

The Spirit of St. Joseph Parish

214 North Main
Ellinwood KS 67526

Immaculate Conception Parish

310 North Main
Claflin KS 67525

Father Terrance Klein, Pastor
Sister Andre Kravec



“Bishop Brungardt Confers Confirmation on March 14”

By Sharla Thill

Confirmation was celebrated at St. Joseph parish on March 14th, at 6:30 p.m., by Bishop Brungardt. Thirteen young men and women were presented for the sacrament, with their sponsors.

Instructor, Marlene Clayton, taught the students as they began their final preparations to receive this Sacrament. All parishioners were invited to join the students and their families at this Mass.

Those confirmed and their sponsors were: Daphne Doll and sponsor, Sheila Thill; Erin Hammeke and sponsor, Amy Hammeke; Monica Hammeke and sponsor, Lori Hammeke; Wittney Hammeke and sponsor, Gwen Klepper; Karson Harrington and sponsor, Kristen Schauvliege; Colby Heinz and sponsor, Mark Heinz; Ashtin Klepper and sponsor, Lisa Nemnich; Lane Klepper and sponsor, Scott Klepper; Isabel Mai and sponsor, Kathy Mai; Caden Rowan and sponsor, Karrie Hammeke; Haley Troyer and sponsor, Cindy Keller; Shaun Weber and sponsor, Theresa Younker; and Cody Zink and sponsor, Debbie Zink.

Confirmation Names

Students making their Confirmation, research and select the name of a Saint that means something to them as their Confirmation Name.

Wittney Hammeke chose St. Veronica; Caden Rowan chose St. Genesius; Shaun Weber chose St. Sebastian; Erin Hammeke chose St. Francis of Assisi; Monica Hammeke chose St. Therese of Lisieux; Daphne Doll chose St. Adele; Cody Zink chose St. Hubert; Haley Troyer chose St. Cecilia; Ashtin Klepper chose St. Mary; Lane Klepper chose St. Hubert; Colby Heinz chose St. Hubert; Karson Harrington chose St. Joan of Arc; and Isabel Mai chose St. Quiteria.



St. Joseph Church celebrated Confirmation on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30pm. Bishop Brungardt conferred the Sacrament. From left: Haley Troyer, Colby Heinz, Caden Rowan, Isabel Mai, Ashtin Klepper, Wittney Hammeke, and Monica Hammeke; Second row, Shaun Weber, Lane Klepper, Cody Zink, Carson Harrington, Daphne Doll, and Erin Hammeke; Third row, Marlene Clayton, Teacher, Bishop Brungardt and Father Klein.

Service Hours

Lane Klepper provided me with this wonderful information and shared this, “There were many different things students did to earn service hours. Some baby sat, and others did yard work. It could be anything big or small, as long as they didn’t get paid for it. Everyone earned service hours from helping work the German Buffet.”

“Seth Harrington gave students a great opportunity to earn hours by offering the kids a chance to come help him clean up the Ellinwood archery range after the January storm. They spent a weekend working on it.”

“I helped my Dad on the farm. Haley Troyer rang the Salvation Army bell at Walmart. Many helped decorate and clean

up the church for Christmas. Colby Heinz helped make deer meat for a few of his hours. Monica Hammeke ran the Ellinwood public library. Daphne Doll cleaned out her grandma’s basement. These are just some of the many things the students did.”

Class Project

The Confirmation class visited several older ladies in the parish. The class divided and spent time with Bertha Achatz, Mildred Birzer, Irene Kimpler and Ethel Ringwald, (see picture on page 4.)

Lane said, “Along with the visit, the class prepared goodie baskets for the ladies. The baskets held items such as fuzzy socks, fresh fruit, note cards, word searches, and ink pens. We brought games to play, like Yahtzee and Uno. One group decided that they’d just rather visit. We all enjoyed the visits.



Parish Center Doors

Quality Glass of Great Bend recently repaired the front doors of the parish center, which have required attention for some time.

They replaced the door sweeps, and the bottom pivot set, and also repaired the mechanism used to keep the doors unlocked when the hall is in use. The repair cost came to \$268.70. Besides aiding their operation, this should make the doors much more energy efficient.

Father Joe Bahr said to me once: "Everything we have is a Detriment to the Next Better Thing God Has in Store for Us."

Repairs Completed

Roofmasters have completed repairs on the affected areas of the roof flashing of the church. Most of the work was around the steeple area.

The problem was not as extensive as estimated, and the cost came in at \$10,000, rather than \$16,000. They were also generally complimentary about the new roof, which was installed a few years ago.

Lotto St. Joe Pays Out

The Lotto St. Joe winner for Sunday, February 19th, was Lori Hammeke. Kim Heinz was the lucky \$50 weekly drawing winner for February 26th. The drawing for March 5th named Norman Johanning as the \$50 winner, and on March 12, the winner was Jamie Komarek.

K of C Fish Fry

From 5-7, on March 3, at the St. Joseph Parish Center, the Knights of Columbus held their annual Fish Fry. Donations were taken and the proceeds will go to area charities.

Theology on Tap

The March get-together for Theology on Tap, on the first Saturday of March, was "All about Confession." With this topic came questions such as "How did we get into this?" and "What are we supposed to do with it?" And, most importantly, "How does it make me feel." Fr. Klein shares his expertise and all are welcome.

Big Crowd Attends Shrimp Boil



St. Joseph Parish hosted a "shrimp boil" on February 25. Pictured is Lyles Lashley, teacher at St. Joseph School, who is originally from Louisiana. Since he came to our school, he and his crew of men from our parish, have cooked up a big Louisiana shrimp cook-out almost every year. Lashley made two kinds of his famous dish, medium and hot. After the prayer, he told those present to eat the "hot and spicy" shrimp at their own risk. Member of crew, Steve Birzer, is shown at right.



"Salvation is a Team Sport"

By Sharla Thill

Ash Wednesday brought the beginning of Lent and lots of Lenten activities at St. Joseph Church. During the season of Lent, the Ellinwood Ministerial Alliance invited everyone to attend Wednesday lunches at the St. Joseph Parish Center.

