

*The***S***pirit of St. Joseph Parish*214 North Main
Ellinwood KS 67526**Immaculate Conception Parish**310 North Main
Claffin KS 67525*Father Terrance Klein, Pastor*
Sister Andre Kravec

St. Joseph School Has Special Events Planned to Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

by Sharla Thill

From January 29th, through February 3rd, Catholic Schools across our nation will be celebrating the theme "Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service".

The opening Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Banners and symbols of faith, knowledge and service will decorate the altar. Open House will follow Mass. All are welcome to the K of C Soup Sampler from 11-1 p.m. All week at school there will be guessing jars each day.

Celebrating "In Our Community" on Monday, the students will have Lazy Day dress to begin Spirit week. The Soup-R-Cereal Bowl will be held through Thursday. Senior citizens and Grandfriends from the parish will come to play Bingo with the students.

Tuesday Spirit week dress will be Colorful Classes. There will be pastries with parents in the morning at the Parish Center and in the afternoon a Talent Show from 12:30 to 2 p.m. This will celebrate the students.

Careers that make America great will be Spirit week dress on Wednesday to celebrate the Nation. Local veterans/service personnel will visit classrooms. Students will create Valentine's Cards for veterans.

On Thursday the students will enjoy Papa Murphy's pizza for lunch. It will be St. Joseph Catholic School day and they will wear their St. Joseph shirts and colors!

The Chamber of Commerce coffee will be held at the school at 10 a.m., with School Council members serving refreshments. Father Klein will have a scavenger hunt and the students will create cards for Diocesan Priests and Sisters.



We welcome the five candidates who are joining the church this spring, at Easter. From left are Ed Habash, Judy Grubb, Brandon Ritchie, Gary Grubb and Laura Strecker.

RCIA Candidates Attend Rite of Election

By Sharla Thill

This is the time of the year when the candidates and catechumens are called by Bishop John Brungardt, in the name of the whole Church, to the Easter Sacraments.

St. Joseph Church sends four candidates and one catechumen to Dodge City, to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, where they will join in with all the RCIA members from every town in the Dodge City Diocese.



Friday will honor the faculty, staff and volunteers at the school. Students will wear their Sunday best to attend Mass with their Grandparents at 10:30 and lunch with them at 11:30 a.m. After visiting the classrooms, students will go home with their grandparents at 1:30 p.m.

Sounds like a really great week for everyone, following the theme of Catholic Schools Week: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.

It is always a wonderful feeling and tells you that we are all one in this call to conversion.

Sponsors and spouses join this trip to support the candidates on their journey to the Easter Sacraments. They are called to sign the Book of the Elect, as they did at St. Joseph's Church earlier in the day.

Greet the RCIA candidates when next you see them in Mass.

Those traveling to Dodge City will be Brandon Ritchie of Pawnee Rock. Brandon is joining the Catholic Church for his family, which includes wife, Jill, who is his sponsor, and three children, all girls. Brandon works at Wheatland Electric.

Also attending this Rite is Edmond Habash, whose wife Jeanne is his sponsor. Edmond is joining because he agrees with the church's teachings. They have three children, Austin, Aubrey and Alyssa, and hail from Great Bend the past 19 years. Edmond works at St. Rose Health Center in Great Bend.

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RCIA to Dodge City

Our third candidate is Laura Strecker, who grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, and moved to Ellinwood after marrying Nicklaus Strecker. They have three children, Nick, who is in kindergarten at St. Joseph School, Sophia, age 3, and Oliver, 15 months. Laura is joining the Church because she believes that the family should be a cohesive unit in religion. She is a stay at home Mom. Heather Panning is her sponsor.

Judy and Gary Grubb, sister and brother, are also joining the Catholic Church together. Gary shares this, "Judy and I have lived in Ellinwood our whole lives. I wanted to join the church when I went to my friend Vada Yarmer's funeral. I had a great emotion in that church, nothing I ever felt before. I was greatly happy and depressed all at once, but it was an amazing feeling." Judy's sponsor is Sheri Holmes and Gary's sponsor is Lisa McMullen.

John Clayton, Mark Hammeke and Mary Waite are the catechists for the RCIA. They meet once a week, usually on Wednesday, at St. Joseph School.

Without a doubt, there are no days that are more important in our Church's calendar than those of the Paschal Triduum. At St. Joseph we have many wonderful symbols and signs that remind us of our cherished faith traditions. The Triduum is one of those special times, and one of the things we look forward to, is celebrating the Easter Sacraments with our RCIA elect.

God's Plan for Aging!

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember its God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.



Baby Bottle Campaign

During the month of January the K of C had their annual Bottles for Babies campaign. They handed out the bottles after the weekend Masses, starting on January 8th. Donations were put in the bottles and returned to the K of C by the end of January. Proceeds were donated to area pro-life organizations.

