



Better Together

Volume 2, No. 4

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

October 2025

Vocations Update

Bryce Smith

Congratulations to Bryce Smith who was formally admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders during Mass at Pontifical College Josephinum on October 5. Bryce is in the Configuration Stage of formation at Josephinum and will be installed as a lector in November. Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments.

May God continue to bless him on his journey as he discerns his calling.

Bryce is pictured below with Bishop Robert Baker, along with his parents, Kathy and Louie Smith and grandmother Dorothy Sachs.



Mackenzie Scherder

Mackenzie Scherder knocked on the door and was received by her new sisters in Christ into the Poor Clare Colettine Nuns at the Annunciation Monastery in September. After months of prayer and preparation she began her postulancy within the Franciscan community of cloistered contemplative nuns within the Fraternal Society of St Peter.

The Poor Clares of Joliet are a group of 18 nuns, aged 18-82, whom live a life focused on prayer, community life and Eucharistic Adoration, with a strict observance of poverty and fasting. They live by the Gospel of Life as it was intended by St Clare with a special devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

Mackenzie has spent her first month learning the ways of the Monastery. She has many jobs as a postulate outside of prayer including cleaning and preparing the public chapel and sacristy. She is greatly enjoying her community and says she is fitting in very well with the sisters. It is a very young community that has grown tremendously over the last few years since transitioning to traditional latin liturgy, gaining 12 sisters in the last 3 years.

Mackenzie is the daughter of Tim and Bobbie Scherder of Bowling Green.

St. Clement Knights of Columbus

The St. Clement Knights of Columbus have hit the ground running this fall. Member Josh Korte has organized another Trivia Night set for November 1st at the KC hall, and this time, there will be a fun costume contest included!

Recently, the Knights generously donated the hall to the nonprofit organization Reindeer Round Up, which hosted a mouse race event to raise funds for local families in need during the Christmas season.

In line with our mission to support the community, our annual No Hunger Holiday is scheduled for November 25th. This event helps 200 local families. We have over 30 churches and organizations that help us make this event possible. If you're interested in lending a hand, please reach out to Doug Korte.

Additionally, planning for the winter whitetail event is underway. This year, we will be reassigning some roles to ensure that our long-standing members can take a well-deserved break. We are incredibly grateful to Justin and Tabitha Grote for stepping up to assist with this transition. This event would not be as successful as it has been over the years without all their hard work! We look forward to seeing everyone at the hall on January 17th!

Respectfully,
Justin Caldwell
Grand Knight

St. Clement School News

Our enrollment numbers for the 2025-26 School year.
Pre-K - currently 16, but we have 3 joining us in January
Kindergarten - 9

1st grade - 11
2nd grade - 6
3rd grade - 11
4th grade - 10
5th grade - 6
6th grade - 6
7th grade - 4
8th grade - 8

So in January we will have 90 students!

Some staff positions have been filled since the last update in the July newsletter. Colleen Boswell is our new school nurse. Jessi Pazdera is our new Aftercare Supervisor. Jessi's family just recently joined our church and her little girl goes to our Pre-K. Taylor Kallash is our new High School helper at Aftercare this year.

Upcoming Activities:

- Halloween Trunk or Treat is October 24th 6:00 - 8:00 pm in front of the Parish Center.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 29th & 30th from 3:30 - 7:00 pm
- All Saints Day Celebration will be observed on November 7th. Students will dress as a Saint they have been learning about. We will do a Rosary Walk and the Litany of Saints.
- Veteran's Day - November 11th we will host a Veteran's breakfast at the Parish Center at 8:30 am. All veterans and veteran spouses are welcome to attend.
- Hope Center collection and Reindeer Roundup collection - November 10 thru 21. We will collect canned goods, toilet paper, paper towels and other non perishables etc. for the Hope Center and we will collect Kitchen Trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, and disinfectant wipes for Reindeer Roundup.
- School Christmas Program will be Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

Marriages & Baptisms at St. Clement

Marriage

Kenneth Scherder & Angela Barton - October 13, 2025
Angela also was received into the Church.