Lunch was provided by the St. Joseph Altar Society for the first of these noon meetings. St. Joseph's pastor, Fr. Klein, presented a short devotional at the end of lunch.

Father invited the first and second graders of St. Joseph School to be present for a Tug of War. His message was that Salvation is a Team Sport, and during Lent we all pull together to help each other.

Other lunch dates will be Wednesday, March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5. A free will donation is taken at each lunch to help families in the community who need occasional assistance.



Members of the church social committee, Jayne Wirtz, Marcia Sauber and Jalayne Ewing, took care of the fruit side dish and the refreshments at the Shrimp Boil.

God Answers Prayers

“Seniors Graduate from Ellinwood High School”

By Sharla Thill



Daughter of Monte and Catherine Strecker, Joanna will graduate from Ellinwood High School this May. One of five siblings, Jake, Nick, Rachel and Rebecca, she is the last child in the family to attend Ellinwood High. Joanna has one living Grandma, Dolores Braun of Great Bend.

She is a graduate of St. Joseph School and has fond memories of her eight years there, especially bowling at the alley in her younger years.

In high school, Joanna belonged to Debate, Forensics, Cheerleading, winter track, Track, and Cross Country. She says, “My favorite highlights are receiving National Honor Society membership, and 2015 State Championship in Cross Country.”

“My advice to those in school,” Joanna declares, “is that the one person that really matters in the end is you. Don’t get caught up trying to please others, or conform to their standards. It won’t matter in 100 years anyway.”

Plans for the future are to run Track and Cross Country at Emporia State. She says, “My major is undetermined. However, I do see myself in the future assisting people. Whatever major or career I engage in, I will try my best to help anyone I can.”

Joanna enjoyed serving Mass at Church and attending PSR and states, “My fondest PSR memories are on the trip to San Diego for a conference and mission work. It was a fantastic experience and I will cherish it forever.”

The young senior works at the Swimming Pool in the summer, but remarked, “In my spare time I enjoy reading, running, and being in the company of my friends and family.

St. Joseph’s community congratulates Joanna and wishes her a happy future, whatever she takes on.



Joanna Strecker



Eric Jones

“Playing sports and winning Winter Homecoming King, were the highlights of my four years at Ellinwood High School,” says Eric Jones, who is now a member of the Clint and Karrie Hammeke family of rural Ellinwood. Eric will graduate from EHS in May.

Eric shares his story with us at St. Joseph’s Church, saying that he is originally from Colorado Springs. “My Dad was in prison since I was five. My Mom was raising us with my Grandma, and I have two sisters and one brother. I went to grade school at a place called Columbia.”

“When I was about 11, I started living with my Grandma and stayed till I was 12. After that my Mom moved all of us to Garden City. Six months later I was in foster care, finishing out my 8th grade year in Ulysses,” Eric continued.

Eric then went to a foster home in Sharon Springs for the summer, and finally to a foster home in Larned, at the beginning of his freshman year. “A month into my freshman year, I got placed with my new family in Ellinwood,” Eric comments.

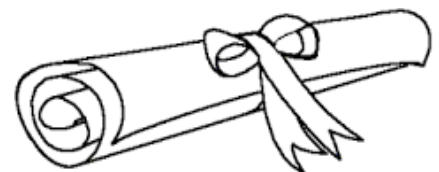
“In high school I played football, basketball, tennis, and this year, baseball,” continues Eric. “In my spare time I enjoy working on the farm with my dad, and playing video games. I also work for the Ellinwood Recreation.”

In his future plans he sees himself married to the love of his life with a couple of kids and a happy family. Eric said, “My advice for underclassmen is to dream big, because your life is what you make it.”

“Life with my family is amazing. They are never afraid to tell me how much they love and care about me, and how much potential they see in me.”

“My Dad, (Clint) is always teaching me something new on the farm, whether it’s something about cattle, or about a piece of equipment, and has taught me everything I need to know about being a good father, because I didn’t get that example from my biological father.”

Congratulations Eric! Your family at St. Joseph Church wishes you a very happy future.



Faith on Facebook

By Fr. Klein

I admit that I've stumbled into Facebook. Here's how it happened. In Ellinwood, a strategic planning committee had been formed at the request of the bishop. Its purpose was to explore the long term growth and needs of Saint Joseph School. When we examined how we share our stories, our successes and our needs, we realized that we weren't doing enough to communicate with the outside world.

We thought that social media was an obvious place to begin. Eventually, we decided to combine a parish Facebook page with one for the school. That way, our parishioners know what is happening in our school and why it's worth the many sacrifices, which we make for it. We also thought that it would be a good idea for some of our school parents to take a closer look at what is happening in the parish. The page seems to be meeting both needs. That's why, a couple of months later, we launched a similar, but unique, page for Immaculate Conception church.

Right about the time that I became pastor of the two parishes, Pope Francis published his first apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). A portion of his text haunted me, and I mentioned it in both parishes the first weekend that I preached. The Holy Father insists that the parish must always think of itself as an evangelizing parish. It can't simply think about the needs of the small group of people in its pews. No, it must remember the ones who aren't there, who have never been there. He wrote:

I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the center which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without a meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the feat of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel sick, while at our doors people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37) (EG 649).

Paying attention to Facebook, I began to learn all manner of things going on around me: who knows whom, who enjoys what, what are the interests and opinions that drive us, etc. I also discovered that there are unlimited, high quality resources about the Catholic faith available on the web. And they cost nothing to use!

If people come to our Facebook pages to learn about us, then they, and we, can also learn more about our Catholic faith. The internet, specifically social media, becomes a way of putting the parish inside the home. Inactive Catholics and non-Catholics see what we post. Facebook even tells us what people find interesting and what they do not. It also offers the ability to broach controversial topics, which could

Preparing for Confirmation



St. Joseph School students, Daphne Doll, Cody Zink and Lane Klepper, deliver a Valentine goodie basket to Ethel Ringwald of our parish. The students played UNO with Ethel in her home, and enjoyed a nice visit over some chocolate drizzled popcorn. Cody shared a few card tricks also. The students were preparing for Confirmation.

not enter the pulpit with some risk of alienating and offending.