Community Soup Supper

Thursday January 26th, the Community Soup Supper was held at the parish center. This was the 31st annual event with proceeds going into the Emergency Assistance Fund, administered by the Ellinwood Area Churches.

I can't understand how I can remember every word of a song from 1964, but I can't remember why I walked into the kitchen!

Theology on Tap

The December meeting was held on December 17th. The topic was the Infancy Narratives (Christmas stories) in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Fr. Klein discussed how the gospels came to be written and the unique nature of each Christmas story.

On the 21st of January the group met again at the Wolf Hotel. The topic for January was Annulments and the Indissolubility of Marriage. Everyone is welcome to the 7 p.m. theology talks.

Lotto St. Joe Begins to Pay Out

Dan Mason won the first-ever Lotto St. Joe payout of \$100, for January 1st. The first regular drawing for the week of January 6th, earned \$50 for Fr. Chuck Mazouch.

All tickets are re-entered. Tickets can still be purchased, so hurry! Proceeds go directly to the support of St. Joseph School. One need not be a resident to win.

Vivian Klepper is Baptized At Mass with Classmates

Second grade student, Vivian Klepper, daughter of Scott and Jennifer Klepper, was baptized on December 9th at Friday Mass with the students of St. Joseph School.

Vivian said she wanted to be baptized in time for Christmas this year, and also to make her First Holy Communion with her class in the spring.

Her Aunt Gwen Klepper and Uncle Jerry Rogers are Vivian's Godparents.

Her grandparents are Larry and Jean Klepper, of St. Joseph's parish; and Deanna and Howard Rogers, all of Ellinwood.

Following Mass the Klepper family held a get-together to celebrate this special occasion.



Vivian Klepper



K of C Annual Fish Fry March 3

Mark your calendars! The annual St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus Fish Fry will be held on the first Friday of Lent, March 3 from 5-7 p.m. at the Parish Center. The Knights will serve all-you-can-eat fried fish, scalloped potatoes, rolls, and dessert. Suggested donation of \$10 per plate for adults and \$5 per plate for children under 10. Proceeds from this event go toward local charities.

“Lucille (Spacil) Smith Returns to her Roots”

A native of Ellinwood, Lucille Smith has come full circle, returning to the place where she was born 91 years ago. She is making her home once again in Ellinwood, to be near friends and family, and living at Woodhaven Care Center.

Lucille was born August 21, 1925, to Ed and Kate Spacil, on a farm southwest of Ellinwood. She was the youngest of four siblings, two brothers, Lawrence and Pete, and a sister, Lydia Gatton, all deceased.

We all know Lucille as “Skippy”, a name given to her by her Mom at a very young age. She was baptized at St. Joseph Church and graduated from St. Joseph Catholic School.

Skippy was the first in her family to go to grade school in town. Her brother, Lawrence was in high school, so she had a ride each day in the Model T.

Lucille went on to Ellinwood High School, where she commented, “I really liked Home Economics with Miss Hoover.” Graduating from High School, Skippy went home to help on the farm and care for her aging parents.

After her cousin, Marilyn Spacil, retired from Don Jensen Insurance, Lucille went to work there, as a secretary and receptionist. She also worked for awhile in the tax department at the Courthouse in Great Bend.

Niece, Nancy Jenisch shared that Skippy was giving her niece, Ann, a hair



Lucille (Skippy) Smith

permanent one day, when someone knocked on the door. The weather was kind of inclement, when Virgil Smith, a driller who was working at their farm for a drilling company, stopped by to check on the wells. Skippy asked him how he was doing in this weather, and he said, “It’s slicker than snot on a doorknob.” That, of course, set the two young girls to giggling and before long they all had a new friend.

The visit turned into a courtship for Virgil and Lucille. He kept coming around and after he retired, they married on January 18th, 1969, at St. Joseph Church,

with Father Kelly officiating. After a honeymoon to Mexico, the couple lived in Virgil’s hometown of Hutchinson.

Lucille liked to crochet and sew and had quite the Hope Chest full when she married. Nancy added, “Aunt Skippy also liked to cook and her specialty was Oatmeal Cake. Each of the nieces and nephews got an Oatmeal Cake for their birthday.”

Nancy also mentioned that Christmas time in Ellinwood was very special for the entire Spacil family, “We always spent Christmas Eve all together at Uncle Lefty’s and Aunt Tillie’s. We would have a big supper and then all attend Midnight Mass together.”

Lucille and Virgil were older when they married and enjoyed some years of traveling, taking them to places like California, Washington, Canada and Hawaii. There were no children. Virgil died on July 31, 1974.

After Virgil’s death, Lucille went to work at the Hutchinson Courthouse, retiring after ten years. She was also an active member of the Altar Society at Holy Cross Church, and a member of the Daughters of Isabella most of her life.

