



Better Together

Volume 1, No. 3

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

July 2025

St. Clement Parish Auction

Sweet Southern Nights – St. Clement Parish Auction
Join us for an unforgettable evening of Southern charm, delicious food, and lively bidding — all in support of St. Clement Parish!

- When: August 23, 2025
- Where: St. Clement Knights of Columbus Hall, Bowling Green, MO
- Doors Open & Silent Auction: 5:00 PM
- Ribeye Dinner: 6:00 PM
- Live Auction: 7:00 PM

Reserve a Table!

Make it a night out with friends and family — tables of 8 are available for \$350. Contact Chelsey Touchette at 618-202-0895 or Nichi Orf at 573-470-3971 to reserve your spot!

You'll enjoy:

- A mouthwatering ribeye dinner
- Fun-filled silent & live auctions
- Great company and Southern hospitality
- All for a great cause!

Come hungry and ready to bid on amazing items — from unique baskets to one-of-a-kind experiences. It's a great night for a great cause, and we can't wait to see you there! Good food, great fun, and Southern hospitality — all rolled into one sweet evening.

Vocations Update

Deacon Chad Freie was ordained a Permanent Deacon on June 7 by Archbishop W. Shawn McKnight at the Cathedral in Jefferson City. Deacon Chad will be serving all three parishes. A reception was held in his honor, hosted by the Flame of Love Rosary group, at St. Clement on June 22.



From Bryce Smith

Blessings to all at St. Clement Parish. This summer, I am part of Totus Tuus for the diocese. Our team of four are going to six different parishes throughout the summer to share our love of the faith, teach, and interact with the youth. This has been a blessing for me and has given me a great opportunity to connect with the people at other parishes.

With the absence of a bishop, I will not be receiving candidacy within the diocese this summer. Instead, I will be accepted into the candidacy for the Sacrament of Holy Orders at Pontifical College Josephinum on October 3. While I regret not being able to celebrate my right of candidacy at St. Clement, I ask that the parish pray for me as I prepare for this next step. Please keep all the seminarians in the diocese in your prayers this summer and know of my prayers for you.

Ad Jesum Per Mariam

Do you make delicious jelly or jam?

The St. Clement Parish Dinner Auction Committee needs your help!

If you make tasty jelly or jam, we would love for you to donate a jar for the dinner auction! We are looking for all the fun unique flavors of jelly!!

Contact Amy Biggs if you would like to donate a jar - (573-470-2574)

Confraternity of Christian Mothers

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers at St. Clement unites women in prayer, friendship, and spiritual growth as we strive to raise our children in the love and knowledge of God. Under the patronage of Our Lady of Sorrows, we support one another in the joys and challenges of Catholic motherhood, drawing strength from the Sacraments and the example of the Holy Family.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the church for reflection, the Rosary, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., we gather in the parish center for fellowship and a new discussion topic each month that helps us grow in faith and virtue as Catholic mothers.

This year, we joyfully celebrate our five-year anniversary at St. Clement! We recently held our annual luncheon and ice cream social on June 29. We will be officially welcoming new members at our September meeting—though you are welcome to attend any time of year.

Whether you're a new mom, a seasoned parent, a God-mother or other spiritual mother, or a grandmother guiding the next generation, come be refreshed, supported, and reminded that you are not alone on this sacred journey of motherhood.

All mothers are welcome!

St. Clement Ladies Sodality

The Ladies Sodality have been busy with catering several weddings in the last few months and holding their annual bingo.

Their dedication has made a tremendous impact on our community. The Ladies made several donations recently, including the purchase of new ceiling fans at church and providing supplies to a parish reception.

The Ladies have a busy fall planned, and as always, new members are welcome! Joining the Ladies Sodality is a wonderful opportunity to contribute and connect with others.

St. Clement Parish Council News

Parish Council Election held in June resulted in re-election of Derek Labbee, Martin Luebrecht, and Ellen Sutton. Kelsey Millinder was elected to fill the position vacated by Kevin Brown. Thank you Kevin for your service to the Parish Council. Reassignment of officers will occur at the July 14th meeting.

Ceiling fans for the church are on order. Perkins Electric will take care of installation. They are also looking into fire alarms for the parish buildings and repair of some kneelers in church.

The Council is still waiting on the Engineering firm's building inspection report on the Parish Center. No decision on attaching bleachers until report is received.

Parish Council is reviewing the Parish Council Constitution and the Parish Pastoral Plan.

K of C Picnic News

The Knights of Columbus will hold their 104th annual picnic on July 19 on the K of C grounds. Delicious fried chicken dinners will be served from 12 to 7 pm.