Some might say, but there is an entire generation of faithful Catholics, which isn't on the web. True, but all of our future Catholics are. And there are other ways to reach out. We already have an excellent tool in the form of our parish newsletter *The Spirit of St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception*. It provides larger pieces that help us to learn the backgrounds of those around us in the pews. Very few parishes have such a resource, and we should be so grateful to the volunteers, in both parishes, who contribute to this wonderful ministry.

How can you help the "Facebook ministry" of our parishes? Because that's the purpose of this note: that we see it as a ministry, something that builds up our parishes. Send in your pictures, your upcoming events. Were you at a baptism, funeral, or wedding of someone related to our parishioners? Did you take a picture? Do you have old pictures, from many years back, that would prompt discussion and a sense of community? Do you know of someone who really needs our prayers? Ellinwood items should be sent to frklein@stjosephellinwood.com. Claflin items can go there or to Sydney Rugan: srugan13@gmail.com.

I've been doing some study on what makes parishes successful. One key factor: a sense of belonging, of feeling at home. That used to be a given, especially in rural parishes. Now, it's something that we need to ask ourselves about. Yes, those of us in the pews feel at home. But what about the others? Like all living things, a parish is either growing new cells or it is dying. Our growth is a task given to all of us by Our Lord.

We Welcome Danielle Carroll Back to St. Joseph's

by *Sharla Thill*

Danielle Carroll and son Wade, age 3, are glad to be back in Ellinwood and she says, "It has been nice reconnecting with friends and family, and again be part of St. Joseph's Church."

Danielle grew up in Ellinwood, the daughter of Charles and Marita Elliot. She has lived the past four years in the Clinton, Missouri area.

The young mother graduated from St. Joseph Catholic School and Ellinwood High School. She attended Barton Community College and Ft. Hays State University. She majored in finance, and has worked in the Insurance industry.

Danielle has taken a job at Farmers Mutual in Ellinwood, and is enjoying spending time with family and friends. She said, "I look forward to Wade experiencing the same adventures I had growing up in Ellinwood."

Say hello to Danielle and Wade when next you see them in Church.



Danielle and Wade Carroll



Former Pastor Passes Away

by *Sharla Thill*

Father Gilbert Herrman, pastor of St. Joseph's Church from 1979 to 1984, passed away on February 22, at LaCrosse, where he was retired.

One of 12 children, Father was born on March 25, 1924, in LaCrosse, to Jacob and Mary Herrman. He is survived by three brothers and three sisters.

Father Herrman studied at Conception Seminary, in Conception, Mo., and was ordained on April 21, 1949, by Bishop Mark K. Carroll of Wichita at St. Joseph Church in Liebenthal.

He served as assistant pastor at Hoisington, Frontenac, and Pratt, as well as being a chaplain at Pratt Co. Hospital, St. Anthony's Hospital, and St. Mary of the Plains High School and College, both of Dodge City.

Pastorates included Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City; Mary, Queen of Peace, Ulysses with chaplaincy at Bob Wilson Memorial Hospital; Holy Family, Odin; Sacred Heart of Ness City; St. Joseph's, Ellinwood; St. Joseph, Ashland; Holy Spirit, Coldwater; St. Anthony, Lakin, with Christ the King of Deerfield; and



Father Gilbert Herrman

finally St. Raphael of Syracuse.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Lakin, and served as the state K of C chaplain from 1972 to 1974.

Through the years, he was director of the Propagation of the Faith, director of

St. Joseph Altar Society Meets

President Mary Waite opened the January 9th meeting of the Altar Society. Those attending were Nancy Jenisch, JoAnn Roth, Angie Hammeke, Melanie Zink, Marcella Birzer, Rosemary McCrary, Joy Schlochtermeier and Mary Waite.

Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$13,368.41. Waite reported that a vestment for Father had been ordered at the cost of around \$2,000. A donation of \$720 had been made by the Jack Clair family. Thank you notes were read from the Clair and the Alex Thomas families.

Angie Hammeke reported on behalf of the funeral committee. Three dinners have been served to the Clair family, Glen Breford and Milton Achatz families.

President Waite passed a sign-up sheet for food and workers for the Community Soup Supper, held on January 26th. On March 1, Ash Wednesday, Altar Society would be responsible for the Lenten Luncheon, and she asked for things we would need. Guilds were contacted for other items and workers for both events.

Joy Schlochtermeier suggested we look at replacing some of the Altar Server robes. JoAnn Roth and Joy would visit with Father about style and sizes needed.

(Taken from the minutes of secretary, Rosemary McCrary).



the Bishops' War Relief, director of the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive, director of Catholic Charities and director of Catholic Social Service.

Services were held February 28, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Liebenthal. Memorials were suggested to the church in Liebenthal, or Locust Grove Village, LaCrosse, in care of Janousek Funeral Home in LaCrosse. Our deepest sympathy to the family of Fr. Herrman, from our St. Joseph Church community.

The Novena to The Divine Mercy

“Be merciful even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36)

“Jesus Christ taught man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called ‘to practice mercy’ towards others. ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’ (Mt 5:7). The Church sees in these words a call to action, and she tries to practice mercy. ... Man attains to the merciful love of God, His mercy, to the extent that he himself is interiorly transformed in the spirit of that love towards his neighbor.” (John Paul II, *Rich in Mercy*, 14)

On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that St. Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. He, Himself, dictated the intentions for each day. By means of a specific prayer she was to bring to His Heart a different group of souls each day and thus immerse them in the ocean of His mercy, begging the Father – on the strength of Jesus’ Passion – for graces for them.

Unlike the Novena of Chaplets, which Our Lord clearly wants everyone to use, this second novena seems to have been intended primarily for St. Faustina’s personal use. This can be seen from Our Lord’s instructions, which address her with the word “you” in the singular.

