

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

June 2021

Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

As I write this, it is another 100+ degree day with the hope of relief from the heat in a few days and prayers for rain. I think wheat harvest is close as I noticed a few rounds cut in a field today between Chapman and Abilene. In a couple of weeks, I will mark 20 years as the Parish Life Coordinator at St. Michael's and the parish will mark 31 years with this type of leadership.

These ramblings are about ordinary events, and I am thankful to have some "ordinary" in my life after this past year. I hope you too are enjoying some "ordinary"!

Peace,

PARISH HAPPENINGS and OTHER NEWS

PASTOR/PRIEST SUPERVISOR NEWS!

Fr. John:

- turned 80 on January 15.
- marked his 54th anniversary of priesthood ordination on March 12.
- fell off a ladder the middle of April which messed up his Achilles tendon. It's slowed him down a bit—EMC's distribute communion and he sits on a stool sometimes.
- announced his departure from St. Michael's on May 29-30 effective July 1st. He has been here five years and will resume Pastor/Priest Supervisor duties for St. Patrick's Gypsum.
- last Mass at St. Michael's is June 27th followed by a farewell breakfast.

Fr. Peter O'Donnell:

- assigned as Pastor/Priest Supervisor starting July 1st along with pastor of St. Andrew's, Abilene and assisting in the Tribunal office at the Diocese.
- periodically helped Fr. Henry with St. Michael's from April 2014-April 2016 while taking on-line classes for a canon law degree and residing at St. Xavier's parish in Junction City.
- ordained a priest in 2010.

EASING BACK TO NORMAL!

Knights' Activities: Pennies from Heaven Collection resumed in January. This collection provides emergency assistance. A second Tootsie Roll Drive was held February 6-7. The annual Free-Throw contest was held in April.

Knights' Hamburger & Hot Dog Feed: On April 25th, the Knights of Columbus Council had a hamburger and hot dog feed to mark the end of formal Religious Education. Picnic tables were brought in so everyone could eat outside. Take-out was also an option.

Covid Directives: As of May 6th, masks were optional, and seats were no longer assigned. Saturday Mass continued, and seating was in every other pew (social distancing). Dispensation from attending Mass was lifted by Bishop Vincke the weekend of May 22-23 (Pentecost).

Vacation Bible School (VBS): June 1-4, Community VBS was held at St. Michael's Parish Center. To keep numbers smaller, there were two groups each attending for two days. A total of 60 Pre-K-5th grade attended.

Knights' Pancake & Sausage Breakfast: The Knights' will be making breakfast for Fr. John's farewell. **It's been since November 2019 since parishioners have enjoyed this!** The community will have to wait a few more months!

One Mass at New Time: With the change of priests, St. Michael's will have one Mass on Sunday mornings (no Saturday Mass) and the time will change to 9:00 a.m. (from 10:00 a.m.) like previously when we were a mission of St. Andrew's.

Liturgical Ministers: Youth servers will be returning after they have a refresher/training on July 11th. Women's Group will be helping with music starting June 27th with other cantors and groups returning later in the summer or in the fall. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (EMC's) started distributing communion after Fr. John's accident and as numbers increased.

DIFFERENT BUT THE SAME!

World Marriage Day was celebrated on February 14th with a listing of all couples marking milestone anniversaries (5-year increments) and all those married over 50 years. Instead of handing out flowers, as in past years, a card is sent to the couple on their anniversary from the parish.

Red Cross Blood Drives were held in February and May with a continued increase in donors. An Express blood drive was added in June. This fall the ham salad sandwiches and pie will return.

Holy Week:

- ✓ **Palm Sunday:** Fr. Larry Letourneau presided at Sunday Mass and offered individual confessions afterward. Parishioners wore red but there was no procession of the palms from the parish center.
- ✓ **Holy Thursday:** The holy oils were not processed in and there was no foot washing, but the bells were rung throughout the singing of the Gloria.
- ✓ **Easter Vigil:** with no one coming into the church, the service started before dark.

First Communion was held on Saturday, April 24th. The first communicants and their parents received communion under both forms. Those making their first communion: Kinsey Acheson, Madison Cook, Lauren DeArmond, Cheyenne Kelly, Nolan Langvardt and Wakeen Whitehair.

One Graduate! Joshua Zumbrunn, son of Tim and Cathy, graduated May 16th. He was unable to attend Mass that Sunday, so the only recognition was in the bulletin.

Discernment for Parish Pastoral Council Members was conducted mostly by e-mail between April and May since there were two weekend Masses and some parishioners had not returned to in-person Mass. Joe Fisher and Greg McLaughlin were selected. April Calovich was the other candidate.

