

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

Steve Schachle, Parish Administrator



A Spirit (Newsletter),

Breathing New Life into Our Parishes



You're reading a truly unique document. Not my piece, which is quite ordinary. No, I mean "The Spirit" newsletter. To my knowledge, we're the only parishes in the Diocese of Dodge City that publish such a newsletter, one whose purpose is to draw us together in the communities that we call our parishes. It does this by telling the stories of the people who make up our parishes. And it's been doing so for nigh on thirty years!

If you have the opportunity, you might want to extend a word of thanks to Sharla Thill and Jenny Kasselmann, who have been working on the newsletter throughout its long life. Carla Liebl and Sandi Oberle now do the work on the Claflin half. If any of these folk ask you for a written contribution to the newsletter, please say yes, if you can. It's a richer publication with more voices! And if you'd be interested in doing more to volunteer at the newsletter, do let us know!

Currently, we are doing all that we can to keep up the reach and the quality of the newsletter, even in the face of a budget shortfalls. Neither of our parishes is in a good financial situation, and the challenge of supporting a first-rate Catholic school in Ellinwood, with a parish of dwindling numbers, is quite daunting. It costs each parish about \$4000 to print and to mail the newsletter. For that reason, we are sending letters to those who do not live in our parishes and who are currently receiving the

newsletter, asking them to subscribe to it, yearly, at a cost of \$15. This would cover our cost for them. We're delighted that they want to share our story, and hope that they can help us continue to share it.

We could save a lot more money by not mailing the newsletter at all. Some have suggested handing it out at Masses, rather than mailing it. Not a bad idea, but we rather like the notion that we are reaching out to those, in our communities, who might not be at Mass all that often. It's our way of saying that they are not forgotten. So we will continue to mail to members of the parishes, at least for as long as we can.

Also, the newsletter is available online, free to download, at the cluster website. There you can enjoy its pictures in full color! If you already use this feature—within or without the parish boundaries—and you don't need a printed copy, just let us know, and we'll take your name off the mailing list. The cluster office number 564-2534. Or email Jamie:

jkomarek@stjosephellinwood.com
Fr. Terrance Klein, Pastot

Note: If you are in our parish cluster (St. Joseph, Holy Family, or Immaculate Conception) and do not have a computer, you can go to your library to see your church online webpage without giving any of your personal information. The reason you do not have to give personal information is that the library is already signed on to the computer that you are using. In Ellinwood library you click on Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox, wait a moment and let it come to the library sign on page, the school page, then click on the address box in the upper left corner, it will highlight, and type your

church address to the address box. Click Enter and you will come to your church page on the web. Bring a magnifying glass to help you see small stuff. Bring a pair of ear buds or a headset to listen to homilies. Some of the homilies are in text to read. Headset icon, usually the top port, is on the computer tower next to the keyboard and computer screen. Plug in your headset to port. Ask the friendly library staff to help you if you have any trouble. The library also has coffee, tea, or cocoa for your enjoyment for a small fee.



A visit from Bishop John

Sunday, November 12th we had a visit from Bishop John and with the children and adults he taught us a song we should all remember. "Give Thanks!"



Give Thanks

**Give thanks / with a grateful heart.
Give thanks / to the Holy One.
Give thanks / because He's given
Jesus Christ, / His Son. (Repeat)**

**And now/ let the weak say,
"I am strong;"
Let the poor say,
"I am rich,"
Because of what / the Lord has
done for us (Repeat)**

We give thanks.

Remembering Mary Ann Birzer

By Marcella Birzer



Mary Ann and Jerry Birzer

Mary Ann Birzer died on Oct. 14, 2017 at the age of 82. She was born Aug. 17, 1935 and grew up in Berwick, PA. She was the daughter of William and Dorothea Gotschall Sink. Mary Ann and Jerry Birzer met in California while Jerry was in the Air Force. They got married on March 19, 1960. They came to the Ellinwood area to live here in 1963.

Mary Ann is survived by her son, Cletus Wolford of Ellinwood, two daughters, Dorothea Slack of Great Bend and Vickie Alexander of Ellinwood; brother, Richard Sink of Berwick, PA.; two sisters, Barbara Grosz and Janie Orner, both of Berwick, PA; six grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, on Dec. 10, 2002. She was also preceded in death by her son, David Birzer; granddaughter, Amanda Wolford; and brother, Bill Sink.