But, since St. Faustina was commanded to write it down, Our Lord must have intended the Novena to be used by others, too. Once published, it immediately became very popular, and people prayed the Novena, not only in preparation for the Feast of Mercy, but at others times as well.

The wide range of intentions, which do not include personal needs, makes the great popularity of this novena all the more astounding. In this novena, we truly make the Lord’s intentions our own – a beautiful expression of the Church’s privilege and duty, as the Bride of the Lord, to be intercessor at Christ’s side on the throne of mercy.

Prayers for the Novena (*Diary*, 1209-1229) It is greatly recommended that the following novena intentions and prayers be said together with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, since Our Lord specifically asked for a novena of Chaplets, especially before the Feast of Mercy. (*The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion*, 2001)

This nine (9) day novena of Chaplets begins on Good Friday, April 14, and ends on Saturday within the Octave of Easter, the day before April 23 Feast of Mercy, Sunday of Divine Mercy.

April 14, Good Friday, 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - All mankind, especially all sinner,

April 15, Holy Sat., 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - The Souls of priests and religious,

April 16, Easter Sunday, 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - All devout and faithful souls,

April 17, Mon., 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - Those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know me,

April 18, Tues., 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - The souls of those who have separated themselves from my church,

April 19, Wed., 8:45 a.m. (after mass), Novena Intention - The meek and humble souls and the souls of little children,

April 20, Thurs., 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - The souls who especially venerate and glorify my mercy,

April 21, Fri., 8:45 a.m. (after mass), Novena Intention - The souls who are detained in purgatory,

April 22, Sat., 8:45 a.m., Novena Intention - Souls who have become lukewarm,

Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet pamphlets are in the vestibule of church.

We Need Jesus More Than Ever Right Now!

In a recent article written in the Medjugorje Newsletter, Vice President Mike Pence shared part of his faith story. He grew up in a Christian home, but he says his faith became personal when he gave his life to Christ in college, “My faith became my own when I made a personal decision to trust Jesus Christ in my freshman year. When I came to realize that what happened on the cross, in some small measure, happened for me.”

In a video he released, he said, “the truth is that the strength of our nation has come out of our communities of faith. Throughout our history, it has been the voices of faith that have driven our nation to a more perfect union.”

Pence then offers a call to prayer for the U. S., “I’d like to encourage you to do one more thing. And that is to bow the head and bend the knee in the days ahead. Pray for our country. Pray, not that God would be on our side, but that we would be on his side.”

“If God’s people, who are called by his name, will humble themselves and pray, he will again do as he’s always done, he will hear from heaven, and he will heal our land. This (is) one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”



Susan Batchman and grandchildren bring up the offertory at a recent Sunday Mass.



Please Join us in Prayer for Kameron



When you first meet him, Kameron comes across as shy. He says he feels more at ease around people either older or younger than he. Once he becomes comfortable, though, he likes to talk, laugh, and interact – even with his peers.

At 14, Kameron enjoys playing video games, building with Legos, and playing soccer. He also likes to draw and wants to be a police officer when he grows up.

He performs well in school, but has difficulty with math. He's exceptionally bright, though, and unafraid to ask for help.

Kameron's biggest wish is for others to be happy. That's why he likes to make friends and family laugh. Usually cheerful, he loves to joke around and act silly. He works hard to "be good," because he wants so much to please others.

Kameron would like to have a two-parent home with a dog. He loves dogs and acts gentle and caring towards them. Although, he wouldn't mind being an only child, he's definitely okay with siblings. Most importantly, he wants a family that is "honest, patient, and nice," and that likes to "hang out a lot together."

O Blessed Lord:

O Good and Gracious God: We thank you for the gift of Kameron, who works so hard to please because he wants others to be happy.

Despite the difficulties he's been through, he still smiles and cheers the spirits of others. Please bless him and give him parents and a family to cheer and sustain him when his own spirits need lifting. Give him his own people to love him unconditionally and forever.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Francis Community Services

509 E. Elm Salina, KS 67401

www.st-francis.org

(Select "Fostering in Faith" link)

Jude Philip Schlessiger

Baptized at Immaculate Conception

On Sunday February 26, Jude Philip Schlessiger, son of John and Laura Schlessiger of Claflin, was Baptized by Father Klein during mass at Immaculate Conception. Sponsors for Jude were Dennis and Jessica Rau of Derby. His Grandparents are Jack and Jan Schlessiger and Frank and Jeanette Soukup, all from Claflin. Jude has one sister, Charlee and two brothers, Jake and Jonah. Immaculate Conception welcomes Jude to our Parish community.



Claflin Knights Hold Mixed Stag

Claflin Knights of Columbus held their Mixed Stag on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center from 6-8:30. They served mountain oysters, homemade smoked sausage and all the trimmings. Games followed the supper. A good time was had by everyone. All proceeds from the stag go to local charities.

← Fellow Knights, Gene Feist and Paul Oberle, are working hard at the K of C Mixed Stag

Fostering in Faith

Immaculate Conception Church will be participating in a prayer program, for children awaiting adoption, which is offered through St. Francis Community Services. The following information is from their website:

“As people of faith, we believe that the most powerful act we can perform on behalf of children in need is to hold them in our prayers. In our own families, we pray for our children all the time, but sadly, many children have no family and no one to pray for them. Fostering in Faith arose from that realization.

We know that most congregations and religious organizations have within their fellowship groups of people to whom God has given a spirit for intercessory prayer.

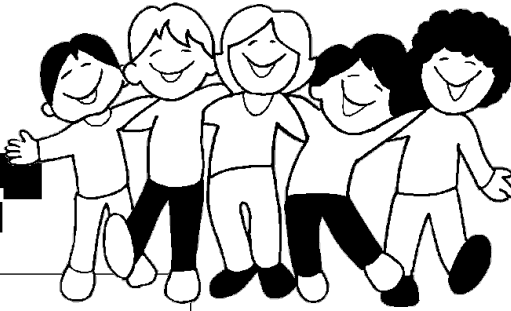
Fostering in Faith ensures that children desperate for “forever families” are remembered and held in prayer by our faith communities.