Lucille is glad to be home again in Ellinwood, where she can visit with friends and family. One of the nicest surprises so far is that her roommate is Yvonne Brenn, an old friend, and they are getting caught up with all the news.

Wal-Mart Greeter

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn’t seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But, he was a good worker, really tidy, clean shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company. He obviously demonstrated their “older person friendly” policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. “Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here; but you being late so often is quite bothersome.”

“Yes, I know boss, and I am sorry and am working on it.”

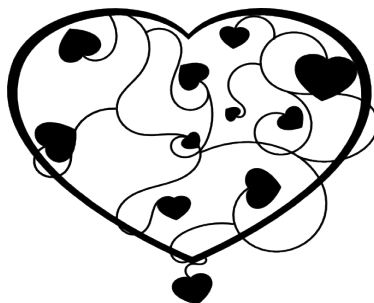
“Well good, you are a team player. That’s what I like to hear.”

“Yes sir, I understand your concern and I will try harder.”

Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment, “I know you’re retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to

Waite and Klepper Attend SEEK 2017

Two former St. Joseph students recently attended the SEEK 2017 Catholic Conference for College Students in San



you there if you showed up in the morning late so often?”

The old man looked down at the floor, then smiled. He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin . . .

“They usually saluted and said, Good morning, Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?”

Antonio TX. SEEK was founded by a group of college campus missionaries called FOCUS (Fellowship Of Catholic University Students). Those that attended from Ellinwood were Andrea Klepper and Marc Waite. Attending Kansas State University, the two were a part of about 180 fellow Wildcats. In a conference of 13,000 college Catholics, Kansas State had the 4th largest group. At the conference, students could hear from renowned speakers such as Jason Evert, Crystalina Evert, Father Mike Schmitz, Sarah Swafford and former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz. Each day of the conference there was mass in the morning, followed by three keynote sessions, concluded with a massive adoration the final day. The main lessons instilled from the conference are the history/teachings of the Church, the power of prayer, and the importance of evangelization.



Love that is kept inside
will surely fade someday.
The only gifts we ever keep
are those we give away.

Love is like a penny,
shining in your hand;
If you hold too tightly,
it's not at your command.

Love is like a circle
of dancers in a ring;
You have to keep it moving
or it doesn't mean a thing.

Love is like a song,
floating in the air;
It's not meant for your pocket;
it's meant for all to share.

Love is like a banquet
spread for all mankind;
Join with all your neighbors –
don't be left behind.

Love that is too careful,
turned in and all alone,
Will slowly dry and harden
until it's like a stone.

Worrying is Believing That God Won't Get it Right

Have you ever thought about all the time we spend worrying? Mark Twain said that most of the things we worry about never happen. But we go on worrying anyhow. We worry about the weather, we worry we might forget to do something, we worry about how we look, if we're sick we worry about getting well. If we are well, we worry about getting sick. We worry about money. And how to spend our time. We are anxious about being on time, finding fulfillment, and many other things. Worrying keeps us from being free, from noticing and enjoying life's goodness. It focuses on what is unknown or the maybes. It tends to keep us occupied with ourselves instead of with God. In a beautiful little book, *Making All Things New*, Henri Nouwen points to worrying as a major hindrance of spiritual growth. He says, "Worrying causes us to be 'all over the place,' but seldom at home.

"We Remember Jack Clair"

By Sharla Thill

Jack Clair, a member of St. Joseph Church, died on December 4, at age 86. He was born in rural Edwards County on October 10, 1930, to Thomas and Frieda (Ingerham) Clair. There were two brothers, Clovis and Tommie Lee Clair, and a sister Dolores Brenn, all deceased.

Jack graduated from Lewis High School in 1948. He was quite athletic in school, playing both football and baseball.

"Dad received scholarships to college for sports," daughter Janice shared, "but was needed on the farm, north of Ellinwood. His Father raised racing horses, and Jack helped with that also."

He met Jeanette Kowalsky at a dance. She was the daughter of Antone and Barbara Kowalsky of Ellinwood. Jack and Jeanette married in San Francisco, California, on November 7, 1952, while he was stationed there with the Navy.

Jack was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving on the USS Henderson during the Korean War. He learned how to weld aboard the ship, as a metal smith.

To this union were born four children; Gary and Jean Clair of Great Bend; Larry Clair and Debbie Tammen, Kevin and Gina Clair, and Janice and Steve Birzer, all of Ellinwood. Jeanette died of cancer on October 2, 1987.

The children remember their Dad as always having a smile on his face. In finding some of his old report cards they said, "Most of his grade school teachers commented that Ural Gene spends too much time giggling."

