

The **S***pirit 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



Seven Graduate from St. Joseph School on May 21st

By Sharla Thill

Eighth grade students from St. Joseph School graduated on May 21st, at the 10:30 Mass. It was a special time for these students, who have spent the past eight years together as a team.

The seven have made many memories together and I asked them to share some of them with us.

Haley, daughter of Matt and Tammy Troyer, shared, "Some of the best memories I have at SJS are being around the little kids. I feel so fortunate to be able to go to a Catholic school to get the experience of being around these younger ones all day. It really gives you a good feeling when they come up and hug you and want to hang around you."

She continued, "Another thing I've loved is the teachers. They have pushed me to do my best and they made learning fun. They helped guide me in my Catholic faith."

"Another main reason is the life long friendships. You not only become like siblings with your classmates, but also their families. The school being connected with the parish makes families closer," Haley continued. "I will miss the school and I thank everyone for a wonderful 9 years."

Lane and Ashtin, twins, and children of Jeff and Gwen Klepper, both said "the School Lunches" are a yummy memory, as did most of the other students.

Lane, however, added, "Playing St. Joseph basketball was a highlight, and going to the County spelling bee and taking first place is a special memory. He especially remembers the Thanksgiving Dinner the classes shared in kindergarten and 1st grade, and was looking forward to the end of the year Fun Days."

Ashtin decided that the AR parties, having grandfriends, visiting the



Last ride on the merry-go-round for these 8th graders who graduated on May 21, from St. Joseph School. From left are Erin Hammeke, Daphne Doll, Haley Troyer, Monica Hammeke, Ashtin Klepper, Wittney Hammeke and Lane Klepper.

homebound and going to the County spelling bee twice were great memories for her. She also said, "I am really grateful for the positive Christian environment that the school provides."

Wittney Hammeke remarked, "I cannot believe that my SJCS years are coming to a close. I am blessed to have gotten to attend school there. Many things at St. Joseph School are one of a kind."

The teachers are patient and guide us not only in our studies, but also in difficult life lessons," she continued. "I have learned to always put God first and that a first-rate education is key to a good future."



"My main highlight of the whole school experience, is how everyone is treated equally," she ended. "The teachers were not only my mentors, but also my friends."

Monica Hammeke says Catholic Schools Week is one of her favorite memories. She said, "It is always a lot of fun to wear your PJ's to school or wear a really crazy outfit for a day."

"The German Buffet was a great memory," she added. "The students sat in front of the stage and watched the raffle. And of course, Funday was special. On the last day of school the 8th graders plan an afternoon of games and fun for the entire school. It always ended with a 5th-8th kickball/basketball game in the afternoon."

"Here are some of my fondest memories," says Daphne Doll, daughter of Richard and Jean Doll. "I have loved our

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Lotto St. Joe

Jean Klepper won the \$50 for April 14th. The winner of the \$500 Easter drawing was Mel Waite. April 21st found Sherrie Siefers as the winner of the \$50 drawing. Cheri Doll came away the winner of the \$50 drawing for April 28th.

Nathan Hammeke wins the lotto on May 5th. Proceeds go directly to the support of St. Joseph School.

Theology on Tap

The topic for the May 6th "Theology on Tap" was Cradle Catholics and Converts: Which are better? Father Klein shared his knowledge to a large group from St. Joseph Parish and Immaculate Conception.

I don't mind going to work, but that eight hour wait to go home drives me crazy.

Carillon System

Purchased in 1999, our Carillon system has stopped working. A new system will cost just under \$16,000. If you can help to pay for this, please label your contribution "Bell Tower."

Special appeals like this are not counted, or taxed, as part of the diocesan collection system. To date, we have raised \$2,500 towards the repair of the church roof flashing, which costs \$10, 550.

K of C Minister at Mass

On Sunday, April 30th, Knights of Columbus members performed the ministries at the 10:30 Mass. This included ministers of the Eucharist, readers, and taking up the collection.

Divine Mercy Radio

Tuning into Divine Mercy Radio, from May 2-5, for their annual Care-a-Thon, you might have found local people sharing with the public. Bishop Brungardt spoke on May 2nd; Deacon Jacob Schneider on May 3rd; Richard Doll & SJS students, Haley Troyer, Erin Hammeke, Daphne Doll and Lane Klepper, on May 4th, and Dr. Charlie Joslin on May 5th. Hope you tuned in to 88.1 Divine Mercy Radio.

Five Join Church at Easter Vigil



Catechists for the RICA program this year are from left, Mark Hammeke, John Clayton and Mary Waite. They are joined by the five catechumens who joined the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday evening Mass. Back row: Brandon Ritchie, Ed Habash and Laura Strecker (who was baptized), and Front row: Judy and Gary Grubb. A reception was held after the services in the parish center, for the new Catholics, their sponsors and members of St. Joseph Parish.



Wittney Hammeke, 8th grader, crowns the statue honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church Grotto following Mass on May Day.

Wichita Diocese to Start Priest Training

By Sharla Thill

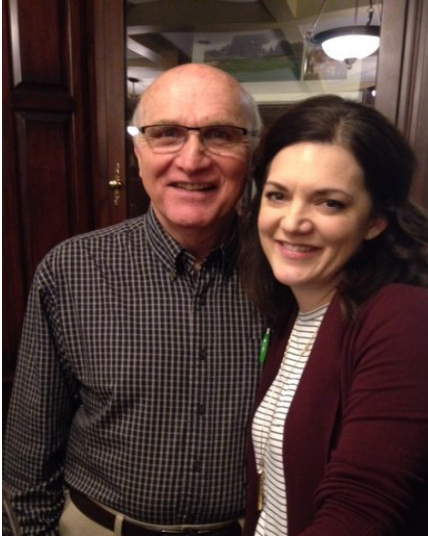
An interesting note in the Hutchinson News recently tells about the Catholic Diocese of Wichita beginning a training program aimed at high school graduates who want to start on the path to seminary without leaving the city.

