



Better Together

Volume 3, No. 1

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

April 2026

Welcome our New Parishioners Joining the Catholic Church This Easter

Please welcome our nine new parishioners - 7 from St. Clement and 2 from St. Joseph - that went through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program. They were accepted fully into the Catholic Church at Holy Saturday services on April 4th.

Kaitlyn Fosdick is married to Brian Fosdick and is the daughter-in-law of Clete and Jennifer Miller. Kaitlyn works at the Aviary Recovery Center and Brian works at Verizon. They have one daughter, Lakelynn. They attend St. Clement and live in Bowling Green.

William Brian Wasson is married to Kayla Wasson. They are expecting their first child, Wyatt, in April. Brian is a Program Assistant at Ruth Jensen Village. They live at Curryville and attend St. Clement.

Autumn Castagna is the fiancée of Owen Niemeyer and daughter of Mecia & Gino Castagna. Autumn is a Registered Nurse and attends St. Clement. She and Owen plan to be married Oct. 3, 2026.

Garrett Merryman is married to Breanna Merryman. He is the IT Director at Pike County Memorial Hospital. They have two children: Mabel (6) and Leroy (4). They live in Louisiana and attend St. Clement.

Shannon Jackson is married to Mallory Jackson and they have one child, Charlotte. Shannon is a Paramedic. They live in Louisiana and attend St. Joseph.

Nicole Phillips (will be James in April) is married to Andy James and step-mother to Dalton James. Nicole is a Social Worker/Therapist. They live in Vandalia and attend St. Clement, Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary.

Chase Hunt is the son of Cynthia Hunt and Jeff Hunt. He works with Information Technology. Chase lives in Louisiana and attends St. Joseph Church.

Kate Niemeyer is married to Jamie Niemeyer. She is the Office Manager at Nutrien. Kate is step-mother to Jaxson, Jace, and Josie. They live in Bowling Green and attend St. Clement Church.

John Richard Allen is married to Nancy Allen. They live in Bowling Green and attend St. Clement Church.

St. Clement Parish Fish Frys Recap

This year's St. Clement Fish Frys were a huge success! We served 6,169 meals for the season and hit a new milestone of serving 1,116 meals on the final night! It was amazing to see the teamwork and hard work by our parishioners each Friday.

To put the scale of this effort into perspective, we served a total of 3,150 lbs. of fish, 1300 lbs. of shrimp, approximately 144 pans of cheesy potatoes. Add to this, generous amounts of slaw, spaghetti, and homemade desserts were served! It's always amazing that our parishioners come through each week to provide delicious, homemade desserts for over 1,000 people every week!

The Fish Frys brought together families, friends, and community members for good food and fellowship.

Thanks to our wonderful parishioners for their hard work, sacrificed time, and support! The fish frys are a vital fundraising event for the support of our parish and school.

Baptisms at St. Clement

Avery Rose Niemeyer - Baptized on January 10, 2026 Parents are Ethan Niemeyer & Kerri Kirchner-Niemeyer.

Indy Rae Fischer - Baptized January 10, 2026 Parents are Jason Fischer & Erica Martin - Fischer

Elsie Lane Floyd - Baptized February 15, 2026 Parents are Lane & Madeline Perry Floyd.

Kieran Joseph Scherder - To be Baptized May 9, 2026. Parents are Cole Scherder and Sonja (Perry) Scherder



Front row, left to right: Autumn Castagna, Kate Niemeyer, Brian Wasson. Back row: Richard Allen, Shannon Jackson, Nicole Phillips, Garrett Merryman, Chase Hunt. Not pictured: Kaitlyn Fosdick.

Congratulations to our First Communicants

First Communion will take place on April 12 at the 10:30 am Mass.

Austin Caldwell, daughter of Kayla and Justin Caldwell
Nora Fischer, daughter of Erica and Jason Fischer
Madi Ginnings, daughter of Megan and Steve Ginnings
Haley Hoepf, daughter of Matt and Jill Hoepf
Selena Johnson, daughter of Whitney and Duell Johnson
Siena Kent, son of Leisha and Ryan Kent
Levi Labbee, son of Derek and Ashley Labbee
Wyatt Martin, son of Andrew and Whitney Martin
Sawyer Perkins, daughter of Katie and Brennan Perkins
Luke Schuckenbrock, son of Justin and Julie Schuckenbrock
McKenzie Touchette, daughter of Adam and Chelsey Touchette

St. Clement Knights of Columbus

The annual Knights of Columbus breakfast brought together members to celebrate a year of achievements and fellowship. Mike West, Chair of the Jefferson City Diocese, emphasized the significance of new members and the rich history of the Knights.