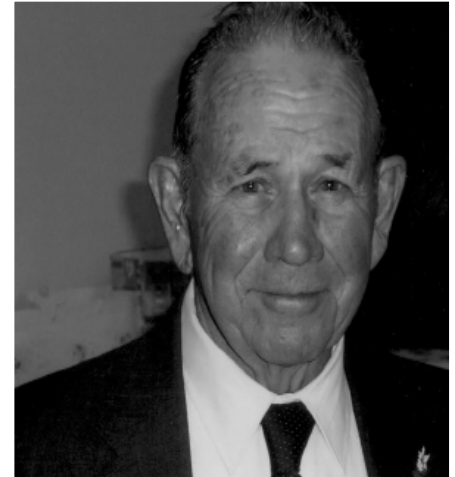
"We never remember him missing a day of work – ever. He always worried about our problems, but never complained or talked to us about his problems, worries, aches or pains."

Returning to Ellinwood after the war, Jack was a roofer and carpenter for awhile before starting Jack's Welding, located in his garage. He did contract welding for many different companies. The last number of years he was a welder for Koch refinery at Conway, Kansas. He retired in 1995.

He married Bernita Urban Schloemer on December of 1990, at St. Joseph Church in Ellinwood. Bernita died on April 27, 2015.

There are six grandchildren, Shawn and Amanda Clair, Shane Clair, Cole and Karah Birzer, Kelsey and Brandon Yeakley, Cody Clair, Connor Birzer, and nine great grandchildren.

At St. Joseph parish, Jack was a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He also belonged to the



Jack Clair

Heritage Club where he was a volunteer Senior Citizen Bus driver. He was a lifetime member of the Ellinwood VFW and American Legion, and the Eagles Club and Elks Club, both of Great Bend.

"Dad was an avid Polka dancer," says daughter, Janice. "He led many a grand march at weddings."

He also loved to hunt, almost as much as polka dancing, and enjoyed working in the garden and doing yard work.

Funeral Mass for Jack was on December 10, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Fr. Terrance Klein officiating. Burial was with Military Honors by the US Navy. Memorials were to Ellinwood EMS or St. Joseph Altar Society.

PSR Breakfast Well Attended

For Summer Mission Trip

Despite the bitter cold, a nice crowd attended the High School PSR breakfast/brunch on December 18th, at the parish center. Students wore their new tee shirts. A free will donation was taken with proceeds to go towards the Steubenville mission trip and conference this summer. Egg and sausage burritos and french toast were served.

Recent fund raisers for the trip included helping children decorate Gingerbread Houses at the Christkindlmarket in December and selling poinsettias at Christmas.

Sean O'Neill and the students wish to thank everyone for their generosity and support!

“Celebrating the Gift of Catholic Education”

by Julie (Thill) Lewis

Each year, for the past 43 years, a special week of celebration begins in the Dallas Diocese and in our country on the last Sunday of January. It is called Catholic Schools Week. It is a time when schools and parishes celebrate and focus on the value that a Catholic education provides to young people in our communities and in our nation.

There are many educational choices out there for parents. But a Catholic school can provide a challenging curriculum, as well as assist in the total faith formation of a child. It is a safe and supportive environment where students can achieve good grades, but also practice all of the core values and truths of their faith. Catholic schools frequently outperform public and other private schools in national test scoring, high school graduation rates, and college attendance.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2017 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” According to the National Catholic Education Association, this theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities - small families in their own right, but also members of the large community of home, church, city, and nation.” “Faith, Knowledge and Service” are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

Dr. Laura McCorkle, Principal at All Saints Catholic School, said that the theme fits her school to a T. “Our liturgy program continues to be outstanding, our academics are top-notch, and there is always somebody leading a service project. It’s such a giving community.”

There are many ways that schools around the nation celebrate this theme. All Saints, in particular, will observe the week by focusing on all of the people that support Catholic education in their community. On Monday, the students and teachers will celebrate by reciting the Rosary as a school and writing letters to the pope and bishop thanking them for their support. Tuesday will focus on students, who are invited to accessorize their uniform in a creative way representing the theme, “My Faith is My Style.” Students will also enjoy a day of no homework, tests or quizzes. The Home and School Association will honor the teachers on Wednesday by providing a special

luncheon. On Thursday, school volunteers will be recognized for the time and talent they have shared with students and staff. Friday will be a day to honor vocations. Priests, deacons, and other religious and lay ministers will be celebrated with a reception and then will stay for a question/answer session with the students.

“I think we celebrate Catholic schools all the time because we are always talking about faith, knowledge and service.” Dr. McCorkle said, “But Catholic Schools Week is a great way to actually set aside time to focus on these themes and what they really mean to us as a community.”

Pope Francis himself was a teacher in Catholic education. He taught literature and psychology at a Jesuit high school in Buenos Aires, as well as, theology at College del Salvador and Colegio Maximo. The pope has expressed his firm belief that parents should have the right to choose a moral and religious education for their children. He has said that families and

teachers must guide students to critical thinking and a moral compass. That’s where a faith-based education comes in.