The whole family enjoyed living on the farm with the garden and the animals. Mary Ann did a lot of canning from the produce in the garden.

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One day one of her children gave Mary Ann a gift - a Donkey! Mary Ann said that she always wanted to have a donkey!

Mary Ann worked at the Veterinary Clinic in Ellinwood. She later worked as a cashier at Ellinwood Family Foods.

Seven years ago Mary Ann became a resident of Woodhaven. She was very patient through the times of becoming more and more disabled. Two years ago she decided to start coming to the Woodhaven Mass on Mondays. Mary Ann asked if there was a book so that she could follow along the words of the Mass. The book "The Word Among Us" was in the back of church. She always followed along. A short time later she expressed that she would like to become a Catholic. Mary Ann made her profession of faith, was Confirmed and received Holy Communion at a Woodhaven Mass. She liked that she could receive Communion and the Anointing of the Sick along with the other Catholic residents.

Mary Ann was concerned about other residents. She would often greet them by name when I was pushing her wheelchair back to her room after Mass. At the sign of peace she would greet the people around her even though she couldn't extend her hand. She enjoyed playing card games and Bingo with other residents. She really liked the music entertainment that they had at Woodhaven.

In her early days at Woodhaven she enjoyed reading books and doing word puzzles. She had fun making art and craft projects. She liked watching cartoons on TV.

Sometimes her children and grandchildren would join her for the yearly Barbeques at Woodhaven. Also they would join her at the annual Christmas party.

The funeral service was held at St. Joseph's Church on Oct. 18th with Father Terrance Klein officiating. Burial was at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

New School Sign



Photo Courtesy of Jacob Kasselmann

HAVE YOU SEEN THE STUNNING NEW SIGN for St. Joseph's School? The impetus for this came out of our strategic planning study, and the sign was begun before we were fully aware of our current financial constraints. We want those who are new to our community, or passing through it, to know what we are about. An unknown mission is an unsupported mission.

The total cost of the project was \$1,863.03, Mike and Ginger Thill donated \$400 toward this. The remainder of \$1,463.03 is being paid for from school council funds. All of the labor and craftsmanship were the donation of Mike Thill. We're already very grateful to him. So will be generations of students yet to come.



School News

Appeal The Diocese has notified us that we have hit the \$9.5 million mark on pledges and donations toward the goal of \$10 million for the Vibrant Ministries Appeal. One of the areas of support for the Vibrant Ministries Appeal is Catholic schools; therefore, a distribution in support of our schools has begun. Accordingly, we have received a check in the amount of \$5,475 which is \$75 per student.

Thanks to all who have pledged/donated to the Vibrant Ministries Appeal. Your support has made its way home to our school!



Blake and Cassie Micek were married at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Hastings, Nebraska on July 29, 2017.

Blake moved to Ellinwood in March when he took a job with Tall Crop where he is an independent crop consultant.

Cassie moved to Ellinwood after their wedding in July. She is teaching second grade at Holy Family School in Great Bend.

They met through their mutual love of running and the support of track and field. They knew each other in high school, but didn't start dating until college.



Cassie and Blake Micek

Blake attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and Cassie attended Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

They both competed in track and field in college and ran together over summer breaks. They graduated from college in December 2016.

In their free time, they like to spend time outdoors, hunting and fishing.

Please welcome Cassie and Blake to our parish family.



Veanna & Jim Rousseau



Veanna & Jim Rousseau have moved to Ellinwood from Northeast Kansas, the Topeka area. Both are now retired, choosing to come to Ellinwood to be closer to family.

Some say they chose Ellinwood because of Cooper and Cohen, others (one daughter in particular) believe it is to be closer to their "favorite" daughter. The Rousseau's just nod and smile. They have three grown and married daughters; Jayme Seibenmorgan (Doug) of Paxico, Angela Gunn (Freddy) of Ellinwood, and Emily Hogan (Heath) of Macksville.

