



# Better Together

Volume 1, No. 1

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER  
ST. CLEMENT • ST. JOSEPH • MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

April 2024

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the “Better Together” parish newsletter. One of the pillars of Stewardship is Hospitality - striving to make every parishioner and guest feel welcome and appreciated. We are one body - one community in Christ. It is our hope that this newsletter developed for the three parishes - St. Clement, St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace - will be a way to foster fellowship and strengthen union among our communities.

We plan to publish the newsletter quarterly - January, April, July and October. If anyone is interested in helping to gather information or have suggestions for content, please reach out to Marie E. Korte, who is preparing the newsletter. Send an email to: [newsletter@stclementmo.org](mailto:newsletter@stclementmo.org) or call 573-324-8300. Any business or organization that would like to help offset the costs of printing, reach out to Marie also.

## St. Clement Parish Council News

New school playground equipment was recently installed. Thanks to all those that donated toward this project for our children. Also thanks to the Knights of Columbus and other volunteers that helped remove the old equipment and assemble and install the new equipment.

The women’s bathroom in the church has been upgraded and redecorated with new lighting, flooring and paint. Both bathrooms are now handicap accessible, one with a handicap doorway and both with raised toilets. Both are now open for either gender. Thanks to Paulette Bruch, Michelle Nacke and their helpers for heading up this project.

New volunteers are needed to meet with engaged couples to prepare them for marriage. Larry & Mary Twellman have been filling this role for several years and they would like to turn it over to someone else. The volunteers would work along with Chad & Danielle Freie.

Parish Council elections will be coming up in early May with nominations requested the later part of April. Be thinking of parishioners to be considered for nomination.

Would there be interest in re-establishing the Adoration Chapel on a more organized basis? Some individuals have brought this up to the Parish Council but we would need someone to coordinate this if there is enough interest. Currently the Chapel is open for anyone to stop in as they wish. Share your thoughts with any Parish Council member or Fr. Ussher.

The Parish Auction is scheduled for August 24th at the K of C Hall. More information available in next issue.

## Meet Our New Parishioners

Please welcome our five new parishioners of St. Clement and one from St. Joseph that went through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program and were accepted fully into the Catholic Church at Holy Saturday services on March 30th.



Left to right seated: Kristy Oberman, Ashlee Ellis;  
standing: Tara Oberman, Adam Ellis, Shawn Everhart.

Kristy Oberman is married to Mark Oberman and they are the parents of two children: Lilly and Kade. Kristy works at Nutrien Ag Solutions in Bowling Green as an Administrative Coordinator. They live in rural Bowling Green.

Tara Oberman is the daughter of Keith and Shana Oberman. She will be 19 years old in April and is currently exploring work interests. She is an artist and animal lover. She lives with her parents near Louisville.

Adam and Ashlee Ellis are the parents of two daughters: Madelyn and Lakelyn. Ashlee owns Urban Tails in Bowling Green. Adam works at Geeding Construction. They live near New Hartford.

Shawn Everhart lives in Bowling Green and works as a Power Engineer. He has one child, Ethan Everhart.

Kevin R. “Randy” Spann lives in Pittsfield, Illinois and is married to Jeanne.

### First Communicants

Congratulations to the 12 children of St. Clement Parish receiving their First Communion on April 6.

- Conor Bibb, son of Ryan Bibb and Stacey Collins
- Jorie Bibb, daughter of Ryan Bibb and Stacey Collins
- Noelle Grote, daughter of Chris and Jennifer Grote
- Grant Huber, son of George and Tonya Huber
- Nolan Jennings, son of Mike and Casey Jennings
- Mak Kaiser, son of Marc and Meagan Kaiser
- Sierra Largent, daughter of Carl and Marianne Largent
- Grayson Long, son of Aaron and Whitney Long
- Asher Morrison, son of Todd and Allison Morrison
- Alec Raney, son of Bradley and Katie Raney
- Carly Robbins, daughter of Drew and Jenny Robbins
- Ben Robinson, son of Jared and Sarah Robinson

### Confirmation of 7th & 8th Grade Students

Saturday, May 4 at the 5:30 pm Mass, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight will celebrate Confirmation for 27 of our young parishioners at St. Clement Church. A reception with cake and punch will be held in the Parish Center following Mass.