We warmly invite all parishioners to volunteer to work at the picnic and bring 2 desserts to make the picnic a success. Your participation makes a significant difference in the success of the event.

A workers list will be published on the Parish Facebook page with the list of parishioners who have volunteered in the past. We always appreciate more helping hands! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Shirley Touchette at 618-719-3461 or Justin Caldwell at 573-795-3619.

Volunteers are especially needed during the peak serving times between 3:30 - 7:30 pm, in the serving line and in the dining room. Volunteers are also needed for setting up and cleaning afterward. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

St. Clement K of C Picnic Saturday, July 19, 2025

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

Adults: \$15 • Children 6-12: \$7

Age 5 and under Free

Games for All Ages • Quilt Raffles

Beer Garden • Live Music

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 Justin Caldwell 573-795-3619

Stewardship Council

The Stewardship has been hard at work revising the Stewardship Ministry guide! This guide has all of the information you might need regarding our parish and its ministries. The new guide should be available to distribute to parishioners very soon. This guide will be especially helpful to new parishioners.

Currently, the Stewardship Council members are Shirley Touchette, Sandy Orf, Vernon Korte, Theresa Noellsch, Katie Kessler, Megan Ginnings, Sarah Robinson. Marie E. Korte, Deacon Wayne Korte, Deacon Mark Dobelmann and Deacon Chad Freie. Members leaving the Council include Justin Caldwell and Elisha Koenig. Thanks to both of you for your service to the parish over the past 3 years! We welcome our new members.

The Stewardship Council is also looking for volunteers to lead, and/or assist with forming a Welcoming Committee and collecting a list of volunteers to be Greeters at masses. Please contact a member of the council if you have an interest in helping with either of these ministries.

Ghana Missionary Trip

If you ask the Ghana missionaries their favorite part of their trip May 29-June 8, they will all tell you it was the outward joy of the Ghanaian people! While some would specifically choose the smiles and affection of the children at the many schools visited, others would choose the drums and the dancing as their favorite way that joy was expressed.

Affectionately called the "Ghana disciples" or "people of faith": the 12 parishioners who joined Fr. Ussher on a cultural immersion trip to Ghana were Karen McCrory, Randy and Mary Lovell, Angi Grossnickle, Sue and Ray Abel, all of Mary Queen of Peace; Debbie Chassaing, Charlie and Barbara Deacon of St. Joseph; Wendy Boenker and Theresa Noellsch Baker, both of St. Clement and Pat Philbert.

Most days were spent visiting schools, rectories and churches where there would always be a crowd eager to see the group and treat them as very special guests. At schools, the crowds included dancers, drummers and gifts. At the rectories, it included food and drinks. Seeing the great need in some of these places while the people treated the group like royalty, caused a lot of emotions for the disciples to Ghana.

There were other destinations the group visited. They visited St. Peter's Regional Seminary where Fr. Ussher completed his priestly formation in 1999. Their senses were overwhelmed in the busy Dwenase open markets where many sights, sounds and smells were encountered. Tears were shed while visiting the Cape Coast Castle slave dungeons. They were awed at the healing service performed by Fr. Ussher. The group learned about mining at the Bauxite Mining Company and the Asante Gold Mining Company. They were fascinated by Our Lady of Rosary Shrine that Fr. Ussher deposed and continues to be built. They experienced both fear and excitement as they crossed the rope walks of the Kakum National Park canopy walk. They were treated to coconut water out of whole coconuts at Fr. Ussher's family home. Three members of the group were treated for minor injuries at Fr. Ussher's hospital in his hometown and until that moment had forgotten the sting of iodine!

Another favorite moment was experiencing the Holy Spirit in the Mass at the Cathedral. The Cathedral building is old and weary, a new one is being built to take its place, but it will take decades to complete.

Again, there is no air conditioning and the bathrooms are awful. But, the people are not weary! They are vibrant and so full of joy and spirit! The music, the singing, the dancing, the beautiful, colorful outfits enthralled the missionaries and they found themselves fully participating! It didn't matter to them that the Mass was three hours long.

It was not an easy trip. In addition to seeing poverty everywhere, the group had to forgo some modern conveniences. Even in the home of the bishop of Wyawso, Samuel Nkuh Boateng, many in the group did not have air conditioning while they ate or slept. There was no hot water for



showers, and they could ingest only bottled water, which was not usually chilled. Some joked that they missed ice as much as they missed their families! The red clay roads were not paved and were very rough, except in the cities of Accra and Kamasí and around the gold mine they visited. Most days on the road were spent being jostled around on the bus, at times flying off their seats. Due to the heat and humidity, sweat was a constant accessory. Two in the group returned with Typhoid fever, but antibiotics and rest helped them return to normal. But it was a wonderful learning experience and the people they met will hold pieces of the disciples' hearts forever.