Dr. McCorkle sums it up like this: “I like that the students of All Saints are exposed to their Catholic faith on a daily basis. It is a value system that will be a part of their lives forever, and that is something to be celebrated.

(Julie Thill Lewis is a graduate of our own St. Joseph Catholic School. She lives in Dallas, where she teaches the middle school newspaper class, and substitutes at All Saints Catholic School. This article was written for the All Saints Church Newsletter.)



The Pope’s Prayer Intentions for 2017

For January the intention is Christian Unity. That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

February is Comfort for the Afflicted:

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.



Julie Lewis teaches at All Saints Catholic School in Dallas. She wrote this story for the Newsletter at her Church, All Saints. From left are Brady, at college in Arkansas, Julie, husband Chris, Austin, freshman at John Paul II High School, and Sydney, 7th grade at All Saints.

Catholic Seniors to Graduate in May



Jenna Oelke
By Sharla Thill

Jenna Oelke, daughter of Steve and Amy Oelke, will graduate from Ellinwood High School in May. She was born in Great Bend and the family moved to Ellinwood when she was four years old. Jenna has one brother, Jared.

Graduating from St. Joseph School, Jenna says, "I always loved when it was hamburger gravy day. It was my favorite meal." She remembers that one day at lunch, she was sitting across from Lake Lyman and someone told her something really funny. Having just taken a drink of chocolate milk, she spit it all over Lake and his food.

The good days of grade school over, Jenna found herself at Ellinwood High School, where her favorite classes are Anatomy and Physiology. "I will go to Barton for a year and then go to Fort Hays State University," she says of her future plans. "I'm planning to go into Radiology Tech and then possibly Sonography, because I've always thought it was so interesting."

Jenna's favorite sport is softball and she shared, "One of the highlights of High School was being State Softball Runner up last year." She remembers a scary moment on the softball field during a game. She

was up to bat when somebody was stealing first to second and she stepped out of the batters box to allow the catcher to do what she needed to do. Jenna took a practice swing, not knowing that the ump was coming around behind her and she hit him. He fell to the ground like he was having a heart attack, but he was fine. It was hard to be "up to bat" after that.

The young senior belongs to KAY, FBLA, FFA and History Club. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll every year, and Second team All-League Volleyball her senior year.

Miss Oelke also has a job, working as a CNA at Ellinwood Hospital and Great Bend Regional. In her spare time she likes to watch movies and hang out with her friends. She was an Altar Server for many years and attends PSR at St. Joseph's Church, most recently helping decorate the church for Christmas.

A little advice for high school students, Jenna says, "Enjoy it while you can, because it really does go by fast!" Best wishes to Jenna for her future endeavors, and much happiness from your church community.



Allison Panning
By Sharla Thill

"Soak up your time in high school and have fun, because it goes by too fast," says Allison Panning, a senior at Ellinwood High School who will be graduating in May. She is the daughter of Ryan and Patricia Panning.

Allison graduated from St. Joseph School and has too many memories to share. She did comment, "I'll never forget the amazing teachers who shaped me into who I am."

"In high school, one of my favorite teachers/class was Mr. Bieberle's US History and Government core classes," she went on to say. "He was one of my best teachers because I actually learned a lot from him, including how to prepare for the next level of education."



Allison Panning

Sports played a big part of Allison's high school years. She played Volleyball 4 years, Softball 4 years, and Basketball for 3 years. She made First Team All-State her junior year in Softball, and All League honors each year in Volleyball and Softball.

"One thing I will never forget was my sophomore year when we beat Central Plains on our home court. The gym was overflowing with people clear into the cafeteria. They had a two year game streak and we were the only team to beat them."

She continued, "My future plans for right now are to attend Barton Community College on a Softball scholarship. I plan to major in nursing. The reason I chose nursing is because there is always going to be someone who needs help."

Allison works at a local convenience store here in town and says, "I am a cashier at Pop N Shop. I make a lot of soda fountain drinks each day because that's what we're most widely known for in Ellinwood."

The young senior has three siblings; Brooke, who is 21 and goes to college at K-State, studying kinesiology to be a physical therapist; Kaitlyn is 14 and a freshman and EHS, and Logan, 10, a 5th grader at St. Joseph's School. Her grandparents are Fran and Frank Rome and Terry and Desa Panning, all of Ellinwood.

Allison will graduate at the top of her class at Ellinwood High School. St. Joseph Community congratulates her on her future endeavors, and a long happy life.



Jenna Oelke

CAREPORTAL....Where are we now?

Someone asked me the other day, "How is that CarePortal thing going?" In terms of our CarePortal group at Immaculate Conception, we are very successful.

We have forty-one individual members in our FaceBook group and five additional members who are notified via email. Father Klein and Sister Andre have been very supportive of our efforts.