Each month, we’ll send your congregation a photo and brief biography of a child who needs faithful, caring people to pray for him or her. The biography includes a prayer, composed specifically for that child to help guide you in prayer.

We are convinced that your prayers can transform the lives of these beloved children of God and the lives of the families who adopt them. Change a child’s life today!”

Source: <https://www.st-francis.org/fosteringinfaith.aspx#about>

Meeting DCF



Not all reports result in the need for children to be removed from the parents. The ultimate goal is to keep a child with their family, if this can safely happen, and sometimes all that is needed to accomplish that is to find special services and training to keep the family together.

On February 17, the Barton County CarePortal Community Gathering was held at the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) office in Great Bend. The CarePortal church representatives shared a potluck luncheon and fellowship with the social workers and case investigators of DCF, and learned what DCF's role is in child welfare and foster care. Sandi Oberle and Fr. Terry Klein attended and found the DCF presentation very informative.

The main topic of the presentation was the safety of children. Anyone who suspects that a child is being abused or neglected should call 1-800-922-5330. Certain individuals (doctors, teachers, social workers, day care providers, etc.) are "Mandatory Reporters" and are required by law to report all suspected cases of abuse or neglect.

Once a suspected case of abuse is reported, DCF social workers investigate the allegation and make an assessment. Contrary to the negative reports that have surfaced recently in the media, DCF workers cannot come into a home and just take the children from the home. When these stories make the headlines, we must remember that they are telling only one side of the story. DCF is prohibited by law from releasing any facts and/or details due to privacy laws.

The Mission of DCF
**"to protect children,
promote healthy families
and encourage personal
responsibility."**

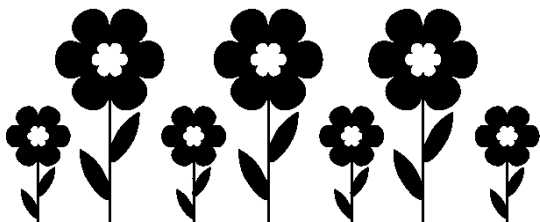
If the investigation shows that the child is in immediate danger, a law enforcement officer is called and may choose to put the child into protective custody. DCF may recommend to the court that a child be removed from the home, but the court makes the final decision as to the removal of a child from their home.

DCF (Department of Children and Families) was previously known as "SRS". DCF and St. Francis Community Services are the only agencies who can currently submit needs requests to CarePortal. Each request is reviewed by several people at the agency and at CarePortal to verify that the request is valid and needed.

DCF provides numerous other services along with what was discussed at the potluck. A few of the services include: Adoption Assistance, Adoption Records Search, Adult Protective Services, Cash Assistance/TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), and Child Support.

**If you suspect a child is
being abused or neglected...**

**KANSAS PROTECTION
REPORT CENTER
800-922-5330**



For more information about DCF, visit their website:
<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/>

PSR News...

Second Grade PSR

The Second Grade PSR class has been working hard preparing for their First Holy Communion. Teachers, Amy Metro and Lisa Crites have been teaching the children about making a good confession, learning their prayers and the Blessed Sacrament. In December, they made their First Reconciliation. First Communion will be held on April 23rd at Immaculate Conception Church in Claflin and May 7th at Holy Family Church in Odin.

Keep these Second Graders in your prayers as they prepare for their First Holy Communion.

Brodie Crites is the son of Dan and Lisa Crites. He likes to play basketball, his favorite team is the Oilers and he likes to eat hamburgers. Brodie is excited to make his First Communion “so he can drink the wine and eat the bread.”

Taylin Davis is the daughter of Seth and Shelly Rolfs and Tyson Davis. She likes to paint, play basketball and her favorite food is candy. Taylin is excited to make her First Communion because she “really, really wants to be holy and be more with God.”

Drew Hekele is the son of Joe and Traci Hekele. He likes to play football, soccer and eat spaghetti. Drew is ready to make his First Communion and is “excited to eat bread.”

Carly Lamatsch is the daughter of John and Alisha Lamatsch. She likes to swing, play volleyball, eat peaches and her favorite team is the St. Louis Cardinals. Carly is a “little nervous” about making her First Communion but she is “excited to eat the bread and wine” and said she is learning a lot about God.

Alden Metro is the son of Phil and Amy Metro. He likes to eat apples, play basketball and his favorite team is the K-State Wildcats. Alden is excited for his Holy Communion so he “can see the priest and so he can eat the bread and drink the wine.”

Silas Petermann is the son of Michael and Stephanie Petermann. He likes to play soccer and eat donuts. Silas is excited “to eat and drink the wine and bread.”

Ben Pflughoeft is the son of Tim and Brenda Pflughoeft. He likes to eat apples, ride his bike and scooter. His favorite team is the KC Royals. Ben is so “excited” to make his Holy Communion because he “can not wait to have bread and wine.”

Charlee Schlessiger is the daughter of John and Laura Schlessiger. She likes to eat hot dogs, play basketball, art and her favorite team is the Oilers. Charlee is excited to make her First Communion because she “will feel like a better member of the church.”

CYO Soup Supper

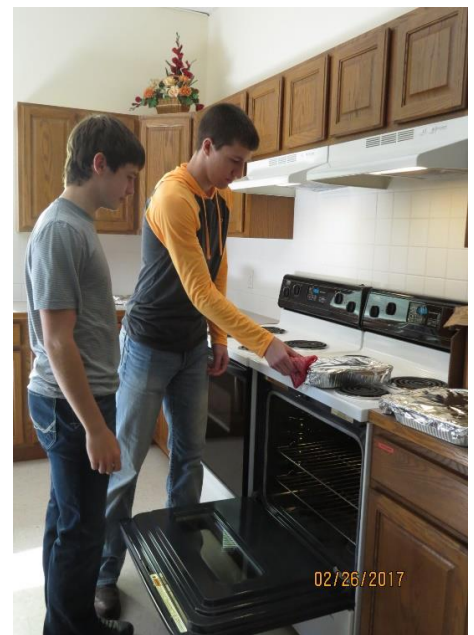
On Sunday February 26th, our CYO held a soup supper from 11 to 1 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center. Chili and chicken noodle soup were served along with delicious cinnamon rolls. The kids worked under the direction of the 9-12 grade teachers, Christina Hayes and Jane Oeser. The supper was a free will donation and all the proceeds went to the Gerry Schartz Family.