#### St. Clement

- Briston Ankelmann, daughter of Caleb & Lindy Akelmann
- Carter Berry, son of Milan & Kathleen Berry
- Philip Bibb, son of Ryan Bibb & Stacey Collins
- Mac Biggs, son of Corey & Amy Jo Biggs
- Hudson Crane, son of Ryan & Kelly Crane
- Carissa Eckler, daughter of Ben & Angela Eckler
- Alex Feldmann, son of Doug & Jackie Feldmann
- Zeb Gilbert, son of Adam & Alicia Gilbert
- Dillon Grote, son of Brandon & Tera Grote
- Gentry Kent, son of Ryan & Leisha Kent
- Mia Kessler, daughter of Cory & Katie Kessler
- Stevie Korte, daughter of Stephen & Angi Korte
- Carl Largent, son of Carl & Marianne Largent
- Cheyenne Lawrence, daughter of Greg & Lisa Lawrence
- Andrew Maiuro, son of Chris & Katie Maiuro
- Quinn Millinder, son of David Millinder & Alana Millinder
- Natalie Orf, daughter of Billy & Kim Orf
- Adelyne Scherder, daughter of Tim & Bobbi Scherder
- Leonel Soto, son of Jose Manuel & Claudia Soto
- Elizabeth Spegal, daughter of John & Gretchan Spegal
- Macie Turner, daughter of Dwane & Becky Turner

#### St. Joseph, Louisiana

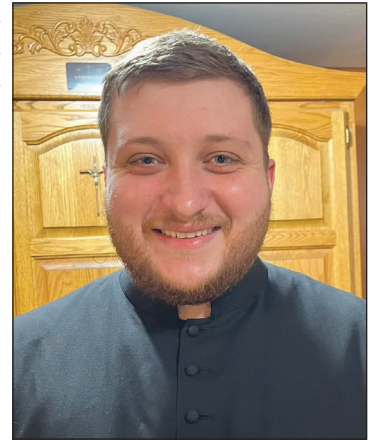
- Corbin Booth, son of Jeremy Booth & the late Kathleen Booth
- Wyatt Delgman, son of Curtis & Holly Delgman
- Thomas Fallert, son of Tommy & Libby Fallert
- Hector Gonzalez, son of Jose Gonzalez-Ramirez & Lourdes Santos-Nemecio
- Andrew Jones, son of Jarred & Heather Jones

#### Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville

- Jacob Lovell, son of Steve and Kim Lovell

### Meet Our Seminarian

My name is Bryce Allen Smith, and I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Jefferson City. This is my third year attending Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and I am in undergrad pre-theology, which is part of the Discipleship Stage.



The past few years have been filled with amazing grace, even through the challenges, and I am humbled and thankful. I feel confident that I am where God is calling me to be as I feel the Holy Spirit moving and guiding me on my journey. A powerful influence that I have found key to knowing and growing in relationship with Our Lord is through our Blessed Mother Mary. May she continue to watch over me as I learn to better follow her Son.

I am grateful for the support of the St. Clement Parish. Please continue to pray for me and know that you are all in my prayers.

Books during my years in seminary that made a big impact on me:

- "Confessions" by Saint Augustine
- "Behold your Mother" by Tim Staples
- "The Devout Life" by Saint Francis De Sales

Bryce is the son of Kathy and Lewis Smith. His grandparents are Robert and Dorothy Sachs and the late Lewis B. and Janet Smith, all of Bowling Green.

### Ladies Sodality News



The St. Clement Ladies Sodality will host a Basket Bingo on Saturday April 20 at the K of C Hall. Doors open at 5:30 pm; games start at 7 pm. \$20/person at the door or reserve a table for \$160. Contact Chelsey Touchette at 618-202-0895. Food and beverages available for purchase. Bring your own cooler for a fee of \$25/cooler. Event is 18+ older only. No outside food please.

The Ladies Sodality meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. New members are always welcome. Contact Shirley Touchette if interested in joining - 618-719-3461.