Since the CarePortal launched in Barton County in July 2016, Twenty-nine needs have posted. Our ICC CarePortal group has fully met six of those needs, and has joined with other churches to meet three other needs. Most recently, we helped a medically disabled single father by providing a Walmart gift card to purchase groceries to feed his two sons. A wonderful blessing in this ministry is the opportunity to work with other churches to meet needs that we could not meet on our own. We joined together with four other Barton County churches to help a single mother with four children pay rent.

When we enrolled in the CarePortal, ICC was the 4th church in Barton County to enroll. There are now twelve churches enrolled. Eleven of those are active and one church is awaiting it's orientation training so that they can join us in helping families and children in crisis. Ten of the enrolled churches are in Great Bend, one church is in Ellinwood and one church is in Claflin. Needs are submitted into the CarePortal system by child welfare workers from St. Francis Community Services. These needs are reviewed by three or four persons at the agency and by CarePortal to make sure they are valid needs before being sent to

the churches. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Great Bend will be submitting needs as soon as they received their training.

In one year, CarePortal has spread to two-thirds of the state of Kansas. It also exists in the states of Arizona, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas. The government has given approval for CarePortal to spread to all fifty states. This growth is made possible through donations to the organizations headquarters from the enrolled churches, individual, and even businesses.

It is a Christ-minded organization which receives no funding from federal or state government. The donations that go to the organization's headquarters are used to support the technology and staff (regional directors/trainers and above.) Point persons at each church and county coordinators serve on a volunteer basis.

Donations to the headquarters provide for the operation of the organization and the recruiting and training of new churches, but the donations to local efforts are what directly helps families and children in crisis in the foster care system. Whether it involves our efforts to help keep a family together by assisting with rent, or helping a kinship family or foster family by providing food or clothing, or by providing a bed for a young person who is aging out of the foster care system....there is a great impact on those who give and those who receive. There is always another side to every story....a side that we may never know. But we are called to help.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" -

Matthew 25:35-40

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Mother Teresa

Called to Serve

National Impact as of January 9, 2017

6,831 children impacted &
2,902 families impacted
950 Active churches &
448 Waiting Churches
(waiting to be trained)

Kansas Impact:
1,419 children impacted &
706 families impacted
159 Active churches &
31 Waiting Churches

For more information, visit the website careportal.org. Informational videos are available in "CHURCH RESOURCES" under the "CHURCHES" tab.

Or Contact:

Sandi Oberle

Immaculate Conception

CarePortal Point Person/ CarePortal

Barton County Coordinator

620-587-9913

sandio@hbcomm.net



St. Joseph Ministers

February 2017

Daily Ministers

1 - Marcella Birzer, Joy S.
 3 - Gerry Menges, Angie Hammeke
 8 - Kirk Bressler, Sharla Thill
 10- Glenda Heinz, JoAnn Roth
 15 - Kirk Bressler, Marcella Birzer
 17 - Joy S., Sharla Thill
 22 - JoAnn Roth, Kirk Bressler
 24 - Angie Hammeke, Glenda Heinz

Greeter Schedule

SATURDAY, 5:00PM MASS

Feb 4 - Nancy Jenisch
 Glen & Kathy Hertel
 Connie Potts
 Colton Potts
 Millie Menges

Feb. 11 - Vernon Robl
 Larry & Joan Drees
 Amy & Steve Oelke Family

Feb. 18 - Jason & Heather
 Schlochtermeyer Family
 Louie & Joni Pivonka

Feb. 25 - Paul Huschka
 Jeff & Gwen Klepper Family

Greeter Schedule

SUNDAY, 10:30AM MASS

Feb. 5 - John & Marlene Clayton
 Leon & Marilyn Reichuber
 David & Karla Gonzales

Feb. 12 - Geraldine Menges
 Ed Schlochtermeyer
 Tony & Cheryl Klepper
 Nick Younker
 Kim Ward

Feb. 19 - Monte & Robin Doll Family
 Tom & Jolene Snell

Feb. 26 - Richard & Jean Doll Family
 Ron & Rosemary McCrary

Weekday Server: Week of Jan. 29 - Britton Dutton, Lane Klepper

Feb. 4 & 5

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Saturday

Jerome Huslig
 Steve Billinger

10:30am Sunday

Art Huslig
 Stephanie Joiner

EM:

Rosie Joiner
 Jason Schlochtermeyer
 Jean Klepper
 Yvonne Strecker
 Angie Hammeke

Marcella Birzer
 Ed Schlochtermeyer
 Catherine Strecker
 Joy Schlochtermeyer
 Paul Schlochtermeyer

Servers
 Sacristan

Kiley & Haley Troyer
 Rosemary Robl

Cody Zink, Luke Wondra
 Larry Drees

Weekday Server: Week of Feb. 5 - A. J. Bowyer, Colby Heinz

Feb. 11 & 12

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Saturday

Ellen Shanteau
 Heather Panning

10:30am Sunday

John Clayton
 Kent Robl

EM:

