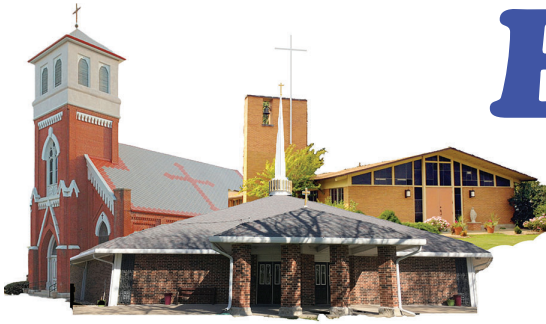




Better Together

Volume 1, No. 2

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

July 2024

St. Clement Ladies Sodality & Picnic News

The Ladies took a break from meetings in June and July but will start back up with a meeting on August 14th at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the Ladies Sodality is welcome to attend. We will have a meeting and then food will be provided. Please come check out our ministry!

The Knight of Columbus picnic will be held on July 20th. A worker's schedule for the dinner will be posted on the Parish and Ladies Sodality Facebook pages, and at the back of church. If you are not on the list and would like to help, please call Shirley Touchette at 618-719-3461. Working at the picnic is a great way to meet and socialize with your fellow parishioners. You do not need to be a member of the Ladies to work the picnic, all are welcome.

This year, we are NOT requesting bread donations for the picnic. The menu will include Hawaiian rolls instead. We ARE requesting desserts. The kitchen will be open Thursday and Friday evening, and Saturday morning for dessert drop-off.

St. Clement K of C Picnic Saturday, July 20, 2024

Fried Chicken Meal - All You Can Eat
Serving Noon - 7 pm

Adults: \$13 • Children 6-12: \$6
Age 5 and under Free
Games for All Ages • Beer Garden

If any parishioner is not currently assigned to a committee and would like to help contact:
Shirley Touchette 618-719-3461 (ladies) or
KC Grand Knight Joe Brown 573-470-5233

Musicians Needed

For 45 years, Dr. Stephen Chismarich has been sharing his talent of playing the piano and organ. His commitment and dedication have been visible to all of at St. Clement.

Recently, Steve has had some serious medical issues and he has not been able to play music for the 10:30 am Mass. While he is recuperating, if there is anyone that would like to fill in for him, please talk with Jim Erickson or Fr. Ussher. And please pray for Steve's continued healing.

St. Clement Parish Finance Update

Members of the St. Clement Parish Finance Committee are: Mike Schumacher, Earl Niemeyer, John Touchette, Beth Mullen and Kathleen Berry.

Questions you may be asking and the answers:

• How much is still owed on the Parish Center?

\$137,607.41 as of June 1, 2024

• What is the loan payment each month on the Parish Center?

Monthly payment: \$3,869.89

• Are there any other loans we are paying on?

School Basement Loan - an internal loan from the Diocese for when the school basement was flooded. Amount still owed: \$65,092.81 as of June 1, 2024. Monthly payment to the Diocese: \$753.27.

• What is the average tithe we pay to the Diocese under the new Stewardship model?

The average per month is \$5,306.00; total paid as of June 1, 2024 is \$58,371.00 since fiscal year July 1, 2023. This replaced the Cathedralism, which in fiscal year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 we paid \$1,482.00/month to the diocese.

• Is there a reserve fund where proceeds from fundraisers, such as fish fries are kept?

No, there is not a separate reserve fund. Fundraisers have been budgeted as part of the general operating budget and is deposited into the general operating checking account. That is why the new Stewardship model encourages tithing to the Parish so we can operate without so many fundraisers. However, this year we have one fundraiser per year for the school and one for the church that is "free" from the 10% tithe to the Diocese.

Dinner Auction for the Parish in August - This money will be moved to a separate account and if needed, to be brought back into the general funds for operating expenses. Then that money will be subject to the tithe at that time.

Shed Golf for the School - This is kept in the Home & School account with oversight by the Principal and the Pastor. If this money is "donated" to the church at a later time, it will be subject to tithe if used for general operating expenses.

An End of Year statement will be drawn up in August after the end of fiscal year and budget meeting and distributed to the parish in the bulletin.

The next Finance meeting for Budgeting 2024-25 is July 22nd.

St. Clement Quilters Invitation

St. Clement Quilters would like to invite anyone interested in quilting and fellowship to join us. This invitation is extended to anyone from our three parishes and the surrounding communities. Veteran or beginner, we welcome all. If you are new to the craft we will teach you the skills needed. If you are a veteran, we would appreciate you and your skill set. We meet every Wednesday on the north side of the St. Clement Church.