Baptisms:

Oaklyn Ellis-August 16, 2025
Parents: Ashley & Adam Ellis
Wesley Gregory-August 24, 2025
Parents: Grayson & Olivia (Niemeyer) Gregory
Julia Warren-October 5, 2025
Parents: Carter & Lauren (Merz) Warren
Abigail Beaver-October 5, 2025
Joseph & Kristen (Tucker) Beaver
Charlee & Rory Schuckenbrock-October 11, 2025
Parents: Ben & Bonnie Schuckenbrock
Grace Schuckenbrock-October 11, 2025
Parents: Andrew & Sandra Schuckenbrock

Stewardship Council

The Stewardship Council thanks Sandy Orf for her service to the council over the last several years. Sandy is stepping down from the council but will serve in an advisory capacity. The Council welcomes 2 new members, Karen McCrory and Patti Schuckenbrock. We are grateful to these 2 parishioners for volunteering to serve on the council.

The Council has been busy working on several projects, one of which is the implementation of a database of parishioner information. This database will help the parishes in various aspects, one of which will be the capability to send out mass texts or emails in the event of a need to send information to all parishioners. One example would be the need to notify all parishioners of Mass cancellation due to bad weather. Census forms will be distributed and time allotted for completion of the forms during Mass on the weekends of October 18-19 and 25-26. Please take the time to complete the form and turn in at the end of Mass on those weekends.

Another Council project is the coordination of a Greeter program at the parish. The goal of having greeters at weekend Masses is to create a welcoming atmosphere for all parishioners, and especially to our new and prospective members. Please consider volunteering to be a weekend Mass Greeter. Contact Katie Kessler at 319-520-8322 if interested in being placed on the Greeter schedule. The goal is to have Greeters starting in December.

St. Clement Ladies Sodality

The St. Clement Ladies Sodality is a warm, welcoming group of women who come together in faith, friendship, and service. From assisting with parish dinners and fundraisers to lending a helping hand for whenever there's a need, we're the behind-the-scenes crew that loves to make things happen! Whether we're decorating for parish events, supporting our community, or simply sharing laughter over coffee, our group is rooted in fellowship and the joy of giving back.

We're always looking for new members to join our circle! If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the parish or want to meet a wonderful group of women, we'd love to have you. All ages 18+ are welcome — come see what we're about and be part of something truly special.

And mark your calendars — our Ladies Sodality Christmas Party is coming up December 10th! We're inviting all past and present members to join us for an evening of holiday cheer, good food, and great company. It's the perfect time to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the season together. Stay tuned for details — we can't wait to see you there!

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, or discerning whether to make that commitment, please contact the Parish Office at: stclementparish@gmail.com. The sessions meet on Wednesdays at 6 pm in the St. Clement Parish Center.

If you would like to join the team to assist in leading OCIA, contact the Parish Office as well.

St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace Parish News

St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace parishioners were saddened to recently lose three parishioners (Dottie Brown Murray and her husband, John Murray, and Leon Reeves). May they rest in peace! Leon's funeral was at St. Joseph also, but he was buried at Jefferson Barracks Military Cemetery in St. Louis the next day.

St. Joseph Ladies Altar Sodality gives a big "Thank You" to the ladies of Mary Queen of Peace for their contributions of "time and talents" to assist with recent funeral dinner--when we were short several regulars. It's so good to know we have such great friends to give help when and where needed in our church families! It's also proof positive to realize our parishes really are "Better Together!" Thanks MQP ladies.....just let us know when and how we can return the favor!

The Louisiana Knights of Columbus are getting things set up for having their food stand downtown on the weekend of "Color Fest" October 18 and 19. Please support our Knights and stop by to have lunch with them!

A reminder.....Louisiana ladies now hold their Sodality meetings immediately following the 8:30 am Mass on the second Sunday of each month. All ladies are considered "members" and are more than welcome to attend the meetings. Three new ladies have recently joined the group at the meetings. Welcome to them and more!

Plans are in the works for Sodality to host the Ecumenical Women's Group (EWG) Breakfast on November 11 at Seton Parish Center. There are several churches in Louisiana whose ladies attend this event. The breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the scheduled month and is followed by a diversified selection of programs throughout the year. Scheduled for November 1st is a program by the 12-member St. Joseph/Mary Queen of Peace/St. Clement group who traveled to Ghana with Father Ussher. The group made their fact-finding trip to see for themselves how our Diocese and parishioners can be of assistance to our new Mission. The fee for the EWG Breakfast is \$6.00 per person, most of which is then donated that same morning to a worthy cause, either locally or otherwise. Quite often it's donated to the presenter of the morning's program for his/her project (i.e. Rotary's Africa project; an Amazon Village project by another local church minister; local homes for women and men recovering from addictions; the neighboring B.G. genealogy department...to name just a few) and other worthy local community projects. Attendance at the breakfasts can range from 20 to 40+ attendees--all of whom are supportive of being of service to their community.