Mexican Prayer Flags

Have you noticed the colorful flags draped across the wall upon entering the south doors of the church? They are ***MEXICAN PRAYER FLAGS***. The women of El Centro Santa Catalina made and prayed over this set of prayer flags. Once opened and hung, the air blows through the flags to spread the prayer into our environment. The flags may be hung indoors or out; the material is washable. Every month, each of the PSR classes come up with a prayer intention and it is posted and attached to a flag. When the door is opened, their prayers are spread throughout. So next time you are in church, take the time to look for these flags and read what our children are praying for.

MAY GOD GRANT
US WORLD PEACE



We Remember Margaret Smith



Margaret Julia Smith (Miller), 99, died February 18, 2017 at Woodhaven Care Center, Ellinwood. She was born February 26, 1917, at Claflin, the daughter of Louis and Anna (Carey) Miller. She attended Immaculate Conception Catholic School and graduated from Claflin High School. She married Warren T. Smith August 17, 1936. He died December 29, 1994. A lifetime Claflin resident, Margaret was a homemaker and worked at Komarek Jewelers in Great Bend as a sales associate.

Margaret was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Altar Society, and Barton County EHU. She was a former member of Daughters of Isabella, Claflin, a former 4-H leader and a self-taught seamstress. She served on the board of directors for the Albro Housing Complex.

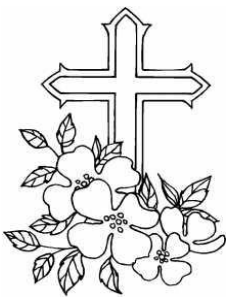
Survivors include one son, Carey Smith of Overland Park, one sister, Mary Catherine Wall of Florida; five grandchildren, Darrin Smith and wife Cathy, Kyle Smith and wife LaVeneia, Danette Schartz and husband Ed, Stephanie Gregory and Melanie

Comer and husband Erv; ten great-grandchildren, Derek Smith, Courtney Swart, Preston Smith, Ross Schartz, Bethany Dreiling, Hillary Wilson, Breanna Schartz, Jake Gregory, Lukas Gregory and Miles Comer; and three great great-grandchildren, Kensington Swart, Jaxson Schartz and Kase Schartz. She was preceded in death by three sons, Daniel R. Smith, Douglas W. Smith and Randell C. Smith, one daughter-in-law, Patricia M. Smith (Daniel) and three brothers, George Miller, Leonard Miller and Bernard Miller.

Mass of Christian Burial was on February 21, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Claflin with Father Terrance Klein officiating. Burial was at Claflin Cemetery. Memorials were established with Claflin Ambulance Service or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

In Father Klein's Homily, he told of how Margaret was an elegant, gracious woman, who loved to dance. She saw the beauty in so many things especially the truth and goodness of the Lord.

Immaculate Conception Parish extends deepest sympathy to the family of Margaret Smith.



Where are our 2016 ICC Graduates?

It's a new year and these young adults are back at college preparing for their second semester finals. Even though we may not see them, please keep them in your thoughts and in your prayers, so that they may continue to study hard and succeed in achieving their future goals. Good Luck with Finals!

Lexie Broeker
Kansas State University

Braeden Crites
Hutchinson Community College

Ryanne Hekele
Barton Community College

Kaylyn Oberle
Sterling College

Taylor Rolfs
Fort Hays State University

Brady Rugan
Kansas State University

Michael Ryan
Bethany College

Kaycee Steiner
Fort Hays State University

Upcoming events at Immaculate Conception Parish

April 2 - ICC Altar Society Meeting after Mass
April 5 - First Communion Retreat
April 9 - Palm Sunday
April 16 - Easter
April 19 - First Communion Practice
April 23 - First Holy Communion at Claflin

Watch the Bulletin for times and schedule changes



Holy Thursday
7:00pm - April 13

Lector1: Jerome Huslig
Lector2: Larry Drees
Eucharistic Ministers: John Clayton
 Joy Schlochtermeier
 Paul Schlochtermeier
 Mike Moeder
 Lori Billinger

Accompanist: Leon Sobba

Cantor:

Servers: Madisyn Schlochtermeier
 Caden Rowan
 Shaun Weber
 Caylee Rowan

Good Friday
3:00pm - April 14

Lector 1/Passion: Terri Huslig
Lector 2/Passion: Linda Sobba
Passion: Stephanie Joiner

EM: Marcella Birzer

Accompanist: Leon Sobba

Cantor:

Cross Bearers:

Servers: Sarah Hammeke
 Erin Hammeke

Easter Sunday
10:30am - April 16

Holy Saturday
8:30pm - April 15

Lectors: Mary Waite
 John Clayton
 Heather Panning
 Sharon Gatton
 Kent Robl
 Steve Billinger
 John Sturn

Eucharistic Ministers: Angie Hammeke
 Ed Schlochtermeier
 Mel Waite
 Mary Tudor
 Sharla Thill

Accompanist: Leon Sobba

Cantor:

Servers: Lane Klepper
 Ashtin Klepper
 Haley Troyer
 Colby Heinz

Lector1: Kent Roth
Lector2: Derek Joiner

Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Thomas
 Lori Thomas
 Kirk Bressler
 Lori Hammeke
 Jason Schlochtermeier

Accompanist: Leon Sobba

Cantor:

Servers: Mason Doll
 Luke Wondra
 Kayanna Hammeke



April 2017
Daily Eucharistic Ministers

5 - Kirk Bressler, Glenda Heinz
 7 - Gerry Menges, JoAnn Roth
 12 - Joy Schlochtermeyer, Sharla Thill
 14 - Good Friday
 19 - Marcella Birzer, Glenda Heinz
 21 - Angie Hammeke, JoAnn Roth
 26 - Sharla Thill, Kirk Bressler
 28 - Angie Hammeke, Joy S.