The St. Joseph House of Formation is a 2-year program for seminarians who will live on the campus of St. Joseph Parish and pursue associate degrees at Newman University while interacting with local priests.

Rev. Mike Simone, chancellor for the Diocese says, "When the men actually see the people they will serve one day, it does open their heart, because it's just a very concrete way they can picture themselves in the shoes of a parish priest."

In Honor of Our Father

by Michael Drees and Sarah (Drees) Liebl



Sarah & Larry

“Honor your father and your mother.” Everyone knows this as the Fourth Commandment. As children, we tried to follow this law by being obedient. But as you grow up, you realize this is much more than obedience. If God wanted that he would have said, “Obey your father and mother.” He didn’t. He said, “Honor” because it is so much more. Today as parents to our own children, this has come to be the driver in our lives. Because we have been blessed to have a father and mother who lift us up, push us to be our best and love us for who we are, we are driven to be the best parents, friends, siblings, spouses, employees...to honor them.

Our dad, Larry Drees, was known as “Mr. Drees” to many students and athletes he taught and coached over his 39 years in public education. Our dad worked hard to earn respect in his classroom and on the playing field. Many of those, his students and players, told us how tough he was and how much he expected. But in the same breath, they also say, “He was the best teacher and coach I ever had.” We understand this now more than we did then and feel the same way: he has high expectations of us and he is the best dad any kid could ask for! He is the best because he cares—he wants every child to experience success by being the best he or she can be.

You don’t realize how hard parenting is until you have children of your own. It’s hard to always give 100 percent at work and at home and it’s hard to balance both. It never looked hard for Dad to balance

life and work. We don’t remember him ever complaining about work and he never brought work home with him. When he was home, he was Dad. The most important lesson we learned from him as a parent was to be present. Do whatever you can to be there—cheering, listening or just watching from the sidelines. He is still making every effort he can to be there. Just last week, he drove to Hutchinson to help coach his granddaughter in track and he and Mom traveled to Hays to watch their grandson’s violin concert. And, he does more than lead by example. He is always more than willing to help stay with his grandkids when we have to be out of town or just need an extra pair of hands. He will do whatever he can to be there for his family....as long as it does not conflict with playing cards with his friends on Wednesdays!

As a husband and father, we saw the best of both: a strong leader and a supporting caregiver. You knew you would get in trouble if you broke the rules. It was a pretty simple formula that we chose to ignore at times, but paid the price. But, at the same time, he always showed his softer side, especially with Mom. Each night, they would tell each other goodnight and share a kiss. It is another moment you don’t think that much of when you are growing up, but now, it is special that as young children we witnessed our parent’s genuine love and mutual respect. He respects Mom and supports her. She is busy and still working full time and so he helps cook, clean and goes to the grocery store. We didn’t know that some Dads didn’t help around the house because our Dad always did.

It may be that he likes to stay busy around the house, but it seems that it is just who he is—a servant. He served others as an educator and coach and is still serving others as he helps his friends, family and community. As a devout Catholic man, his

most rewarding service is to God. We can’t think of a weekend where he missed Mass. Even when we were traveling through the desolate parts of New Mexico on vacation, Mom and Dad found a church where we celebrated Mass in Spanish. We still remember marching around the parking lot singing praise to Mary (at least we think that’s what everyone was singing).

It doesn’t ever seem to be enough of a show of appreciation to give Dad a card on Father’s Day or gift on his birthday. How can it be? He brought us into this world, raised us and is helping us raise our own children. The best way we know how to express our thanks is to pay it forward and be the best parents to our children and to be



Michael & Larry

active in our communities by being involved in church, school and other community organizations. And, it is great to see Dad still so involved in his community. He is active in church as a lector, greeter, usher and sacristan. He takes elderly residents to doctor’s appointments or to run errands as a driver of the Ellinwood Senior Bus and serves on the Ellinwood Public School Foundation Board. He praises God each day as he serves others graciously.

Our favorite moments with Dad are when we are all together as a family. He makes sure to hug us and tell us he loves us and that he is proud of us and the kids we are raising. We hope to keep making him proud and honor him each day. It is our true honor to call Larry Drees, “Dad.”

Happy
Father's Day

The Prayers of the Faithful: Their Theology and Purpose

by Father Terry Klein

Those of us who lived through the liturgical changes, which were introduced by the Second Vatican Council, can probably remember when we first heard the praying of petitions, which we call “The Prayers of the Faithful.” They were not a part of the Latin Mass, though they did exist in the Eucharists, which the ancient Church celebrated.

In fact, the Liturgy of Good Friday still uses the original form, which these prayers took. The priest or deacon invites the people to pray, “Let us pray for...” There is a pause for silent prayer, and then he offers a collect (gathering) prayer. Why is Good Friday so faithful to the oldest form? Because the less frequently a liturgy is prayed the less likely it is to change over time. Good Friday is still celebrated as it has been for centuries, because it only comes once a year.

The Church does provide some instruction on the composition and ordering of these prayers for all other Masses. The first prayer should always be for the Church, meaning any aspect of the Church’s life: a class about to receive confirmation, the bishop’s new appeal, the need for the Church to witness to justice and peace, etc.

The second petition is to be offered for civil authority. Again, that might mean praying for the new president, praying for peace among nations, praying for the protection of the environment, or for a successful local effort.

After that, it’s up to the one who writes the prayers, though there are almost always prayers for the sick. And the last petition is always supposed to be for the dead.