Glenda Heinz
 Lori Billinger
 Joe Schulte
 Millie Menges
 Melanie Zink

Jalayne Ewing
 Mel Waite
 Mary Tudor
 Rick Thomas
 Lori Thomas

Servers
 Sacristan

Brayden William, Monica Hammeke
 Karen Kramp
 Mason Doll, Brandon Carr
 Gerry Menges/Kelly & Kristen Wondra

Weekday Server: Week of Feb. 12 - Drew Heinz, Erin Hammeke

Feb. 18 & 19

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Saturday

Yvonne Strecker
 Rosie Joiner

10:30am Sunday

Sharon Gatton
 Kent Roth

EM:

Amy Oelke
 Steve Oelke
 Jayne Wirtz
 Joy Schlochtermeyer
 Paul Schlochtermeyer

LeRoy Thill
 Sharla Thill
 Kirk Bressler
 Curtis Wolf
 Angie Hammeke

Servers
 Sacristan:

Caylee & Caden Rowan
 Joni & Louie Pivonka
 Kayanna Hammeke & Kennedy Harrington
 Leon & Marilyn Reichuber/JoAnn Roth

Weekday Server: Week of Feb. 19 - Jonathon Mason,

Feb. 25 & 26

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Saturday

David Gonzales
 Karla Gonzales

10:30am Sunday

Derek Joiner
 Dennis Habiger

EM:

Ellen Shanteau
 Melanie Zink
 Jerome Huslig
 Lori Billinger
 Jean Klepper

Mike Moeder
 John Clayton
 Lori Hammeke
 Kent Roth
 Marcella Birzer

Servers:
 Sacristan

Karson Harrington, Grant Klepper
 Marilyn Schartz
 Sarah Hammeke, Katelyn Reh
 Kirk Bressler

Weekday Server: Week of Feb. 26 - Haley Rugan, Daphne Doll

ICC Ministry Schedule

February 2017

Feb. 5, 2017 - 8:30am

Lectors: Darrah Harrison, Kathy Krier.
 EM: Allan Beck, Peggy Feist, Laurie Feist, Bridget Letourneau, Carmen Johnson
 Gift Bearers: Pete Oberle Family
 Greeters: Aaron & Kirk Schneweis
 Servers: Brynna Hammeke, Callie Zink
 Sacristan: Joy Hertach



Feb. 12, 2017 - 8:30am

Lectors: Nancy Liebl, Janell Hubbard..
 EM: Sheri & Toby Holmes, Carla & Todd Liebl, Barbara Musgrove
 Gift Bearers: Rugan Family
 Greeters: Ryan Family
 Servers: Tyler Holmes, Jacob Oberle
 Sacristan: Joan Miller

Feb. 19, 2017 - 8:30am

Lectors: Lori Koester, Toby Holmes
 EM: Karlynn & Fred Beck, Kathy Krier, Doris Feist, Bill Thomas
 Gift Bearers: Connie & John Miller
 Greeters: Kathy & Alan Kirmer
 Servers: Lexie & Lawson Oeser
 Sacristan: Judy Oberle



Feb. 26, 2017 - 8:30am

Lectors: Janet Hitschmann, Kent Praeger
 EM: Rita Stueder, Joan Miller, Jim Oberle, Dawnya Hickel, Carmen Johnson
 Gift Bearers: Jamie & Lee Bieberle
 Greeters: Janie Haxton, Dee Krier
 Servers: Janae & Emily Ryan
 Sacristan: Dee Krier

Weekday Schedule

<u>Lector</u>	<u>E. Ministers</u>
2/2/17 Jane Steinert.....	Jim Oberle, Joan Miller
2/3/17 Kathy Krier	Bill Thomas, Sr. Andre
2/7/17 Nancy Schartz.....	Kathy Krier, Jim Oberle
2/9/17 Sr. Andre	Joan Miller, Bill Thomas
2/14/17 Jane Steinert.....	Sr. Andre, Kathy Krier
2/16/17 Kathy Krier	Jim Oberle, Joan Miller
2/21/17 Sr. Andre	Jim Oberle, Bill Thomas
2/23/17 Jane Steinert.....	Joan Miller, Kathy Krier
2/28/17 Kathy Krier	Sr. Andre, Jim Oberle