### Catholic Stewardship Renewal

This past October, our three parishes conducted their first, annual Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR). A Stewardship Renewal booklet and other materials were prepared by the Stewardship Council, which is comprised of a group of parishioners who volunteered for this role.

The renewal process, which will take place each October, asks parishioners to discern their own personal talents and ways they can be a Steward in our local parish, using the Four Pillars of Stewardship: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. The booklet categorizes all the ministries available at our parishes into one of these four pillars.

The returned Tithing form, which was confidential, went to the parish offices. The ministry forms were reviewed, and lists of parishioners who were interested in, or currently involved in each ministry, were sent to the parishioner that headed up that ministry for follow-up. The hope is to increase involvement in the ministries by all parishioners. We believe that we currently have a strong Stewardship mentality but want all parishioners to be involved in our parish families.

If you haven't yet returned your forms, we are still accepting forms! If you need any of the materials or have any questions, please contact Shirley Touchette 618-719-3461, Sandy Orf 573-470-3470 or Randy Lovell 573-754-2207.

In the next issue of the Better Together newsletter, we will highlight one of the Pillars of Stewardship and the ministries involved in that Pillar.

### St. Clement Knights of Columbus News

Projects that St. Clement K of C have supported financially in recent months was purchasing the chicken for the school fundraiser and repairing the kitchen oven in the hall.

Handicap signs have been installed at the KC Hall. Volunteers helped assemble and install the playground equipment at the school.

Welcome to new member Nick Maiuro.

At the K of C Annual Breakfast on March 17, Vernon Korte was honored as Knight of the Year and the Adam Touchette family was honored as Family of the Year.

Save the date for the annual K of C Picnic to be held on Saturday, July 20th.

New members are always welcome. Contact Justin Caldwell at 573-795-3619 to learn how to join.

### Mary Queen of Peace News

The parishioners at Mary Queen of Peace in Clarksville meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of each month for "Pray, Eat and Play."

They begin with Mass at 6 pm. Everyone brings a dish or two to share and they enjoy a delicious carry-in dinner. That is followed by a game for everyone to participate in; Father Ussher likes to win at any cost. It is a fun evening for all. Anyone is welcome to join them on April 11, May 9 and June 13.

### St. Clement School News

The 2023-24 school year will end with a total of 79 students enrolled.

- 8th grade: 7
- 7th grade: 0
- 6th grade: 8
- 5th grade: 4
- 4th grade: 7
- 3rd grade: 7
- 2nd grade: 12
- 1st grade: 11
- Kindergarten: 8
- Pre-school: 15

Two full-time staff members are leaving us at the end of the term. Kaylee Schaffer, the 1st & 2nd grade teacher, is leaving after teaching at St. Clement for five years. Laurie Schuckenbrock, current Principal, music teacher and former 5th & 6th grade teacher will be stepping down also. May God bless both of these educators for their dedication to our students and wish them well in their next endeavor. Interviews are in progress for the 1st & 2nd grade position. Linda Henderson has accepted the Principal position.

The school is also seeking an Aftercare Program Director and Aid. The hours are approximately 3-5:30 pm each school day. A janitor is also needed for 2024-25. If interested in any of these positions, please call the school at 573-324-2166 or email Laurie Schuckenbrock at: lschuckenbrock@stclementmo.org

End of school activities include:

- April 19 - Sketch Day in Monroe City
- April 26 - Smithsonian Day, 1 pm in the Parish Center. All are invited to attend as the students make presentations.
- May 2 - 8th grade Mass with Bishop McKnight in Jefferson City.
- May 10 - 8th grade graduation
- May 14 - Last day of school

### St. Clement PSR News

Pray, Eat and Play will be held Wednesday, May 1 beginning with Mass at 6 pm. The Mass is in conjunction with the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. Games and food will be available in the Parish Center following Mass.

PSR completed their 2023-24 year with 19 children registered in 1st - 6th grades. Our teachers were Melinda Kneib, 1st grade; Robie Orf, 2nd grade; Katie Kessler, 3-4 grades; Lori Carlson, 5-6 grades. Both Katie and Lori are resigning from teaching PSR in the coming year. We thank them for their service to the parish. If anyone is interested in teaching PSR, contact Robie Orf at 573-470-1223.

