



Better Together

Volume 2, No. 1

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

January 2025

St. Clement Parish News

The Parish celebrated Fr. Ussher's 25th Anniversary of Priesthood at the Saturday evening Mass on Dec. 14th. Following Mass, a reception was held in the Parish Center. State Representative Chad Perkins was on hand to present Father with a House of Representatives Resolution to honor him on his 25th anniversary.

Shed Golf - Saturday, February 22, a school fundraiser, is set to start off at the KC Hall. Groups will travel to nine different Shed Holes to play a round of Putt Putt. For information, contact Elisha Koenig 573-823-7358 or Tonya Huber 573-324-8689.

Drive-thru Chicken Dinner - Friday, February 28; 4 pm - 7:30 pm. Dinners include chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, corn and roll. Purchase tickets for \$15 at the church parking lot, then drive by KC Hall to pick up dinners.

Lenten Fish Fry's - Start March 7 through April 11. Volunteers are needed to bring desserts and to help serve.

Lenten Retreat - Saturday, March 8. Starts with 8 am Mass; closes at 3 pm. Presenter is Fr. Sam Conedera, S.J. See page four for more information.

Parish Council member change - Kayla Caldwell has transitioned to the Finance Committee replacing Kathleen Berry; Kim Pafford has taken Kayla's position on the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is researching a "Queen of Hearts" raffle as a fundraising effort.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), formerly RCIA, is in session with 8 individuals discerning coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. The OCIA sessions are led by Chris Hummel and Gina Moss. It's not too late to join the sessions, which are held on Wednesday evenings at the Parish Center. Contact Chris at: 573-470-1499 or the Parish Office.

Baptisms in recent months:

Jack Patrick Stonebraker

Parents: Jacob & Katharyn (Nolan) Stonebraker

Cruz Arthur Wyble

Parents: Cole & Halie (Meyer) Wyble

St. Clement School News

Catholic Schools Week January 25-31

Our school, along with our Diocese, will be celebrating Catholic Schools week January 25-31. We observe the week with Masses, events and other activities for students, families and parishioners to join the celebration around what makes Catholic schools stellar.

- Saturday 5:30 pm Student-led Mass
- Monday - Spelling Bee at 8:30 a.m. Early dismissal at 1 pm
- Tuesday - Student Appreciation Day - Upper grades going to Scotty's in Quincy; Lower grades going ice skating.
- Wednesday - Teacher Appreciation Day
- Thursday - Kindergarten Open House 1:30 - 2:30 pm; presentation by Mrs. Chlebanowski and the kindergarten students followed by short informational program and snack. Open to anyone interested in enrollment for Fall 2025.
- Friday - Family Day Open House at 10:00 am; followed by Mass at 11:15 am, lunch at Parish Center and Book Fair

Mardi Gras Celebration February 25-28

We will have our Mardi Gras Celebration the week of Feb. 25-28, culminating with the Chicken Dinner Drive-thru at the K of C Hall Friday evening.

Teachers & School Secretary Needed

Two teachers are needed beginning with the Fall 2025 school year. We are in need of a Kindergarten teacher and a 7th-8th grade teacher. Mrs. Chlebanowski and Mrs. Boenker are retiring.

School secretary needed beginning with the Fall 2025 school year. Kelly Crane is leaving to start her new position as County Assessor. The school secretary position is a 9 month contract. Excellent communication skills, organization and proficiency in office software, as well as some experience would be desirable.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in these positions, please contact the school at 573-324-2166 or email Linda Henderson at lhenderson@stclementmo.org

Catholic Stewardship Renewal

In this issue, we are highlighting the Pillar of Formation, one of the four Pillars of Stewardship. Under this Pillar are the activities that our Parish provides our parishioners with opportunities for religious education for the mind and conversion of the heart.

St. Clement has a wide array of ministries in which parishioners can participate to further their religious education. These include Confirmation classes, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Cursillo, Marriage Preparation, Prison Mass, Public School Religion (PSR), Residents Encounter Christ, Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) and our Youth Group Ministry.

Anyone interested in any of these formation ministries can find more information in our Stewardship Guide, copies of which are available at the back of church or the Parish Office.

Pastoral Plan Review

Parishioners can still participate in the 4-week small group faith sharing sessions, called "Parishes as Communities of the Beatitudes." This four-part series is intended to assist in the review and reforming of parish pastoral plans, to align them with the local deanery pastoral plans.

It is also intended to encourage all Catholics to deepen their engagement in their faith and in their parishes, especially through participation in parish ministries.

Anyone interested in forming a small group can receive free guides to help facilitate the program sessions. Copies of the guides are available upon request from Shirley Touchette, 618-719-3461. Digital versions are also available to download using a link at: diojeffcity.org/soft-pacotb/.

At the end of the four-part sessions, parishioners are asked to complete a form to give feedback regarding our parish's pastoral plan. The recommendation is that the feedback is a result of the discernment in the small groups.

Vocations Update

From Chad Freie

Danielle and I just want to thank everyone for the prayers and support we have received as I go through diaconate formation. I am down to the home stretch and can see the finish line. We are now focusing on practicum and knowing how to perform in our role as a deacon, as well as our last courses on homiletics.