SATURDAY, 5:00PM MASS

April 1 - Josh Komarek, Jamie Komarek, Glen & Kathy Hertel, Connie Potts, Colton Potts

April 8 - Mass at Claflin

April 15 - Holy Saturday - Volunteers needed.

April 22 - Frances Rome, Paul Huschka, Joni & Louie Pivonka, Millie Menges

April 29 - Sharon Gatton, Vernon Robl, Monte & Robin Doll Family

SUNDAY, 10:30AM MASS

April 2 - David & Karla Gonzales, Leon & Marilyn Reichuber, Ron & Rosemary McCrary

April 9 - Tom & Jolene Snell, Nick Younker, Tony & Cheryl Klepper, Gerry Menges

April 16 - Easter - Volunteers needed.

April 23 - Ed Schlochtermeyer, Kim Ward, Richard & Jean Doll Family

April 30 - Jeff & Gwen Klepper Family, Jeff & Sandy Roth

Weekday Servers: Week of March 26 Caylee Rowan, Karson Harrington

April 1 & 2

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Jerome Huslig
 Derek Joiner

10:30am Sun.

Dennis Habiger
 Larry Drees

EM

Glenda Heinz
 Millie Menges
 Yvonne Strecker
 Lori Billinger
 Angie Hammeke

Mike Moeder
 Mary Tudor
 Jalayne Ewing
 Ed Schlochtermeyer
 Mel Waite

Accomp/Cantor

Servers Logan Panning, Monica Hammeke

Britton Dutton, Haley Troyer

Sacristan

Kent Robl

Tammy Troyer

Weekday Servers: Week of April 2 - A. J. Bowyer, Lane Klepper

April 8 & 9

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Mass at Claflin

10:30am Sun.

Catherine Strecker
 Art Huslig

EM

LeRoy Thill
 Sharla Thill
 Kirk Bressler
 Lori Hammeke
 Curtis Wolf

Accomp/Cantor

Servers Caylee Rowan, Wittney Hammeke

Grant Klepper, Lane Klepper

Sacristan

Joni & Louie Pivonka

Kirk Bressler

SEE HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

Weekday Servers: Week of April 9 - Daphne Doll, Jonathon Mason

Weekday Servers: Week of April 16 - Kiley Troyer, Haley Troyer

April 22 & 23

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Yvonne Strecker
 Rosie Joiner

10:30am Sun.

John Sturn
 LeRoy Thill

EM

Ellen Shanteau
 Joe Schulte
 Melanie Zink
 Jean Klepper
 Glenda Heinz

Rod Weber
 Danielle Weber
 Joy Schlochtermeyer
 Paul Schlochtermeyer
 John Clayton

Accomp/Cantor

Servers Drew & Colby Heinz

Emma Nienke, Daphne Doll

Sacristan

Karen Kramp

Kelly & Kristen Wondra

Weekday Servers: Week of April 23 - Cody Zink, Daniel Hammeke

April 29 & 30

Lector 1
 Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

David Gonzales
 Karla Gonzales

10:30am Sun.

Mary Tudor
 Linda Sobba

EM

Sharon Gatton
 Kim Heinz
 Millie Menges
 Amy Oelke
 Steve Oelke

Kent Roth
 Catherine Strecker
 Marcella Birzer
 Jalayne Ewing
 Curtis Wolf

Accomp/Cantor

Servers: Braden Williams, Ashtin Klepper

Kyler Doll, Brandon Carr

Sacristan

Joni & Louie Pivonka

JoAnn Roth

Weekday Servers: Week of April 30 - Caylee Rowan, Karson Harrington

Immaculate Conception Ministry Schedule

April 2017

Sunday April 2 2017

- Lectors: Darah Harrison, Nancy Liebl
- Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Miller, Peggy Feist, Allan Beck, Sheri Holmes, Laurie Feist
- Gift Bearers: Judy & Leon Oberle
- Greeters: Doris & Gene Feist
- Servers: Maryn Rose Schmidt, Emily Ryan
- Sacristan: Judy Oberle

Sunday April 9 2017 (PALM SUNDAY)

- Lectors: Janet Hitschmann, Toby Holmes
- Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Thomas, Jim Oberle, Carla & Todd Liebl, Barbara Musgrove
- Gift Bearers: Rugan Family
- Greeters: Ryan Family
- Servers: Lexie & Lawson Oeser
- Sacristan: Dee Krier

Sunday April 16 2017 (EASTER)

- Lectors: Kent Praeger, Lori Koester
- Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy Liebl, Bridget Letourneau, Sheri & Toby Holmes
- Gift Bearers: Harrison Family
- Greeters: Kirk & Aaron Schneweis
- Servers: Blaine & Brianna Hickel
- Sacristan: Dee Krier

Sunday April 23 2017

- Lectors: Kathy Krier, Richard Rugan
- Eucharistic Ministers: Karlynn & Fred Beck, Carmen Johnson, Dawnya Hickel, Rita Stueder
- Gift Bearers: Dee Krier & Janie Haxton
- Greeters: Todd Liebl Family
- Servers: Brett Liebl, Anthony Oberle
- Sacristan: Joan Miller

Sunday April 30 2017

- Lectors: Janell Hubbard, Janae Ryan
- Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Krier, Jim Oberle, Bridget Letourneau, Nancy Liebl, Barbara Musgrove
- Gift Bearers: Pete Oberle Family
- Greeters: John Schlessiger Family
- Servers: Paxton Dody, Jacob Oberle
- Sacristan: Joy Hertach