Some of our members piece quilts, others baste or bind, and most stitch on Wednesday. Our goal is to raise funds for the parish and other worthy causes. You may have seen us raffling quilts at the fish fries and/or at the Knights of Columbus picnic. We also do custom quilting. If you are interested in having a quilt finished, call Joyce Gollaher at 573-470-1997 or Barb Coleman at 573-560-0043.

We are currently working on three quilts: two for the parish and one custom. We quilt, visit and usually there are snacks! It's a rewarding way to break up the week. In addition, we treat our members to lunch in the fall and spring. Can't get away from the little ones - bring them along. We would love to have you join us. Any questions, call Paulette Feldmann at 573-324-3857.

St. Clement Parish News

New Parish Council members will be in place in July. They are Andy Schuckenbrock, Kayla Caldwell and Tony Grote. Retiring members are Mary Jane Noellsch, Becky Turner and Dave Tepen. Thank you all for your service to our parish.

A new janitor, Marcin Jaycna, was hired and will take care of school and parish buildings including some outdoor upkeep.

The Adoration Chapel has remained open with the Eucharist in the Tabernacle for anyone to visit at their leisure. We are considering setting up a schedule again for parishioners to spend an hour in prayer. We would just do this for a few days a week and during day hours, closing overnight. Shelley Nacke is interested in freshening the space up with new decor.

Projects the Parish Council are working on is a sewer system maintenance schedule, getting bids for sign in front of church to make it easier to change and switching out some of the light bulbs in church.

New parishioners:

James and Laurie Rapp - (New 1st & 2nd Grade teacher)
They have 3 grown sons: Cody 25, Kyle 22 and Caleb 18

Baptisms in recent months:

Hunter Lee Brown and Nathan Joseph Brown, Jr. -
Parents Nathan and Christine Brown.

Mason Schuckenbrock -

Parents Devan and Hannah Schuckenbrock.

Carter Thomas Burks -

Parents Kaitlyn (Niemeyer) and Jeffrey Burks

Miles Victor Niemeyer -

Parents Kerri (Kircher) and Ethan Niemeyer

Addison Marie Scherder & Isabelle Ann Scherder

Parents Matt and Mary Ann (Tarpein) Scherder

Meet Our Deaconate Candidate

My name is Chad Freie and I am in the process of becoming a Deacon. I started looking into this in 2018 when the Diocese was forming the next class. That class was put on hold, however, as Bishop McKnight wanted to evaluate how the formation was taking place. The current class started in 2020 and ordination looks like it will be in June of next year.



Before being ordained a Deacon, I will first be installed by the Bishop into the ministry of Lector and then Acolyte. Last November I was installed as Lector and on August 25, at a ceremony at the Cathedral, I will become an Acolyte. As an Acolyte, I will assist the priest and deacon at the Altar and serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

As I look back on the last four years it is crazy how quickly they have gone by. Even though the wives do not have to go through all the classes, many of them try to, and my wife Danielle has been with me through it all. I have enjoyed digging deeper into scripture, church history, prayer, theology, catechism, and even canon law. Most of our classes have been taught by priests from our Diocese, taking advantage of their strengths and interests.

Our diocese is in the process of looking for candidates for the next class. I would encourage any men in our parishes, if God has put an inclination in your heart or mind that he is calling you to the Diaconate, first talk to your spouse and children. Reach out to Fr. Ussher, Deacon Mark, Deacon Wayne, or myself with your questions. Don't be afraid of the call. We had a few men discern out of the program and that is okay. I always figured that if at any point I was told that this wasn't the right choice for me, I would still be grateful for the wisdom and knowledge that I received along the way.

Lastly thank you to everyone who has been praying for me. I offer up my morning and evening prayers for you, our church, and those in our community.

Denim & Diamonds Pre-Harvest Parish Auction

August 24, 2024

St. Clement K of C Hall

Doors open with silent auction 5 pm

Ribeye Dinner at 6 pm

Live Auction at 7 pm

8 seats for \$300 or \$40 Each

Includes Dinner & bottomless cup

To purchase tickets for Parish Auction, contact Chelsey Touchette at 618-202-0895 or Nichi Orf at 573-470-3971.

Mary Queen of Peace Parish 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 July 11, August 8 and September 12.

A Memorial Mass was held on June 29, at St. Joseph's for Margaret (Marge) Gray (11/22/1930-6/13/2024), a member for over 50 years at Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Clarksville. She was the wife of Dr. John V. Gray, DDS (8/8/1931-5/10/2022), a devoted member of Mary Queen of Peace.

A funeral Mass was held on June 22 at Mary Queen of Peace for Marcella Renee Collazos Mosquera of St. Charles (originally from Panama City, Panama). She reunited often with the Omohundro family in Clarksville.