St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace Parish News

Mark your calendar.....The St. Joseph Knights of Columbus will be having a fish fry on Friday, July 18th, at Seton Parish Center in Louisiana. Another one is planned for Friday, August 15th. Open to the public from 4:30 to 7. Bring your whole family.

Vice-President Jean Burkemper was elected President and Dana Barker was elected Vice-President at the May 7 meeting of St. Joseph/Mary Queen of Peace (MQP) Parish Council. They are members of MQP Parish. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Seton Parish Center on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. We thank both ladies for giving their time and talents to the Council.

The St. Joseph Ladies Altar Sodality will meet on Sunday after Mass, July 13, in Seton Parish Center.

The St. Joseph/MQP Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, July 16.

The St. Joseph/MQP Parish Council will meet in Seton Parish Center on Wednesday, July 30.

Queen of Hearts Raffle



St. Clement Knights of Columbus continue selling \$5 tickets in our progressive Queen of Hearts weekly E-Raffle. We sell the raffle tickets and the money from the sales goes towards the Jackpot (like a 50/50). The Jackpot rolls over every week. Currently the Jackpot is \$10,856 (as of July 1).

Each week, on Friday at 8 pm, one random raffle ticket is drawn from all purchased entries to select our winner for the week. All other raffle tickets are discarded. New tickets must be purchased each week to participate in the next drawing.

A card from the deck is automatically pulled for the winner and they receive whatever prize is associated with that card. Number cards pay \$25, Face cards pay \$50, Jokers pay \$100, and of course the Queen of Hearts wins 50% of the Jackpot. **The other 50% goes to the Knights to be used to help the Parish.**

There are 54 total cards in the deck, jokers included. After the card is pulled each week it is not placed back in the deck, which increases the odds that the Queen of Hearts will be pulled in the next drawing. We continue every week like this until the Queen of Hearts is drawn.

Players can view what the jackpot currently is at and also what cards have been pulled on the fundraising website: goraisedough.com/buy/2840. Full details on the rules are available on the site where tickets can be bought.

Tickets are \$5, or BUY 5 Tickets and receive 1 Ticket FREE!

Purchase your online tickets by going to the link: goraisedough.com/buy/2840 or scan the QR code.



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1 Healthcare Place
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St. Clement School News

First day of school for the 2025-26 school year will be Wednesday August 20. An open house will be held on Sunday, August 17 in the Parish Center after the 10:30 am Mass.

School staff

Elizabeth Schroeder, along with current teacher Karen Biggs, will teach 5-8 grade students swapping a few subjects.

Melissa (Missy) Orf will teach Kindergarten.

Katy Merz is School Secretary.

Kelsey Whitaker is Aftercare Supervisor.

Kelly Grote is Pre-School teacher.

Missy Dempsey is Pre-School Aide.

Laurie Rapp is 1-2 grade teacher.

Debbie Niemeyer is 3-4 grade teacher.

Laurie Schuckenbrock is Music teacher and Title I Resource teacher.

Wendy Boenker is part-time K-8th grade PE teacher.

Linda Henderson is Principal.

Debbie Akers is Cook.

Carolyn Anderson is Assistant to the Cook.

Marcin Jacyna is Custodian/Maintenance.

School Nurse position is awaiting approval.

School Board elections were held in June. Amy Biggs and Brad Raney were re-elected to serve another term. They join members Sarah Robinson, Georgia Hearn, Ryan Bibb, Nichi Orf and Matt Scherder.

Home & School Association will have their next meeting Thursday, August 28. Officers for the 2025-26 school year are: President: Jill Hoepf; Vice-President: Ashlee Ellis; Treasurer: Megan Ginnings; Secretary: Lauren Ince.

You may be asking, "What is the Difference Between the School Board and the Home & School Association?"

The **School Board** serves as an advisory body to assist the pastor, school principal, parish council, and finance committee in fostering the educational mission, goals and objectives of the school.

The **Home & School Association** is a partnership between families and the school community. They work together to foster the spiritual, academic and emotional growth of all students. They support the educational experiences through volunteering, fundraising and community-building events. They encourage active family involvement in the life of the school and parish.

Marriages & Baptisms at St. Clement

Marriages:

Joseph Phillips & Jane Niemeyer - April 26, 2025

Andrew Biggs & Sarah Akers - June 21, 2025

Baptism:

Warren Joseph Touchette

June 29, 2025

Parents: Adam & Chelsey Touchette

Better Together Parish Newsletter

Pastor: Fr. Henry Ussher • Newsletter Editor: Marie E. Korte • Send newsletter information to: newsletter@stclementmo.org