St. Joseph February 2017



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|--------------------|
| 2 | Cassie Batchman | 12 | Elizabeth Zorn |
| | Andria Menges | 13 | Jill Ritchie |
| | Andy Wise | 14 | Daphne Doll |
| 3 | Lori Billinger | 16 | Andrew Cherry |
| | Marcus Brown | | Patrick Kasselmann |
| | Erin Hammeke | 18 | Lori Kelly |
| | Ayla Ritchie | 19 | Alexander Hammeke |
| | Haley Rugan | | Rosanna Rapp |
| 4 | Kelsea Ward | 20 | Bertha Achatz |
| | JoAnn Roth | 21 | John Siefers |
| | Cami Thomas | 22 | Chad Heinz |
| 5 | Gloria Robins | 24 | Alexander Bowyer |
| 6 | Debbie Wirtz | | Jackie Gunn |
| 7 | Dorothy Moeder | 25 | Marita Elliot |
| 8 | Paul Batchman | | David Rose |
| | Abby Petz | | Lori Steffan |
| 10 | Leverne Huslig | 27 | Robin Doll |
| 11 | Marcella Birzer | 28 | Katie Morgenstern |
| | Jocelynn Joiner | | |



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 5 | Daulton & Kari Wirtz |
| 8 | Todd & Kim Morgenstern |
| 11 | Jerry & Judy Komarek |
| 14 | Glen & Kathy Hertel |
| 24 | Steve & Brenda Birzer |
| 28 | Roger & Jan Stremel |

Immaculate Conception - February 2017

Birthday Greetings

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 5 | Laurie Feist | 11 | Julie Demel |
| 7 | Rhiannon Becker | | Aaron Schneweis |
| | Brenda Hekele | | Pat Stiles |
| 8 | Robert Hickel | 12 | Travis Liebl |
| | Jane Hoff | | Timothy Stueder |
| 10 | Cody Zink | 14 | Pam Stiles |
| | | 15 | Dawnya Hickel |
| | | 16 | James Oberle |
| | | | Alan Stueder |
| | | 18 | Gloria Hickel |
| | | 20 | Larry Liebl |
| | | 22 | Leon Oberle |
| | | | Alan Oeser |
| | | 24 | Colby Miller |
| | | 26 | Brogan Kirmer |
| | | | Judy Oberle |
| | | | Margaret Smith |
| | | 28 | Joan Bredford |



- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 4 | Todd and Carla Liebl |
| 12 | Allan and Anne Beck |
| 27 | Lawrence and Bernice Barnes |
| 28 | David and Patricia Schmidt |

Please inform the Parish Office if there is an error, or if a name has been omitted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2017 						
			1 Mass R:15am [R]	2 Mass R:15am [C]	3 First Friday Mass R:15am [R] Mass 10:00am [C]	4 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [R]
5 8th Sun. Ord. Time Mass R:80am [C] Mass 10:30am [R]	6 Mass 10:15am Woodhaven	7 Mass R:15am [C]	8 Mass R:15am [R]	9 Mass R:15am [C]	10 Mass R:15am [R]	11 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [R]
12 6th Sun. Ord. Time Mass R:80am [C] Mass 10:30am [R]	13 Mass 10:15am Woodhaven	14 Mass R:15am [C]	15 Mass R:15am [R]	16 Mass R:15am [C]	17 Mass R:15am [R]	18 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [R]
19 7th Sun. Ord. Time Mass R:80am [C] Mass 10:30am [R]	20 Mass 9:30am Hospital	21 Mass R:15am [C]	22 Mass R:15am [R]	23 Mass R:15am [C]	24 Mass R:15am [R]	25 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [R]
26 8th Sun. Ord. Time Mass R:80am [C] Mass 10:30am [R]	27 Mass 10:15am Woodhaven	28 Mass R:15am [C]				

St Joseph Catholic Church
Immaculate Conception Church
214 North Main
Ellinwood KS 67526

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“Crying Out in the Wilderness”

Adoration becomes seen as precisely the “gravitational pull” of the soul, as that activity which puts a man in his humanity face to face with his God. This stance of the creature before his Creator is the one that I think more than ever is needed today by the people of our world who so often have focused their attention on Man and have forgotten God who is their goal. It is absolutely necessary that many of us devote ourselves to adoration; we might say it is something needed by the mystical body.

At this time when the Holy Spirit is nudging so many people into vocations that involve searching for those who are lost; when so many Christians, driven by the love

of Christ, are looking desperately toward those who have gone astray so that they may do everything in their power - save sin - to befriend them wherever they have been led in their estrangement - there is a great need for others to turn to God. Deep inside the human dough there is a need for people who adore, people so convinced of the need for what they are doing that they deprive themselves of all activity on behalf of their human kin. They know that they are answering the essential part of their call by saying again and again to God in the contemporary equivalent of the desert, in the subways, on the highways, in their homes, on their farms: “You are he who is; we are those who are not.”

Our time has need of these sacrifices offered amongst people who know nothing of them. There is a need for voices crying in the desert - “We give you thanks for your great glory, in the total oblation of ourselves.”



(Written by Madeleine Delbrel. Shared by JoAnn Roth. St. Joseph's Church holds Adoration every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until the evening. Come and join those who pray every hour. Come, even if you only have a half hour. All are welcome.)