WEEKDAY *Schedule*

April 4 2017

- Lector: Sr. Andre
- EM: Joan Miller, Bill Thomas

April 6 2017

- Lector: Kathy Krier
- EM: Jim Oberle, Sr. Andre

April 11 2017

- Lector: Jane Steinert
- EM: Kathy Krier, Joan Miller

HOLY WEEK

- *Special Schedule In Bulletin*

April 18 2017

- Lector: Nancy Schartz
- EM: Joan Miller, Bill Thomas

April 20 2017

- Lector: Sr. Andre
- EM: Kathy Krier, Joan Miller

April 25 2017

- Lector: Kathy Krier
- EM: Sr. Andre, Jim Oberle

April 27 2017

- Lector: Jane Steinert
- EM: Joan Miller, Kathy Krier

Birthdays & Anniversaries - April 2017

Immaculate Conception Church

April Birthdays

3 Doug Hickel
 3 John Schlessiger
 4 Abigail Holmes
 5 Hayla Demel
 5 Timothy Demel
 5 Gary Kirmer
 6 Kirby Krier
 7 Karli Beck
 8 James Hickel
 8 Remington Miller
 9 Aaron Kaiser
 11 McKenna Hammeke
 12 Kashlin Beck
 12 Nancy Feist-Schissler
 12 Marilyn Kaiser
 13 Darah Harrison
 14 Ashley Kaiser
 14 Jessica Kirmer
 18 Delaney Rugan
 19 Corey Liebl
 22 Emma Hickel
 22 Bridget Letourneau
 23 Carla Liebl
 24 Breanna Holmes
 24 Jon Oeser
 24 Roy Weber
 26 Mary Rose Oberle
 27 Sandi Oberle
 29 Jacob J. Oberle
 30 Lawrence Barnes
 30 Joan Miller
 30 Alexandria Oeser

April Anniversaries

14 Victor & Mary Rose Oberle
 17 William & Tami Miller
 22 Don & Jane Steinert
 23 Mark & Kim Connell
 23 Alfred & Sue Hammeke
 28 Jeff & Patricia Schneweis

April Birthdays

1 Josee Roth
 3 Frederick (Jr.) Gunn
 6 Darci Lyman
 6 Karla Siefers
 7 Colton Potts
 13 Robert Joy
 13 Roger Stremel
 13 Mary Tudor
 14 Derek Joiner
 14 Jason Racette
 14 Mary Beth Thill
 15 Patricia Panning
 15 Mel Urban
 16 Amy Hammeke
 16 Marcia Sauber
 17 Ryan Cherry
 19 Kathy Reh
 19 Tawnia Zink
 20 Adam Birzer
 20 Braelyn Racette
 22 Cale Batchman
 22 Hannah Billinger
 22 John Roth
 23 Kathy Hertel
 23 Candice Lawellin
 23 Madison Ward
 24 Jerome Huslig
 24 Lee Petz
 24 Jayne Wirtz

25 Don Knop
 25 Kathy Schartz
 26 Jalayne Ewing
 26 Nicholas Roth
 27 John Billinger
 28 James Elsen
 28 Zachary Siefers
 29 Mary Herter
 29 Shelby Steffan
 30 Monty Strecker

St. Joseph Church



April Anniversaries

4 John & Marlene Clayton
 10 Jeff & Terri Huslig
 10 Darrell & Ellen Shanteau
 11 William & Julia Clemons
 12 Frank & Frances Rome
 17 Mark & Glenda Heinz
 18 Mark & Lori Hammeke
 20 Jason & Heather Schlochtermeier
 24 Jeremy & Judy Haynes
 24 Ron & Kay Kelly
 25 Ron & Rosemary McCrary
 28 Dustin & Eleanor Jahay
 29 Richard & Jean Doll

April 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [E]
2 5th Sun. Of Lent Mass 8:30am [C] Mass 10:30am [E] PSR Breakfast [E]	3 Mass 10:15am Wdhvn	4 Mass 8:15am [C]	5 Mass 8:15am [E] Lenten Lunch [E] Confessions 6pm [C] Stations of the Cross 6:30pm [C] 7:00pm [E]	6 No Mass [C] Chrism Mass @ Dodge City	7 First Friday Mass 8:15am [E] Mass 10:00am [C]	8 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [C]
9 Palm Sunday Mass 8:30am [C] Mass 10:30am [E]	10 Mass 10:15am Wdhvn	11 Mass 8:15am [C] School Council 7:00pm	12 Mass 8:15am [E]	13 Holy Thursday Mass 5:00pm [C] Mass 7:00pm [E]	14 Good Friday Service 12:00pm [E] Service 3:00pm [C]	15 Holy Saturday Mass 8:00pm [E]
16 Easter Mass 8:30am [C] Mass 10:30am [E]	17 Mass 9:30am Hospital K of C Mtg 8pm [C]	18 Mass 8:15am [C]	19 Mass 8:15am [E]	20 Mass 8:15am [C]	21 Mass 8:15am [E]	22 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [E]
23 2nd Sun. Of Easter Mass 8:30am [C] Mass 10:30am [E] First Communion	24 Mass 10:15am Wdhvn K of C Mtg 7:30pm [E]	25 Mass 8:15am [C]	26 Mass 8:15am [E]	27 Mass 8:15am [C]	28 Mass 8:15am [E]	29 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [E]
30 3rd Sun. Of Easter Mass 8:30am [C] Mass 10:30am [E]						

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

Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
Ellinwood, KS 67526

2017



Italian Dinner

June 4, 2017 • St. Joseph Parish Center

Social 5:30 followed by Dinner at 6:00

Dinner includes your choice of

LASAGNA or CHICKEN TETRAZZINI

with tossed salad and homemade rolls and homemade dessert.

Coffee, Tea and Water will accompany the meal.

(Wine and Beer, along with snacks will be available at no cost.)

Cost of Meal - \$30 per person or \$50 per couple

ADULTS ONLY

R.S.V.P. if need FREE BABY-SITTING which will be available

Tickets will be available at Church, the Parish Office

or Contact any Living Legacy Committee Member

(Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available starting May 13th & 14th)