In some parishes, but not many, there is still a petition for “the silent prayers of our hearts,” which seems designed to catch whatever we might have missed. That’s misguided. These are the public prayers, the public concerns, of the people of God. Of course we have the private prayers in our hearts. That’s where they are, and there is no reason to introduce them to the public prayer that is the liturgy. It’s a bit like the person who requests that Mass be offered “for a special intention.” What makes one intention more special than another? Better to say, “for a private intention.”

The Church does have a place “for the silent prayers of our hearts.” It’s in the silence that is supposed to follow the



priest’s invitation to pray at the beginning and at the end of the Mass. Some of us priests are not very good at leaving time for the people to pray silently, before we begin the “collect prayer,” which collects up all of the silent prayers just offered. When people and priests don’t understand how the liturgy is supposed to work, they often create their own attempts to accomplish the same. Hence our “prayer for the silent prayers” of the faithful. It’s not needed there, because it’s already been designed to be at another place in the Mass.

The other guideline offered is that the prayers conform the spirit of the Roman liturgy, which prefers always to use less words rather than more. God doesn’t need a lengthy explanation of our need, and the prayer isn’t offered as a way of educating the congregation. So, rather than, “Let us pray that we come to respect the dignity of human life, from conception through natural death, and reject those forces and politicians in our society that would devalue human life,” how about “for the defense of all human life.” Unlike the liturgies of the eastern churches, the Roman liturgy tries to address God, soberly, in the fewest possible words. Those who write petitions should take pride in doing the same.

Less is also more in terms of the total number of petitions. Think five to seven as the ideal. With one for the Church, one for civil authority, and one for the dead, only two or three more are needed. Five petitions that people listen to, and therefore pray for, are better than ten or twelve that lose the attention of the congregation.

The word “Eucharist” means “thanksgiving.” It is the Church’s great prayer of thanksgiving. That’s why the Church never created a holiday called “Thanksgiving.” This is what we do every



time that we celebrate the Eucharist. In the large prayer at the center of the Mass, the Eucharistic Prayer, after addressing the people and telling them to lift up their hearts, the priest then says, “Let us give thanks to the Lord.” Everything that follows is what we are most grateful for. Namely, the death and resurrection of Jesus and the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. This is also why there is no place for prayers of thanksgiving among the prayers of the faithful. That is at the center of the Mass. Well, maybe a little wiggle room, “Grateful for rain, we ask protection from floods...”

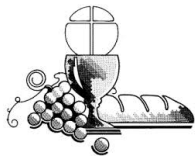
Those who write our petitions do a very good job of including people in the community in need, Catholic and non-Catholic. It would be wonderful to pray as well for those being baptized, receiving first communion, or being married. If you watch the parishes’ Facebook pages, I will work hard to mention what is coming up that weekend in terms of these events.

I’ve included this essay in our newsletter, rather than write directly to those who give of their time and talent to write petitions, so that all of us have a better understanding of the spirituality of the Mass, and the part that they play in it. If you know someone who writes petitions, thank him or her. It’s an unseen but important ministry, and our folks do it well.



Wittney Hammeke reads “Prayers of the Faithful” at a student Mass.

Ten Make First Holy Communion



By Sharla Thill

On April 23, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, Second grade students from St. Joseph School gathered to make their First Holy Communion.

Father began by saying, "Here on the second Sunday of Easter we joyfully celebrate one of the Easter Sacraments as the children make their First Holy Communion."

The children came in with the Mass Procession and sat with their parents close behind them. During the "profession of faith", altar servers Daphne Doll and Emma Nienke gave each first communicant their candle, lit by Father Klein from the Easter candle.

Those making their First Communion were Alyvia Batchman, daughter of Mark and Cassie Batchman; Cohen Gunn, son of Freddy and Angie Gunn; Alexandra Harrington, daughter of Seth and Jamie Harrington; Luke Heinz, son of Chad and Kim Heinz; Vivian Klepper, daughter of



Second graders gather with their teacher, Jamie Harrington, for a picture before Mass. From left are: Vivian Klepper, Josalynn Zink, Alyvia Batchman, Avery Schartz, Mrs. Harrington, Trace Tudor, Alexandra Harrington, Luke Heinz, Bryce Williams, Keaton Lewis, and Cohen Gunn.

Scott and Jennifer Klepper; Keaton Lewis, son of Jesse and Audrey Lewis; Avery Schartz, daughter of Seth and Krystal Schartz; Trace Tudor, son of Damian

and Melissa Tudor; Bryce Williams, son of Robert and Jessica Williams and Josalynn Zink, daughter of Amber Zink – Quesenbury.

We Remember Ashley Reichuber

By Sharla Thill

Ashley Ann Reichuber, age 21, died on April 29th, following an accident on the highway leading from their home east of Ellinwood. Ashley and her sister, Abbie, age 19, were in an ATV, going out to do their chores when the accident occurred.

Ashley was born on August 21, 1995 in Great Bend, the daughter of Sharon (Thomas) and Gerald Reichuber, all members of St. Joseph Church. She was the granddaughter of Robert and Margie Thomas, of our parish. Preceding her in death are her Reichuber grandparents, Arnold and Frances.

She attended St. Joseph School and graduated from Ellinwood High School, living her entire life in the Ellinwood community. Ashley served Mass at St. Joseph's Church all during her four year in high school, many times with her sister, Abbie.

In his funeral homily, Father Klein shared that a number of people had commented on her dependability at Mass and that she never complained, no matter what she was asked to do.

Ashley graduated from Barton Community College, where she got a degree in Business/Agriculture. The young woman loved working on the farm, especially with her family. She loved baling hay, running the combine during harvest, and working with the baby calves, some of which were her own. She loved all animals, especially her dogs.