Mary Queen of Peace First Communicants

Blake and Lauren Hemphill, children of Luke and Amanda Hemphill, and Olivia Burkemper, daughter of Ted and Kirsten Burkemper



Catholic Stewardship Renewal

In this issue, we are highlighting the Pillar of Hospitality, one of the four Pillars of Stewardship. Under this Pillar are the activities that our Parish sponsors that are welcoming to new and current parishioners and build a feeling of community.

St. Clement has several opportunities for parishioners to participate in making our parish a welcoming one. These include: Church Environment, Funeral Dinner Committee, and Transportation. Church Environment strives to make the church facility itself a welcoming environment. The Funeral Dinner Committee provides a meal after funeral Masses to give grieving families a venue to spend time with their loved ones. Transportation provides a ride for those that need help to attend Mass.

We are in the planning process of having parishioners as greeters before each Mass, to welcome people as they enter church. This would give everyone an opportunity to welcome possible new parishioners and meet all members of the parish.

In October, we will begin our second annual CSR process. More news on that to come soon!

St. Joseph Parish News

St. Joseph Parish has joined with its Mission, Mary Queen of Peace Parish, to form a now eight-member Parish Council/Finance Committee. Welcome to new members recently elected: Pat Johnson and Frank Schwendemann of St. Joseph, along with Dana Barker and Jean Burkemper of Mary Queen of Peace.

Officers elected at the June 19th meeting are Ed Illy, President; Jean Burkemper, Vice-President; and Sandy Orf, Secretary. Many thanks to outgoing Council Members Denise Gschwender and Bill Capps for their years of service and to Kathy Dobelmann for having stepped up from member to temporary Interim President for the remainder of a term. The eighth member of the Council not previously mentioned is Terry Stark. Father Ussher and Deacon Mark Dobelmann make up the regular group and various committee members join in at meetings. All members of the parishes are welcome to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, at Seton Parish Center.

Welcome to our new pianist, Jeanne Spann. We are so glad to have her to enrich our Eucharistic celebrations. She and her husband, Randy, come from the Pittsfield, IL area.

A note from St. Joseph Ladies Altar Sodality to all lady parishioners.....thank you for your dues and donations. Because of your generosity, Sodality was able to provide new altar items (Chalices, etc., altar flowers and, just recently two new altar cloths)—for a total of over a thousand dollars this year. Not too bad for a small Parish? Thank you for your continued support. Please share your interest and input by joining us at our 1-hour monthly meetings the 2nd Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. (During winter months immediately following Sunday Mass) at Seton Parish Center.

Baptisms include:

Johnny Rae Hill - Baptized May 26, 2024

Parents: Kendrick Hill and Kelsey Whitaker

St. Joseph Knights of Columbus News

Monthly Fish Fries will be held at Seton Parish Center on Friday, July 19 and Friday, August 16, with serving from 4 to 7 p.m. Price for adults is \$14; children 5 and under may eat free. Gentlemen of the Parish who may be interested in joining the Knights may contact Mike O'Neill or Tony Gschwender.

St. Clement Knights of Columbus News

All officers term in office was extended one year to May 2025. Grand Knight-Joe Brown; Deputy Grand Knight-Justin Caldwell; Chancellor-Vernon Korte; Recorder-Milan Berry; Financial Secretary-Joe Touchette; Treasurer-Bob Tepen; Advocate-Christopher Hummel; Warden-Will Twellman; Inside Guard-Adam Touchette; Outside Guard-Michael Brown; 1st year Trustee-Frank Niemeyer; 2nd Year Trustee-Donnie Tepen; 3rd Year Trustee-Doug Korte; Chaplain-Fr. Ussher.

A new Pavilion will be built on the KC grounds, hopefully in time for this year's picnic. A new speaker system will be purchased to use in the Pavilion.

Mass Census Numbers

Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville 7 am Mass

April Average attendance: 32

May Average attendance: 28

June Average attendance: 33

St. Joseph, Louisiana 8:30 am Mass

April Average attendance: 94

May Average attendance: 96

June Average attendance: 92

St. Clement

April Average Sat. 5:30 pm Mass attendance: 161

Sun. 10:30 am Mass attendance: 220

May Average Sat. 5:30 pm Mass attendance: 213 (Confirmation)

Sun. 10:30 am Mass attendance: 195

June Average Sat. 5:30 pm Mass attendance: 134

Sun. 10:30 am Mass attendance: 210

St. Clement School News - Meet Our Teachers

Kelly Grote: I am the Preschool teacher. I began teaching at St. Clement in 2014, when the new preschool room was opened. I'm married to Bill Grote. We have one daughter, Mirielle, and 3 cats Loki, Thora, and Felix.