This truly has been an amazing journey, and I am just so grateful for all the people who have helped in our formation process. It looks like God willing and nothing changes our ordination should be Saturday, June 7 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Jefferson City.

Please continue to pray for me and the rest of our deacon class as well as our seminarians. Again thank you and God Bless you and your families.

St. Clement Ladies Sodality

The biannual elections for officers were held at the November meeting with all four officers being re-elected: President- Shirley Touchette; Vice President-Danielle Brown; Secretary-Alicia Gilbert; Treasurer-Chelsey Touchette.

The Ladies have a very full schedule of events for this year! The Ladies will have their annual Breakfast this spring starting with 10:30 Mass. The Ladies typically sit together at Mass in reserved pews. Watch for the date in the bulletin. All past, present and potential members are welcome to attend. This includes our friends of the Quilting group and Funeral Dinner group.

As always, we are looking for new members! Please consider joining, even if you feel you would not be able to attend all events, we would love to have all ladies of the parish. It's a great way to be a Steward of the parish. If interested, please contact Shirley Touchette at 618-719-3461, or plan to attend our next meeting on February 12 at 6:30 at the KC Hall. We would love to have you!

St. Clement Knights of Columbus News

The Knights had another successful "No Hunger Holiday" in November providing the ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner to 190+ families in need in Pike County. Thanks to all that contributed to this effort.

The Knights voted to donate the Hall for use to Options for Women for their fall banquet and also donated \$500. They also donated use of the Hall for the Adam Ellis benefit.

Donations were also made to Bowling Green Teacher's Association (\$100) and Fr. Ussher's Anniversary gift (\$250).

The Knights also donated the fees of teens attending the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) in January.

The White Tail Banquet is scheduled for January 18th.

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

Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is now open with the Eucharist exposed on Friday from 7 am - 9 pm. Most time slots are covered by two or more people so there can be a backup if one cannot make it. There are some hours that have only one person.

There is one open hour at 6 pm that needs to be filled. If you would like to sign up or be a substitute, contact Michelle Nacke at 573-470-2656 or Mary Jane Noelsch at 573-470-3321.

Anyone is welcome to pray in the Adoration Chapel at any other time with the Eucharist reposed in the Tabernacle. Adoration also continues on Wednesday in the Main Church beginning after the 7 am Mass until Benediction at 11:30 am.

St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace Parish News

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER! Big months for Fr. Ussher!

On his birthday, November 14, Mary Queen of Peace Parishioners hosted a dinner with a cake made by Mary Lovell with 59 candles. The candles were placed on little tombstones to show those years were done and he's ready for more years to come. It took him a couple of big breaths to get them all blown out! Also, he had made it known he likes apple pie, so one miraculously showed up as well and he had cake AND pie for his dessert!



Also in that time frame, Father Ussher's 25th Ordination Anniversary was celebrated by St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace Parishioners gathering together.



Decorations in Seton Parish Center featured a Guanaian atmosphere with bright colored table settings and fabric displays from Guana. One of the highlights of the evening, by a chanting request, was Father demonstrating, with music, his African dancing abilities. He had some smooth moves!

On November 27, Pat Johnson, Penny Brown-Lentes, and Sandy Orf from St. Joseph's, along with Patty Ringhausen and Zella Eliason from other churches showed up at the Centenary United Methodist Church to cut pies for the joint church Thanksgiving Day deliveries to families in the area. The ladies cut enough pies to grace the tables of approximately six hundred people on Thanksgiving day! This is an annual event and it wasn't the first for those ladies to do the pie-cutting and help in other ways to help those less fortunate.

Several of the members of the St. Joseph Ladies Altar Sodality gathered at KC's Family Restaurant on December 14 to have a Christmas Luncheon together. Those attending were Terry Stark, Pat Johnson, Dorothy Brewster, Lynda Clair, Edie Gatzmeyer, Joann Pursifull and Sandy Orf. It was nice to get together "outside of a meeting!"

On December 17, the St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace Ladies Sodalities hosted the area Ecumenical Womens Group at Seton Parish Center. The 9 a.m. Breakfast was

followed by a program presented by Audrey Jones of the Pike County Genealogical Society & Museum from Bowling Green. She gave a lot of information and several pamphlets on the "Historical Museum, the "American Pioneer & Cemetery Research Project --Dowsing For Graves," and presented everyone with the informative booklet "Diggin Up Bones." The EWG ladies accept donations of \$6.00 per person for the Breakfast held several times a year, then donate those funds to various projects, etc. which are voted upon by those present at the meetings. A donation was given to the work Ms. Jones and her group provide for the surrounding areas.

Small Groups from St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace gathered in November and December to discuss the "Parishes as Communities of the Beatitudes" program from the Diocese. Randy Lovell led a group in Clarksville, Joe Schuck-enbrock led a group in Louisiana, and Sandy Orf, Group Coordinator, held a small group meeting at Lynn's Heritage House. Sandy's group included residents Cathy Dean and Marcine Niemeyer, of St. Clement Parish.