In high school Ashley was involved with FBLA and FFA, (where she enjoyed making the sausage to sell each year, and making a number of projects, including a bale feeder). In her senior interview she was very excited about making a grill guard for her truck.

Cross Country and Track were the highlights of her high school activities. When she wasn't busy she liked to watch TV and go hunting, especially pheasant and deer, something her entire family enjoyed doing together.

Funeral Mass for Ashley was on Thursday, May 4th, at St. Joseph Church with Father Terrance Klein officiating. Memorials are suggested to St. Joseph

Church or St. Joseph Church Endowment Fund.

We as a parish, offer our deepest sympathy to Gerald, Sharon and Abbie, and all the extended family.



Ashley Reichuber

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Said Each Friday Morning

By Sharla Thill



Remember Pope Francis declared a Year of Mercy for the Catholic Church that began on December 8, 2015 and recently closed in November. The Feast Day, celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, known as Divine Mercy Sunday, is a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come.

In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. April 30, 2000, was the canonization of St. Faustina by Pope John Paul II.

A beautiful Divine Mercy image was purchased by the Knights of Columbus Council 1187, Ellinwood, and the St. Joseph Altar Society in March of 2016 and is displayed during the Prayers of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy each Friday morning after mass.

Ray Robl, Joy Schlochtermeyer and JoAnn Roth lead the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the group attending is growing. We invite you to join us at any time.

The Chaplet was given to St. Faustina with this promise: "Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you". "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death".

The Divine Mercy Novena was again prayed this year at St. Joseph Church. Jesus gave St. Faustina nine intentions for which to pray the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet beginning on Good Friday and ending on Holy Saturday. Each of these days at 8:45 a.m. parishioners met

at the church for the nine days to pray the Novena.

Scripturally, novenas take their origin from the nine days of prayer before Pentecost. After the Ascension, the apostles and disciples, in obedience to the Lord, gathered in the upper room and devoted themselves to constant prayer, together with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. (Acts 1:4-5)

The nine days of prayer can also be considered as a representation of the nine months of Jesus in the womb of Mary. Like Jesus our Head, we His Body are also to be born of Mary and the Holy Spirit. The nine days of prayer were gestation prior to the birth of the Church on Pentecost. Since then, each novena can be considered as a time of gestation before a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

A Divine Mercy Prayer Service was held on Divine Mercy Sunday at the Worship Site at St. Patrick Church in Great Bend at 3 p.m. to celebrate the end of the Novena.

God's mercy at work in the world today is the focus of a Catholic produced documentary by the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal order with 1.9 million members worldwide. Carl Anderson, K of C CEO, says, "Divine Mercy is not just a devotion or theological concept. It is alive, it is present, and it is a force that can transform the world."

The one hour film, "The Face of Mercy" is available for check-out by calling the church office at 620-564-2534 and then you will be contacted for the film.

Anderson said the film, "highlights the sort of transformations that are possible in individual lives that embrace the way of

Eighth Grade Graduation Cont. from Page 1

teachers. Mrs. Thomas comes up with fun projects: we have made marble roller coasters, put menthos in pop, and re-created the planets."

"Mrs. Clayton guides us spiritually, making sure we are involved with the church. She teaches great lessons, and we even go outside for class occasionally when the weather is nice, to get some fresh air and be in God's creation," Daphne shares. "Then there is Mr. Lashley, who, in order to get a point across (like vertical angles are congruent), jumps on desks and breaks rulers to grab our attention. I certainly can never forget that."

"I also love getting to know the younger students. I remember looking up to the older students when I was younger and I am glad to be an example for them."

She continued, "I am looking forward to Fun Day. When we were younger, we always coveted the job of planning fun day. Now we get the opportunity to come up with a game filled day. St. Joseph just has a very comfortable environment. When my sister Rachel comes home, she says she misses being part of our school's little family, and I know I will miss it too."

Erin Hammeke says, "Everyday I was challenged with new material and my teachers always pushed me to be the best I could be. I love how our class is such a tight knit group. We all support each other and we have developed lifelong friendships."

"The food is amazing and has been a highlight of my day since the first day of school nine years ago," Erin continues. "It is crazy to look back to when we were all in kindergarten. I am reminded of these memories everyday when we come up to study hall and get swarmed by kindergarteners waiting to give us hugs, or when we go down and help with their music class. These memories will stay with me forever."

As these seven students spent their last days at St. Joseph School, I am sure they made a few more memories to take with them into the summer and then into High School. We will miss them all.

Graduation Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for these graduating students. We hope you will give them purpose and direction, as they enter the next phase of their lives.





Catholic Seniors of St. Joseph Parish attend Mass in their Caps and Gowns on Graduation Day.
From left: Lake Lyman, Jenna Oelke, Eric Jones, Allison Panning and Joanna Strecker. Eric, Allison and Joanna brought up the offertory.



Rosemary Robl, Don Feist, Roy Robl and Rita Feist serve up First Friday rolls and coffee for Father Klein and Marilyn Schartz, following morning Mass.



Father Klein recites the Litany of Mary on May Day, as the student body of St. Joseph's School gathers around the grotto for the May Crowning.

A Sincere Thanks to

Sister Andre Kravek, Pastoral Minister

Sister Andre Kravek is a pretty special lady. We have come to know and love her dearly over the past nine years that she has been with us here at Immaculate Conception Church. It goes without saying that she will be greatly missed. However, there is also thankfulness, as we take with us all of the lessons that God has used her for to teach us.

Matthew 5:14-16 says, *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* Jesus is saying this to his disciples, teaching them to go out into the world and spread the Good News of Christ. He is telling them that love of Christ in their hearts cannot be withheld from others - that it shines brightly through their lives as they live each moment for Him and share His love with others. We can say with certainty that our dear Sister Andre shines the brilliant Light of Christ everyday through her actions and devotion to our Lord. We see it in her kindness, empathy, sincerity, and love for others. Her heart for Jesus overflows from her life and impacts the lives of others.