Veanna grew up in Jetmore and had an older brother Steven. She attended Dodge City Community College and St. Mary of the Plains College prior to attending St. Joseph School of Nursing in Wichita. Jim has two sisters, Jane and Jacqueline, grew up in Derby and is a graduate of Wichita State. They met while Veanna was going to nursing school and Jim was working at St. Joseph Hospital. Their first date was on a Friday the 13th and was so magical they have been together ever since.

For most of their marriage, now over 46 years, they have lived outside of any city. They have always had horses and a home with acres of land. Their riding, barrel racing, roping and training of horses has lessened with time but that interest continues.

Transitioning to living in town and retirement are big life-style changes for them. With the activities of St. Joseph parish and family near, the transition will be their next life adventure.

~A Year in Review~

Baptized

Wesley Reid Bulleigh
Olivia Alane Bryant February 25
Dean Allen Broce June 11
Brisco Nathan Staton September 17
Cooper Robert Wirth October 1
Addilyn Kim Lewis



Marriages

Michael & Casey Batchman
January 14
Sean & Leslie O'Neill
July 8, 2017
Chase & Rachel Pumford
August 5, 2017



We remember those who have passed away

Ashley Reichuber April 29
Iva Ann McIntyre May 29
Richard P. Arensdorf Sept. 8
Robert Merritt September 12
Lorraine Petz September 23
Bertha Achatz September 30
Mary Ann Birzer October 14



**Mark your Calendar for the
Community Soup Dinner
on**

January 25, 2018

Lotto St. Joseph Winners

Lotto Started January 2017 with weekly drawings

August 4 th	Larry Klepper	\$50.00
August 11 th	Stephanie Jacobs	\$50.00
August 18 th	Howard Herter	\$50.00
August 25 th	Chris Stuhlsatz	\$50.00



September 1 st	Angie Hammeke	\$50.00
Labor Day	Donald Stuhlsatz	\$100.00
September 8 th	Angie Hammeke	\$50.00
September 15 th	Addie Billinger	\$50.00
September 22 nd	Jason Schloctermeier	\$50.00
September 29 th	Jesse Lewis	\$50.00



October 6 th	Larry Stephan	\$50.00
October 13 th	Karen Troyer	\$50.00
October 20 th	Frank Hertach	\$50.00
October 27 th	Karla Gonzales	\$50.00



Those who joined the church through RCIA

Ed Habash
Judy Grubb
Gary Grubb
Brandon Ritchie
Laura Strecker

Pray for Vocations



Students started taking the Vocation
Crucifix Home
October 2017

Cami and Josh Thomas Family
 Angie and Fred Gunn Family
 Chris and Julie Stuhlsatz Family
 Melissa and Damian Tudor Family

Dillon's Back in October we received notification from the Dillon's company of our quarterly earnings for the period 7/2/2017 through 9/30/2017. For that period, 126 households contributed \$604.48 to SJCS just by shopping at Dillon's. Thanks to all families who have signed up and had family and friends sign up for a Dillon's account. This is such a simple way to support our school. If you have yet to sign up, do so today. Directions are posted on our website: www.stjosephellinwood.com/school

Five of the Seven Ways to Support Our Kids at St. Joseph Without Spending Additional Money

Here are five activities, which most folk in our parish can do, to support Saint Joseph School. They all involve purchasing what you already purchase. Please consider each. Even better, ask a friend, neighbor, or relative to do the same. One doesn't need to live in Ellinwood to do many of these. And given our parish deficit, we need the help!

Register St. Joseph School as your designated charity with Dillons.

Sign-in or create an account at www.dillons.com/community/rewards.

Select St. Joseph School by name or by number: 11102. The school receives 1% of each dollar spent when you use your Dillons Card. Now, the account does not have to be renewed annually. Please encourage all your friends and relatives, especially alumni, to do this.

Cut & Save "Best Choice"
 UPC labels on products from Ellinwood Family Foods. We can redeem them for cash.

Cut, save, and submit box-tops4education. There is a box for them in the church entrance and at the school.



Zips

Purchase gas, using cash or check, at Zips in Ellinwood. Three cents on every dollar you spend goes to the school.

Aluminum cans

Save and deposit them in the blue bins behind the school. We use this money for our athletic fun.

Next month we will list the other two ways which are AmazonSmile and the Scrip Program