Carla Chlebanowski: I am the Kindergarten teacher. In 2013, I started teaching at St. Clement School. I also taught art to all grade levels for a few years. As Religious Educator, I prepare students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

I met my high school sweetheart, Michael Chlebanowski, at a teen bible study while learning about the Acts of the Apostles. We were married in our home parish of St. Andrew the Apostle Church on June 3, 1978. We have three daughters, Ericka, Alison, and Natalie, and 14 grandchildren. We are expecting our first great-grandchild by the start of the new school year.

Laurie Rapp: I will be teaching 1st and 2nd grades this year. It is my first year of teaching at St. Clement. While it is my first year at St. Clement, this year will mark my 28th year in Catholic Education. I taught at Sts. Joachim and Ann School in St. Charles from 1997-2017 and Immaculate Conception in Old Monroe from 2017-2024.

I have been married to my husband, Chris, for 28 years. We have 3 children, Cody, Kyle, and Caleb.

Debbie Niemeyer: I currently teach 3rd and 4th grade. I started teaching at St. Clement in 1984. Before that I taught one year each at Silex and St. Alphonsus, Millwood. When I first started at St. Clement I taught 2nd and 3rd grades. Around 1997 there were some shifts made in how the classrooms were combined and I went to 3rd and 4th grades at that time.

I have been married for 25 years to my husband, Chris. Together we have one son who is 23, George Niemeyer. I was married in 1983 to my first husband, Jack Lee Hoepf, who passed away in 1995 from cancer. He and I have two children together, Nichi Orf and Matt Hoepf. Nichi is married to Mark Orf and they have 3 children: Bryce, 5th grade, Zoe 2nd grade, both students at St. Clement and Dylan who is 3. Matt is married to Jill and they have 3 children - Haley, 1st grade at St. Clement, Millee, 4 years old and Jack 3 years old.

Teaching at St. Clement has been my calling. I enjoy helping the students learn and shape their minds and spirit. I am looking forward to another great year at SCS!

Karen Biggs: I started teaching at St. Clement in 2012. Initially I taught 7th & 8th grade. In 2018, I switched to teaching 5th & 6th grade, which is what I currently teach. In addition, I teach Math and Social Studies to 7th & 8th grade.

I have been married to Richard Biggs for 41 years. We have 5 children - Corey (Amy) Biggs, Bridgett (Bill) Hanks, Randi (Angi) Spinzig, Brett (Rachel) Biggs, Andrew Biggs. Richard and I have been blessed with 7 grandchildren.

Wendy Boenker: I teach 7th & 8th grades and this will be my 5th year at St. Clement.

I am married to John and we have 3 grown daughters - Lilly, Olivia & Esther. We moved to this area from St. Louis County 25 years ago. We went to St. Alphonsus Church and School for the first 20 years.

Karen Schuckenbrock: I teach K-8th grade Physical Education. I have also taught Music K-2. Previously I taught at Bowling Green for 30 years and BONCL for 2 years.

I am married to Joseph Schuckenbrock and we have two children. Our son, Matthew and wife Jenn, live in New Bern, North Carolina with our two grandchildren Parker & Holden; our daughter, Meghan lives in St. Louis.

Linda Henderson: This will be my first year as Principal at St. Clement after having worked part-time here the last 4 years as Title I teacher (employed by the Bowling Green School District). I will also be teaching handwriting to the lower grades and speech to the upper grades.

I began my career in Education 29 years ago starting out as substitute teacher, quickly hired as a Paraprofessional in the BGHS Alternative School and as BGMS Alternative Teacher as well as a BGMS classroom teacher until 2013. I then started my career as a principal at Clopton, serving for six years before retiring from full-time public school education in 2019. This will be my 30th year in education!

I have been married to Darrell Henderson for 37+ years. We have two sons: Jared, married to Kayla (Lourance), and Austin. Two grandchildren, Harper will be in 2nd grade and Palmer in Pre-K, both at St. Clement School.

Title I Resource Teachers: Title I services provide additional support and assistance to students in grades K through 5 through small groups in the classroom. Their salary is paid by the Bowling Green School District.

Laurie Schuckenbrock: I have been teaching at St. Clement for 17 years. I began teaching 1st and 2nd, moved to 5th and 6th, and this was my 8th year as the principal. I began teaching music about 10 years ago (I think). I will continue teaching Music to all grades this coming year, along with Title I. I will also help as needed in the upper grades.

St. Clement is home. It's where Mike and I grew up, attended school, got married, raised our children and I can't imagine being anywhere else. We are blessed to live in this parish community.

Nancy Lesley: I started at St. Clement in 2017, initially as the After Care Teacher. Now I just work as a Title I teacher. I am single, have one daughter, Carie, married to Bill Capps and 2 grandchildren, Gretchen and Ryan. I live in Louisiana and am a member of St. Joseph Parish.