Her heart for Christ makes people drawn to her. Rose Ann Wondra fondly remembers a day in which she spent with Sister Andre. She drove Sister Andre to Olmitz for Father Charles Mazouch's retirement party. (Sister Andre and Father Chuck are close friends.) Rose Ann really enjoyed the celebration, and has loved going to lunch with Sister Andre on numerous occasions.

So we thank you, Sister Andre. For your servant heart. For your desire to follow our Lord above all. For impacting our lives in a way that motivates us to live more like Christ, every day.

Let's Celebrate!

Come to the Retirement Party for Sister Andre!

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CENTER
SUNDAY - JUNE 11, 2017 @ 11:30 AM**

**FRIED CHICKEN & CAKE WILL BE PROVIDED
POTLUCK LUNCH: PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH**

WHY WE LOVE

Sister Andre...



"She is friendly. Sincere. Always makes people feel welcome. Great sense of humor. Open minded."

-Margaret Frisbie

"She has a fun sense of humor and can always make me smile. She inspires me to see the good in the world."

-Kaylyn Oberle

"Outgoing. Always spoke and joked with people. Also saw her pat a shoulder or two of a sad or upset person."

-Parishioner



"I first got to know Sister when I was helping with the RCIA classes. She invited me to come sit at her house and watch the all school reunion parade. We were sitting in her front yard and there was a four wheeler in the driveway. She must have decided she wanted to join in the festivities because the next thing I know she climbed on that four wheeler and proceeded to bring up the rear of the parade. I knew right then that she was alright and we were gonna be friends!"

-Carol Herter



Sister Andre's New Address:

Sister Andre Kravec
2320 Airport Drive
Columbus, OH 43219-2098

From Sister Andre...

Well, do you want *ALL* the gossip on me? I came here in August, 2008 from Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. I was previously at Sacred Heart Parish (1200-1400 families). This is a college town, and I was there for 5 years. Before that, I served in many parishes throughout Ohio - the longest stint was 11 years. I've been here in Clafin for 9 years.

One of the Sisters from Great Bend told me about Clafin, so I came for an interview - the rest is history.

Being here in Kansas has been one of the happiest times of my many years of ministry. After I was here for 2 years, I was asked to take on Odin as well. What a gift that has been to me. Being able to serve as a Spiritual Life Coordinator was a true honor for me, since women can't be ordained as a priest or deacon. Serving here has taught me lots.....red beer and mountain oysters included.

Fr. Chuck was one of the best priests I've been lucky enough to serve with, and we developed quite a friendship. When he moved I didn't think there was anyone to surpass him. Next, Fr. John came to Ellinwood/Clafin. Then a few years later came Fr. Terry. I have been happy to serve with *all* of these priests. Of course, I enjoy Fr. Terry's dog, Coco Chanel. She filled the empty spot in me from when my Tiny Flower died about 3 years ago.

Before becoming a parish minister, I taught elementary school for 10 years (grades 4-8). The kids and I had a really good time in those days. One winter, I was at Regina Coeli parish in Alliance, Ohio, teaching 6th grade. There were about 30-35 in the class (my biggest class was a 5th grade in Cleveland, Ohio of 59 students). We had a wonderful snow fall that winter.

The next day was our day for P.E. so I decided to take advantage of the snow. The students were to bring a change of clothes the next day so we could take advantage of the white stuff. That afternoon, as the class was changing and going outside, I needed to get some materials to the office and got side-tracked by the

principal. I got outside after the whole class did and they were ready for me. Some of the boys had good aim with their snowballs - but I wasn't too bad myself. After

that we built a snow fort and had a good session of girls vs. boys. I've been an elementary principal at an all-girls school that was *VERY* different, especially since the majority were from affluent families.

While doing parish work, I also got to teach high school religion classes, work on high school retreats, and do whatever else I could get into that was fun. I entered the convent right after high school graduation and pronounced my first vows in 1960. Even though some of the years have been difficult, I wouldn't trade them for the world. I've been very happy as a religious. I didn't feel as though I made such a big sacrifice by joining

the convent. Only as I got older did I realize the sacrifice my parents made since I'm an only child. They may not have had grandchildren but they got to know many of the classes and groups I worked with over the years.

God has blessed me through each of the assignments I have had. Being in Kansas has been the highlight. Many thanks to all of you. Thank you for making me feel so much a part of all of you. Thanks for also teaching me that I shouldn't gossip about anyone from Clafin or Odin because somehow, somewhere, *everyone* around here is related to everyone else. You lucky people! Thank you.....much love to all of you.



Kylie Holmes

SENIOR GRADUATE!

Kylie Holmes, daughter of Toby and Sheri Holmes, graduated May 14, 2017 from Central Plains High School in Claflin. She has two sisters, Abby and Breanna and one brother, Tyler. Kylie's grandparents are Jimmie Holmes and the late Leona Holmes and the late Francis and Sally Wahlmeier.

At CPHS, Kylie has been active as volleyball, basketball and track manager, Forensics, Yearbook, All School Play, KAYS, FCCLA, Student Council and Band. Her accomplishments include Student of the Week, National Honor Society, Honor Roll for four years, State Qualifier seven times, State Volleyball Champion, and four time State Basketball Champion.

After Graduation, Kylie plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in Organizational Leadership or Management.

Her hobbies include baking and crafts.

Kylie's "faith is the base of who I am, I try to live the way God intended for me and to be a role model for those younger than me."

Good Luck Kylie, on your next adventure at FHSU!