St. Joseph Parish collected non-perishable food items to give to the Louisiana Area Food Pantry. The items will serve to enable Director Sara Drummond and her helpers to re-stock their shelves following the Thanksgiving and Christmas sharing with area families.

Jean Burkemper and Dana Barker of MQP, along with Terry Stark and Sandy Orf of StJ have been working on the layouts for the new Pictorial Directories. Watch for them in January! The last Directory was in 2015...so it will be interesting to see the changes!

The next Deanery Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2025.

Welcome to a new granddaughter for grandparents Ron and Dana Barker of Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Clarksville! Zoey James Hoff recently joined the Barker/Hoff families. Mom and Dad welcomed Zoey in at 6 lbs. 15 oz. and 19-3/4 inches long. Congratulations to all!

Mary Queen of Peace parishioner, Melva Dean Lovell, passed away January 11, 2025. Melva was the mother of Randy Lovell of Clarksville and Ron Lovell of Palm Bay, FL. Our condolences to Randy, his wife Mary, and all of Melva's family.

St. Joseph Knights of Columbus News

The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus, after finishing their Tootsie Roll Campaign and having a very successful food booth at the "Color Fest" this past Fall, are gearing up for their season of Fish Fry activities. The Knights, assisted by a few wives, will be holding their dinners at Seton Parish Center. The dates will be March 14, March 28 and April 11.

The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Seton Center with the next ones January 28, February 25 and March 25. They are always looking for new members. Anyone wishing to inquire about joining may contact Mike O'Neill at: 217-592-6455, Frank Schwen-demann at: 573-822-6144 or any of the other KC members for information.

Lenten Retreat - March 8

"Spare Us, O Lord: The Season of Lent" is the theme for the March 8th St. Clement Parish Lenten Retreat. Fr. Sam Conedera, S.J. is the presenter. Fr. Sam is an Assistant Professor of History at St. Louis University.

The Retreat will begin with Mass at 8 am. Following Mass, the Retreat will continue at the Parish Center. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. The Retreat will end by 3 pm.

All are welcome. Reservations not required.



Teen and Adult Retreats

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)

There are six teens from St. Clement Parish attending the January 18-20 Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) in Quincy at the Franciscan Retreat Center. TEC is for teens age 16 - 21. For anyone interested in attending a TEC, the dates for the rest of the year are: March 8-10, April 12-14, June 14-16, July 26-28, Nov. 8-10. Adult Observers are also welcome to attend. Learn more and register at: greatrivertec.org.

Quest

Quest weekends, for teens age 13-15, will be held on January 31-February 1, April 4-5, September 12-13, and December 12-13. This is a 24-hour program that starts Friday evening and ends Saturday evening. Learn more and register at: greatrivertec.org.

Cursillo

Cursillo is for adults age 21 and over. This 3-day program has as its mission to help individuals deepen their faith, grow in Christian community and bring Christ into their everyday environments.

A Cursillo begins on Thursday evening with a retreat phase that ends Friday morning. Presentations on Friday focus on knowing yourself and God's love; Saturday deepens our relationship with Christ; Sunday presents a practical method to live out the Christian Life.

The March Men's Cursillo is being led by St. Clement parishioner Ryan Kent. The dates are March 20-23. The cost for the three days is \$185. Anyone wanting to attend needs to have a sponsor, someone that has already attended Cursillo, that will help guide you through the process to register and answer any questions. Contact Ryan at: 573-470-0807 or Vernon Korte at: 573-470-3611.

Men and women attend separate Cursillo weekends and if married, the husband must attend first. The date for the Women's Cursillo following the March weekend is April 24-27. There are 8 weekends held each year, 4 men and 4 women. Dates are available at: quincycursillo.com

Cursillo's are held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Quincy, IL.

Diocesan Women's Ministry Events

Spend a time of reflection, music, prayer, and faith sharing with liturgical composers Kathleen Basi and Katie Wills as they guide us in an exploration of our vocation as women, uniquely gifted, uniquely called. There is no cost to attend but they would like you to register. Find link in image.

Join Musicians and Composers
Kathleen Basi and Katie Wills
For a Day of Music & Reflection
Women of God: Uniquely Gifted, Uniquely Called

Feb 1 - Holy Family Parish
218 S Maple Ave
Parish Center
Hannibal, MO
Doors open at 8:00 AM

Women's Ministry of Holy Family will provide a continental breakfast

full details and registration at:
diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry-upcoming-events

The poster features a blue background with white snowflakes. A QR code is present with the text "SCAN TO SIGN UP". At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a blue bus with a smiling face, carrying three women. The title "Ministry on the Move!" is written in a large, white, serif font.

SAVE THE DATE

Diocese of Jefferson City
Women's Ministry

Spring Pilgrimage

10:00 TO 3:00

SATURDAY | 5th | APRIL

SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF SORROWS
RHINELAND MO

The poster has a white background with a decorative border of pink and purple flowers and green leaves. The text is arranged in a central column, with "SAVE THE DATE" at the top in a large, arched font. The title "Spring Pilgrimage" is in a large, elegant script font. The date "SATURDAY | 5th | APRIL" is prominently displayed in the middle. The location "SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS RHINELAND MO" is at the bottom.