover the liturgical ministries that Rudy was scheduled for.
- Helen Foerschler died October 21st. Helen had been a cantor and Extraordinary Minister of Communion to the shut-ins until this year. She had a stroke the end of June and was at the Chapman Valley Manor. She had attended Rudy's funeral on the 12th. Rudy's wife (Louise) and Helen's husband (Bill) are sister and brother.
- Marcella Dreiling died Oct. 25th. Marcella was the oldest member of St. Michael's and attended Mass every Sunday up to her death. On the Sunday before her death, she attended a baby shower for a great-great grandchild.

"Stained Glass Window Re-Leading Project 2010" plaques are mounted in the church. There are four blank name plates available on a first come basis for anyone donating \$500 or more to this project. Thanks once more for all who supported this project. Almost \$25,000 of the \$69,000 total was donated by parishioners, former parishioners and friends.

The "New" and "Improved" Parish Center! Over the summer the last evidence of the school was removed. A new paint job and carpet along with a thorough cleaning have freshened up the parish center that was a bit beaten up from 2½ years of being a school.

Adding Space Economically! In July, the parish purchased two of the four modular units placed on the East end of the property for school classrooms. This wasn't as simple as we first thought since the units had to be raised a foot to meet flood plain requirements which meant new steps, adding skirting, re-routing water line, re-connecting sewer line and work on the deck. Thanks to a lot of help from parishioners these projects were completed before the weather turned cold.

What We Are Doing With Extra Space

- ✓ The 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th, and 9th & 10th grade Religious Education are in the two modular units.
- ✓ The adult formation group has a designated room.
- ✓ The large open room can be used for special gatherings like the reception for Jan McCormick, CSJ, the presentation by Fr. Frank Coady on "Keeping the Lord's Day Holy", First Reconciliation Parent Meeting, Confirmation Parent and Sponsor Meeting and Knights of Columbus pancake and sausage breakfast.
- ✓ A designated room in parish center with couches, pool table, etc. for CYO which is also used for 11th & 12th grade Religious Education instead of the parish house.
- ✓ Pre-K class added.
- ✓ Religious Ed Coordinator having a designated space to work and display resources.
- ✓ No-one meeting in the storage room.

Sweet Treats Spoil Parishioners! For one of the three monthly coffee, juice and rolls gatherings hosted by the Family Life Commission during the summer, parishioner, Koren Lewis, provided homemade sweet breads and rolls. The nine dozen treats quickly disappeared. Koren plans to do this again next summer but will up the number to 12 dozen. We are all looking forward to this!

Need for Blood increases how often the community hosts a blood drive. Instead of four yearly drives, we now host six! We could not do this without the help from the Lutheran and Methodist congregations and other Chapman residents. Naomi Larouche continues to head the canteen and everyone enjoys the homemade pie. The December drive will honor Justin Volkman, nephew of Roger & Sheila Hummel.

Check Out St. Michael's New Website! Parishioner, Judy Smith, re-designed the parish website. Judy has been maintaining our website for many years. The website is www.smchapmanparish.org. We appreciate input!

Salina Diocese's 125th Anniversary is in 2012. A book "A History of the Diocese of Salina" was compiled to mark this occasion. If you would like to order one, the cost is \$40 which includes shipping. Contact the parish to order or for details.

Stewardship at St. Michael's: A regular feature in the bulletin is "Stewardship Sightings". Parishioners are recognized for stewardship of time and talent to the parish.