First Holy Communion at Immaculate Conception

Sunday, April 23rd was a special day for five second graders from Immaculate Conception Church. After months of preparation from teachers, Amy Metro and Lisa Crites, the students were ready to receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. Those making their First Holy Communion were Brody Crites, son of Dan and Lisa Crites, Taylin Davis, daughter of Shelly and Seth Rolfs, Silas Petermann, son of Michael and Stefanie Petermann, Ben Pflughoeft, son of Tim and Brenda Pflughoeft and Charlee Schlessiger, daughter of John and Laura Schlessiger.



Remembering Marilyn...

Marilyn Jane Kaiser, 91, died May 3, 2017 at Great Bend Regional Hospital. She was born April 12, 1926, in Ellsworth County, Kansas, the daughter of Herman and Marie (Pfeiffer) Breford. Marilyn graduated from Claflin High School in 1943. She was a lifetime resident of the Bushton and Claflin area. She had worked for the IGA Grocery Store in Claflin, was the former activity director for Cherry Village in Great Bend, and later retired from Homestead Villa, in Hoisington, as the social service director.

Marilyn was a former member of Holy Name Catholic Church, Bushton, and a current member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Claflin. She was always involved in her church and active in the Altar Society. She was also a former member of the Daughters of Isabella.

In 1944 she married Austin Zink. He died in 1950. She then married Leo N. Kaiser on September 25, 1954 in Bushton, Kansas. He died September 7, 2007. Survivors include: daughter, Mary Pryor and husband Robert of Great Bend, daughter-in-law, Donella Zink of Claflin, daughter, Angie Clutter of Hoisington, son Jon Kaiser and wife Ruth of Ellinwood; 19 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two husbands; a son, Terry Zink; brother, Glenn Breford; and two sons-in-law, Bernard Haberman and Don Clutter.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Claflin with Father Terrance Klein presiding. Burial was at Holy Name Cemetery. Memorials were made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Holy Name Cemetery Fund and Claflin E.M.S.

In Father Klein's homily, he spoke of how Marilyn was always in church. At age 12, she and her father and brother joined the church. Marilyn said becoming a Catholic made her feel safe. She was such a worrier and sometimes prayed 3 or 4 rosaries per day, because Mary had never let her down. Marilyn was a devoted mother, a beautiful Madonna herself.

Marilyn will always be remembered as a very special lady. She was such a sweet, kind and caring person. Her beautiful smile will be greatly missed. As Father stated, Marilyn was a picture of excellence.

Our deepest sympathy to the Kaiser family from your parish community.



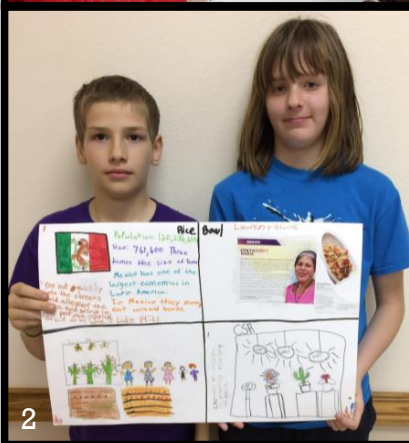
April was a **busy** month at *Immaculate Conception Parish!*



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1. During Holy Week, the 1st-8th grade PSR classes were led by the high school class. They had several fun activities to teach the “littles” about Holy Week, including resurrection eggs that had items that related to holy week, instead of candy inside of them. The “BIGS” and “littles” then discussed how each item related to the resurrection of Jesus.

2. The 5th grade PSR class worked in pairs to make posters showing where the money they collected from their rice bowls goes around the world to help those in need. Blaine Hickel and Lauren Oeser did their poster on Catholic Relief Services in Mexico.

3. Father Klein washes a tiny foot during Holy Thursday mass.



Palms & Prom. Many of the CPHS students attended Mass on April 8th before heading off to Prom.



Please Join us in Prayer for Juan Pablo



Juan Pablo, 11, has never had a consistent father figure in his life, which is a shame because he loves baseball. Friendly, affectionate, and eager, Juan would love to have a dad to play catch with him.

But Juan likes more than baseball. He enjoys reading books, playing video games, and building with Legos. He also likes to hang out at the YMCA, where he uses his membership to swim and play sports.

Juan would like to live in the city with a family that has pets and attends church. Because of his struggles with abandonment, Juan would do best in a two-parent home or in a strong one-parent home. He needs to be either the youngest child or an only child.

Juan's elder brother lives with their grandmother, and they see other regularly. If adopted, Juan would like to maintain this connection with his brother.

His foster mother speaks highly of Juan and says he's a warm, helpful, and caring young man. He simply needs clear rules and expectations delivered patiently and lovingly. Every person Juan has grown close to has abandoned him, so he needs a family he can trust and rely on to love him unconditionally.

O God of New Life:

Your child Juan Pablo has been abandoned so many times in his young life that he blames himself for being in foster care. He no longer finds it easy to trust. Please send him parents who deserve his trust, who will love him unconditionally and give him the attention and guidance he needs to discover the worth in himself and to see that he is forever precious in your sight.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Francis Community Services

509 E. Elm Salina, KS 67401

www.st-francis.org

(Select "Fostering in Faith" link)



We love them both...



Each December a small “Giving Tree” appears at Immaculate Conception Church and serves as a gathering spot for donations to Birthright. For several years, ICC members have generously supported this pro-life ministry. Birthright is a non-profit charitable organization that has been providing love and support for over 45 years to women facing unplanned pregnancies. There are chapters across Canada, the United States, and Africa.

The Great Bend Birthright office is located across from St. Patrick Church and Holy Family School. This new location was made possible when Father Dermot Tighe donated the house to the local chapter. Betty Schneider serves as the coordinator and the office is staffed by eight volunteers.