Welcoming New Member! On June 19th, George Fink (godparent/sponsor, Sr. Carolyn Juenemann) was baptized, confirmed, and received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. George has attended St. Michael's with his wife, Millie (Corbett) Fink and his children for years and had gone through instructions in the 70's. It's never too late!

NORMAL HAPPENINGS AND NEWS!

Catholic Charities Monthly Distribution continues with hygiene and food products helping around 10-15 households each month.

Spiritual Challenge for 2020! Parish families were invited to participate in a "Spiritual Challenge" where points were given for various spiritual practices.

- **Participants:** 10-21 individuals and 22 families participated—some a few months and some for the entire year.
- **Points:** 13-858 individual points and 1354-1945 total monthly points.
- **Average:** 13 parishioners had 1630 points.

Church Bathroom Updated! On Sunday, February 21st, a frozen pipe burst in the bathroom. Thankfully, this happened before Mass which limited the flooding to the bathroom area. The insulation was re-done to prevent future freezing of pipes, a wall heating unit replaced the ceiling heater, a water heater was installed so there is hot water in the church for the first time, and new drywall and a paint job completed the project. The worst part was not having a bathroom available for a month.

No Memorial Day Mass or Services for Second Year! A 10:00 a.m. Memorial Day Mass was planned until the retired priest, we had lined up, took a fall. No other retired priests were available, and there was little interest in a later Mass time. The American Legion Service was cancelled due to rain. Hopefully, next year we can once again have Mass and the American Legion Service.

National Catholic Youth Conference will take place in November in Indianapolis, Indiana. Brent and Brenda Blocker will once again be the sponsors to the six youth: Justin Blocker, Nicole Blocker, Alison Gavillon, Dawson Richardson, Claire Wasyk and Ray Whitehair. The youth raised funds by offering home-made bierocks for parishioners, family, friends and community members to order.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits the Parish! Justin Blocker's Eagle Scout Project is working on the two decks for the modulars. The scouts, with adult supervision, have power washed the decks, repaired and replaced boards, and finished the project by staining the decks.

Maynor! Maynor is the parish's adopted child, through Unbound aka Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, from Guatemala. He is 12½ years old and in the 6th grade. He also helps his parents with planting of corn, beans, sorghum, and vegetables and with household chores. He plays soccer in his free time. The parish's financial support provides groceries, shoes and clothing. The Unbound organization helped 300,000 children, youth, and elders in 2020 with \$113 million to support sponsored friends; \$3.7 million awarded to students for scholarships and \$2.4 million for families affected by Covid. St. Michael's has been sponsoring a child (Maynor is our second child.) since October 2007.

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

- Mark Gfeller of Chapman, Kansas died on January 29, 2021. He is the husband of Joan Gfeller and father of Sam Gfeller.
- Jonathan Lewis of Cedar Hill, Texas died on April 8, 2021. He is the son of Steve and Koren Lewis.
- Renita Anderes of Elmo, Kansas died on May 8, 2021. She is wife of Ronald Anderes and mother of Brian Rice, Dawn Keese, Trina Ade, Daniel Anderes and Jim Anderes.

+Mike Amidon died on March 26, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Fran, sons, Daniel, Darren and David Amidon, 14 grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

+Dan Diehl died on May 3, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Karman, children, Marci Smith and Michael Diehl, and six grandchildren.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Memorials to St. Patrick's Cemetery were designated by:

Margaret Gargan (dec.)

Janice Neuschafer (dec.)

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEWS

+**Margaret (McCormick) Williams Gargan** died February 26, 2021. She is survived by daughter, Barbara Mahoney, step-daughters, Kathleen Gargan and Ceil Martinez, step-son, William Gargan, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

+**Janice Ann Neuschafer** died May 9, 2021. She is survived by her brother, Marvin Neuschafer and sister, Mary Avery, six nieces and nephews and several great-nieces and nephews.

NEW MEMBERS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

- ❖ **Annabelle Nicole**, daughter of Anthony and Kelsey Hill, was baptized on January 16, 2021.
- ❖ **Noah Phillip**, son of Matthew and Bethany Krinhop, was baptized on March 27, 2021.
- ❖ **Orion James**, son of James and Randi Manning, was baptized on April 11, 2021.
- ❖ **Rexley Elizabeth**, daughter of Michael and Afton Diehl, was baptized on April 17, 2021.
- ❖ **Charles Patrick**, son of Daniel and Abby Anderes, was baptized on June 20, 2021.