St. Joseph parishioners have had the honor of meeting newly ordained Deacon Chad Freie to assist Father Ussher at Masses in Louisiana as his schedule permits. Welcome Deacon Chad! Deacon Mark and Kathy Dobelmann are in Florida until March 1, 2026. Therefore, we hope to see even more of Deacons Chad and Wayne!

As most parishioners are aware, St. Joseph's and Mary Queen of Peace have both become somewhat "Senior or Older Adult Congregations." Therefore, we're a tad short in num-

bers when it comes to having young people as Servers "or Acolytes" at every Mass--we only have 4 kiddos total serving! So....if any of our weekly visitors from St. Clement have young people with them who would like to "serve" at our churches too, please urge them to do so! They'd be so very welcome! We do appreciate some of them who have taken the Gifts down. Parents can call Terry Stark to make arrangements. Her number is listed in the "Stewardship Ministry Guide" available at all churches. If there are youngsters (or oldsters!) who would like to "become" a server, please contact Father Ussher when he returns to the U.S. in December.

One of the gentlemen of St. Joseph's who recently passed and another who was injured some time ago served as Greeters and Ushers from time to time. All three of our parishes would so like to have more volunteers who would be willing to greet people as they come into church with a "Good Morning! How are you? Are you new to our parish?--Here's a form you can complete and put in the basket." Other things can be to maybe help find people a pew, occasionally bring down the Gifts, and help hand out bulletins, etc. Think about it!

Father Ussher will be going on his annual vacation. He will leave for Ghana on October 27th and be gone through December 4, 2025. During that time he will celebrate a Remembrance Day for his Mother on 11/14; celebrate his "60th" birthday on 11/15; have a 25th Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass with parishioners on 11/16--and spend Christmas with his birth family. Father has had his American Citizenship for over twelve years, but still does whatever he can, from long distance, for his home country as well. Our prayers go with him for a safe trip to Ghana and a safe return to America!

It was great to join in the group of about fourteen parishioners (ladies and children) from our three parishes for the Jubilee of Hope 2025 Pilgrimage to St. Peter Catholic Church at Brush Creek (near to Monroe City) on Saturday, October 4 (pictured below). The group looked around the premises and recited the Rosary while waiting for Father Greg Oligschlager and another group to arrive for Mass. Handouts were shared by Father Greg about Father Augustine Tolton, his Baptism at the church there, and other aspects of his life, including his present consideration for Sainthood. It was a beautiful day.....in many ways!



Queen of Hearts Raffle



WE HAD A WINNER! So a new raffle was started 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 \$7,464 (as of Oct. 14).

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.



Parish School of Religion (PSR) News

PSR classes for grades 1-6 are in session for students attending public school. The sessions meet on Sunday 9:15 - 10:15 am in the school. It's not too late to enroll - contact Robie Orf at 573-470-1223 for more information.

Enrollment and teachers for this year:

1st graders - 4; Melinda Kneib

2nd graders - 3; Robie Orf.

3rd grade - 4; Danielle Orf

5th/6th graders - 8; Becky Lorenson

We have 4 high schoolers helping and substituting when necessary: Stephen Smith, Layne Kent, Malia Kent and Emilee Orf.

We started off the year celebrating Our Holy Mother's birthday (September 8). The PSR children made birthday cards and we had muffins for Mary!



Teen and Adult Retreats

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)

TEC is a 3-day spiritual renewal for teens age 16 - 21. For anyone interested in attending a TEC, the upcoming dates are: Nov. 8-10, 2025; Jan. 17-19; Mar. 7-9; Apr. 11-13; June 13-15. Adult Observers are also welcome to attend. TEC weekends are held at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University. Learn more and register at: greatrivertec.org.

Quest

Quest is a 24-hour program for teens age 13-15. Upcoming dates are: Dec. 12-13, 2025; Jan. 30-31; May 8-9, 2026. Quests are held at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University. 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.

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 Vernon Korte at: 573-470-3611.

The next Women's Cursillo is Nov. 13-16 and Mens is Jan. 22-25. Cursillo's are held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Quincy, IL. Refer to: quincycursillo.org for more information.



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Better Together Parish Newsletter

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