Services offered include:

- Love, hope, and encouragement
- Friendship and emotional support
- Non-judgmental, confidential help
- Free pregnancy tests
- Maternity and baby clothes
- Referrals to for medical services and other local services.

“At Birthright, we understand the challenges related to unplanned pregnancies. We know that it can be an overwhelming and often scary situation. However, we also know that there is hope for the mother and her child. Birthright believes that “It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born.” Birthright is here to be the friend that a pregnant woman needs as she navigates an unplanned pregnancy.”

“Birthright services are always free, absolutely confidential, and available to any woman regardless of age, race, religion, marital status, or financial situation.”

Donations are received from the Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, local churches and individuals. Although the house was donated, Birthright must pay for the utilities, property taxes and upkeep of the property. Monetary donations are a blessing. Birthright also appreciates donations of baby clothes, maternity clothes, strollers, cribs (Birthright buys new crib mattresses), pack-n-plays and car seats, which are inspected for safety before they are used.

If you or someone you know is facing an unplanned pregnancy, feel free to call a local Birthright. Call our toll-free Birthright Helpline at 1-800-550-4900 and talk to someone 24/7. Our volunteers are as near as your phone, and they want to help.

The Great Bend Birthright office has a close association with Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas. Moms are sent to the Catholic Charities nonfood pantry for assistance, and are also instructed on car seat installation and safety by a patrolman who assists Catholic Charities. Most women visit the local Birthright office before their baby is born and are given a layette containing diapers, baby wipes, onesies and a blanket.

Birthdays & Anniversaries - June 2017

Immaculate Conception Church

June Birthdays

- 1 Howard Johnson
- 1 June Miller
- 2 Courtney Liebl
- 4 Lois Steiner
- 6 Dylan Hickel
- 6 Eric Schmidt
- 7 Tyler Holmes
- 8 Ryan Harrison
- 8 Cathy Miller
- 10 Meritt Hammeke
- 11 Jeff Beck
- 11 Patricia Schneweis
- 12 Braden Miller
- 16 Karlynn Beck
- 16 N.R. Weber
- 18 Norel Kirmer
- 18 Lou Ann Oberle
- 19 Doris Smith
- 20 John Herter
- 21 Brett McKenna
- 23 Heath Buehler
- 23 Bryce Miller
- 25 Marcie Liebl
- 26 Allan Beck
- 26 Peyton Broecker
- 29 Alvita Cates
- 29 DeAnna Moran
- 29 Travis Schmidt

June Anniversaries

- 1 Robert & Alvita Cates
- 1 Jim & Lisa Ryan
- 2 Roy & Gracie Demel
- 4 John & Laura Schlessiger
- 5 Timothy & Joy Hertach
- 5 Peter & Michelle Oberle
- 5 Pat & Pam Stiles
- 6 Toby & Sheri Holmes
- 9 Tracey & Kelly Hoffman
- 11 Darryl & Brandi Demel
- 11 Eric & Denise Schmidt
- 14 Ryan & Darah Harrison
- 20 Drew & Jessica Kirmer
- 28 Herb & Jane Hoff

June Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Birzer
- 4 Wittney Hammeke
- 4 Katelyn Reh
- 5 Jeanie Strobl
- 6 Heather Roth
- 7 Frank Koelsch
- 7 Emma Nienke
- 8 Jenna Oelke
- 8 Sandy Roth
- 12 Mike Feist
- 13 Jennifer Klepper
- 14 Lori Hammeke
- 14 Denise Joslin
- 16 Janice Komarek
- 16 Knox Strickland
- 17 Steven Birzer
- 17 Joy Schlochtermeier
- 18 Ginger Thill
- 19 Gerald Komarek
- 19 Thomas Vander Meer
- 20 Mildred Birzer
- 20 Wade Carroll
- 20 Mark Heinz
- 20 Jordyn Quesenbury
- 22 Danielle Carroll
- 22 Cody Clair
- 23 Ryan Panning
- 24 Joseph Curtiss
- 24 Kim Miller
- 24 Sophia Strecker
- 25 Jackie Mai
- 25 David Tudor
- 26 Lorene Schartz
- 26 Leon Sobba
- 26 Melanie Zink
- 27 Clinton Hammeke
- 28 Mary Standlee
- 28 Stacy Zink
- 29 Shelly Churchill
- 29 Brayden Williams
- 30 Adelyn Bayer

St. Joseph Church



June Anniversaries

- 2 Ron & Yvonne Strecker
- 4 Lawrence & Shelly Broce
- 6 Stephen & Janice Birzer
- 6 Scott & Lisa Reser
- 9 Larry & Joan Drees
- 13 Gary & Stephanie Zorn
- 16 Roy & Rosemary Robl
- 17 Monte & Robin Doll

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

Change Service Requested

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Ellinwood, KS 67526

2017

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Teacher Jamie Harrington adjusts the veil of her daughter, Alexandra, before First Communion Mass as the other girls visit. From left is Josalynn Zink, Alyvia Batchman, Vivian Klepper and Avery Schartz.