### St. Joseph Knights of Columbus News

The K of C Council from St. Joseph Parish in Louisiana will host Fish Frys on June 21 and July 19. They will be held in Seton Hall, next to the church, from 4- 7 pm. Cost if \$14.

If anyone is interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, talk with Mike O'Neill or Tony Gschwender.

### Mass Census Numbers

**Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville 7 am Mass**

January Average attendance: 31  
 February Average attendance: 28  
 March Average attendance: 34 (includes 47 for Easter)

**St. Joseph, Louisiana 8:30 am Mass**

January Average attendance: 74  
 February Average attendance: 87  
 March Average attendance: 114 (includes 185 for Easter)

**St. Clement**

January Average Sat. 5:30 pm Mass attendance: 183  
 Sun. 10:30 am Mass attendance: 186  
 February Average Sat. 5:30 pm Mass attendance: 157  
 Sun. 10:30 am Mass attendance: 230  
 March Average Sat. 5:30 pm Mass attendance: 160  
 Sun. 10:30 am Mass attendance: 278  
 (includes 434 for Easter)

*(Note: Cold temperatures impacted the January numbers)*

### Opportunities for our Youth

**Parish Youth Group**

The next St Clement Youth Group meeting will be Sunday, April 28. The Youth Group will be participating in a service project to help clean up the church grounds and planting flowers as well as enjoying a special visit from Seth Menne. Seth is a talented musician and is going to share with the youth how music plays a role in his faith.

There is no formal youth group meeting scheduled for the month of May due to graduation parties and other end of year activities. The Youth Group will reconvene at the Parish Picnic in July.

**Diocesan Youth Camps** that provide young people with overnight experiences where they can grow in community through activities that inspire a deeper relationship with Jesus.

- Camp Lolek: 6th-8th grades
- Camp Maccabee: 9th - 12th grade boys
- Camp Siena: 9th-12th grade girls

Learn more at: [diojeffcity.org/youth-camps/](http://diojeffcity.org/youth-camps/) or talk to St. Clement Youth Group leaders Kathleen Berry 573-470-9812 or Becky Turner 573-470-6853. Scholarships are available to help offset fees.



**Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)**



In the three-day weekend of TEC, youth age 16-21 can experience being part of a vibrant, loving, and supportive faith community and come to know Jesus in a more personal way.

- Upcoming TEC Weekends:
- April 20-22
  - June 8-10
  - July 27-29

TEC weekends are held at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University, 18th & Seminary Road, Quincy, IL. The weekend begins Saturday morning at 9:30 am and ends Monday evening 6:00-6:30 pm. Candidates ages 16-21 cost \$50.00 and observers ages 22+ cost \$100.00. Anyone of any faith denomination ages 16 and older are welcome to participate.



**July 5-7 or July 12-14**

Steubenville STL Mid-America is a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, engaging music, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens. The conference is an outreach of Franciscan University in partnership with the St. Louis Archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry. Two conferences are held every year in July and take place on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. Open to teens entering high school through graduating seniors. Options to join with youth from St. Alphonsus, Millwood to travel as group.

Learn more at: [www.steubystl.com/](http://www.steubystl.com/) or talk to St. Clement Youth Group leaders Kathleen Berry 573-470-9812 or Becky Turner 573-470-6853. Scholarships to offset fees are available.

**Joyful**  
community & faith



**Camp Lolek**  
FOR JUNIOR HIGH

Co-ed: June 9-13  
Boys: June 16-20  
Girls: July 7-11

**Adventure**  
Sisterhood | Brotherhood  
Leadership



**Camp Maccabee**  
FOR YOUNG MEN

July 14-19



**Camp Siena**  
FOR YOUNG WOMEN

July 21-26

**REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 15**



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Jefferson City

[DIOJEFFCITY.ORG/YOUTH-CAMPS](http://DIOJEFFCITY.ORG/YOUTH-CAMPS)

*Better Together Parish Newsletter*

Pastor: Fr. Henry Ussher • Newsletter Editor: Marie E. Korte • Send newsletter information to: [newsletter@stclementmo.org](mailto:newsletter@stclementmo.org)