June 2017
Daily Eucharistic Ministers

2 - Gerry Menges, Glenda Heinz
 7 - No Mass
 9 - Kirk Bressler, Angie Hammeke
 14 - Marcella Birzer, Sharla Thill
 16 - JoAnn Roth, Kirk Bressler
 21 - Angie Hammeke, Glenda Heinz
 23 - Sharla Thill, JoAnn Roth
 28 - Marcella Birzer, Kirk Bressler
 30 - Angie Hammeke, Sharla Thill



SATURDAY, 5:00PM MASS

June 3 - Jeff & Gwen Klepper Family,
 Vernon Robl

June 10 - Monte & Robin Doll Family,
 Josh Komarek, Jamie Komarek

June 17 - Glen & Kathy Hertel, Paul
 Huschka, Nancy Jenisch, Yvonne
 Strecker

June 24 - Joni & Louie Pivonka,
 Heather & Jason Schlochtermeyer
 Family

SUNDAY, 10:30AM MASS

June 4 - Jeff & Sandy Roth, Tony &
 Cheryl Klepper, Tom & Jolene Snell

June 11 - Joan & Larry Drees, David &
 Karla Gonzales, Leon & Marilyn
 Reichuber

June 18 - Kim Ward, John & Marlene
 Clayton, Charlie & Denise Joslin

June 25 - Richard & Jean Doll Family,
 Geraldine Menges, Ed Schlochtermeyer

Weekday Servers: Week of May 28 - Grant Klepper, Ashtin Klepper

June 3 & 4

Lector 1

Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Rosie Joiner

Karen Mitchel

10:30am Sun.

Dennis Habiger

LeRoy Thill

EM

Glenda Heinz
 Sharon Gatton
 Angie Hammeke
 Jean Klepper
 Ellen Shanteau

Mike Moeder
 Mary Tudor
 Ed Schlochtermeyer
 Lori Hammeke
 Curtis Wolf

Accomp/Cantor

Servers

Lorgan Panning
 Daniel Hammeke

Kiley Troyer
 Haley Troyer

Sacristan

Larry Drees

Leon & Marilyn Reichuber

Weekday Servers: Week of 4 - No Mass

June 10 & 11

Lector 1

Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Steve Billinger

John Clayton

10:30am Sun.

John Sturn

Mary Tudor

EM

Millie Menges
 Kim Heinz
 Jason Schlochtermeyer
 Joe Schulte
 Yvonne Strecker

Catherine Strecker
 Marcella Birzer
 Mel Waite
 Kent Roth
 Paul Schlochtermeyer

Accomp/Cantor

Servers

Caden Rowan
 Caylee Rowan

Kyler Doll
 David Hammeke

Sacristan

Rosemary Robl

Kirk Bressler

Weekday Servers: Week of June 11 - Drew & Colby Heinz

June 17 & 18

Lector 1

Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Derek Joiner

Ellen Shanteau

10:30am Sun.

Art Huslig

Kent Roth

EM

Glenda Heinz
 Melanie Zink
 Jerome Huslig
 Angie Hammeke
 Curtis Wolf

Rod Weber
 Danielle Weber
 Kirk Bressler
 Rick Thomas
 Lori Thomas

Accomp/Cantor

Servers

Haley Rugan
 Madisyn Schlochtermeyer

Luke Wondra
 Lane Klepper

Sacristan

Joni & Louie Pivonka

JoAnn Roth

Weekday Servers: Week of June 18 - Jonathon Mason, Shaun Weber

June 24 & 25

Lector 1

Lector 2

5:00pm Sat.

Stephanie Joiner

Heather Panning

10:30am Sun.

David Gonzales

Karla Gonzales

EM

Steve Oelke
 Amy Oelke
 Rosie Joiner
 Yvonne Strecker
 Millie Menges

Jalayne Ewing
 LeRoy Thill
 Sharla Thill
 Lori Billinger
 John Clayton

Accomp/Cantor

Servers:

Brayden Williams
 Cody Zink

Erin Hammeke
 Daphne Doll

Sacristan

Marilyn Schartz

Kent Robl

Immaculate Conception Ministry Schedule

June 2017

Sunday June 4, 2017

- Lectors: Kent Praeger, Darah Harrison
- Eucharistic Ministers: Laurie Feist, Jim Oberle, Bill Thomas, Toby Holmes, Sheri Holmes
- Gift Bearers: Pete & Michelle Oberle Family
- Greeters: Kirk & Aaron Schneweis
- Servers: Maryn Rose Schmidt, Jacob Oberle
- Sacristan: Joy Hertach

Sunday June 11, 2017

- Lectors: Richard Rugan, Janet Hitschman
- Eucharistic Ministers: Fred Beck, Karlynn Beck, Doris Feist, Dawnya Hickel, Bridget Letourneau
- Gift Bearers: Ryan & Darah Harrison Family
- Greeters: Leon & Judy Oberle
- Servers: Paxton Dody, Delaney Rugan
- Sacristan: Joan Miller

Sunday June 18, 2017 (FATHER'S DAY)

- Lectors: Janell Hubbard, Lori Koester
- Eucharistic Ministers: Todd Liebl, Carla Liebl, Rita Stueder, Joan Miller, Jim Oberle
- Gift Bearers: Lee & Jamie Bieberle
- Greeters: Pete & Lois Krier and Petie
- Servers: Blaine Hickel, Brianna Hickel
- Sacristan: Dee Krier

Sunday June 25, 2017

- Lectors: Toby Holmes, Laura Schlessiger
- Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Krier, Barbara Musgrove, Nancy Liebl, Carmen Johnson, Laurie Feist
- Gift Bearers: Toby & Sheri Holmes Family
- Greeters: Jim & Lisa Ryan Family
- Servers: Emma Hickel, Devin Ryan
- Sacristan: Judy Oberle

WEEKDAY *Schedule*

June 1, 2017

- Lector: Nancy Schartz
- EM: Joan Miller, Jim Oberle

June 2, 2017

- Lector: Sister Andre
- EM: Kathy Krier, Bill Thomas

June 13, 2017

- Lector: Jane Steinert
- EM: Kathy Krier, Sister Andre

June 15, 2017

- Lector: Sister Andre
- EM: Joan Miller, Jim Oberle

June 20, 2017

- Lector: Kathy Krier
- EM: Bill Thomas, Sister Andre

June 22, 2017

- Lector: Jane Steinert
- EM: Kathy Krier, Sister Andre

June 27, 2017

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