Grand Knight Justin Caldwell provided a recap of the past year's events, highlighting the positive impact of KofC initiatives on the parish and surrounding community.

The gathering also honored several members for their dedication, Josh Korte receiving the Knight of the Year award, Paul and Katy Merz was named Family of the Year, and Troy Niemeyer took home the Pinochle Championship Award.

Special thanks were extended to the Ladies Sodality for their invaluable support in preparing the breakfast and for their ongoing contributions to the Knights' mission.

Save the Date for the St. Clement K of C Picnic on July 18th.

St. Clement Ladies Sodality News

The Ladies Sodality of St. Clement Parish recently gathered for our annual breakfast, a special time to reflect on the past year and look ahead with gratitude.

We are thankful to welcome five new members into our group. Their presence brings new energy and strengthens our shared mission. Over the past year, we have been blessed to support needs within our parish and extend help across the Bowling Green community.

These efforts are made possible through our fundraisers. Each event helps us provide meaningful support to those in need, turning small moments of generosity into real community impact.

Our next fundraiser, Bingo Night, will be held on April 18. To purchase tickets, contact Chelsey Touchette at 618-202-0895.

If you are looking for a way to connect, serve, and make a difference, we invite you to join us. Please contact Shirley Touchette at 618-719-3461 for membership details.

Our Young Parishioners to be Confirmed

Bishop Ralph B. O'Donnell will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the following young people on May 16 at the 5:30 pm Saturday Mass.

Zoe Baker, daughter of Theresa Noellsch Baker & Dominic Baker

Nolan Berry, son of Milan & Kathleen Berry

Jack Bibb, son of Stacey Dixon & Ryan Bibb

Claire Carlson, daughter of Fred & Lori Carlson

Jayten Edmond, son of Justin & Elizabeth Edmond

Justin Erickson, grandson of Jim & Cindy Erickson

Tessa Evans, daughter of Robert & Kristin Evans

Braden Grote, son of Justin & Tabitha Grote

Oliver Hartin, son of Joe & Elizabeth Hartin

Harper Henke, daughter of William & Brittany Henke

Jaelyn Huber, daughter of George & Tonya Huber

Emma Kallash, daughter of Kenny & Carrie Kallash

Avila Kent, daughter of Ryan & Leisha Kent

Noah Kessler, son of Cory & Katie Kessler

Maxwell Koenig, son of Clayton & Elisha Koenig

Faith Korte, daughter of Stephen & Angi Korte

Luke Labbee, son of Derrick & Ashley Labbee

Morgan Lewis, daughter of Michael & Janet Lewis

Wyatt Long, son of Aaron & Whitney Long

Hailey Lovell, daughter of Steven & Kim Lovell

Hadley Moore, daughter of Donald & Alissa Moore

Finn Morrison, son of Todd & Allison Morrison

Lucy Raney, daughter of Bradley & Katie Raney

Philip Robinson, son of Jerad & Sarah Robinson

Carson Scherder, son of Brian & Carey Scherder

Sawyer Scherder, son of Travis & Tamara Scherder

Anthony Spegal, son of John & Gretchen Spegal

Confraternity of Christian Mothers

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers warmly invites all women of the parish to grow in faith, friendship, and spiritual strength alongside one another. We joyfully welcome new members at any time and encourage you to join us on the third Wednesday evening of each month for confession, the Rosary, Holy Mass, and our monthly meeting. Together, we seek to deepen our love for God, support one another in our vocations as mothers and women, and offer our prayers for our families and the needs of the Church.

So many and so great are the spiritual benefits a woman may receive by joining the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. As a devoted member, she is encouraged to live a life rich in grace and merit, strengthened by the prayers and sacrifices of fellow members. Comforted by the knowledge that she is spiritually supported, she shares in the blessings and indulgences granted to the Confraternity. In time, she is united in heaven with those who have gone before her, and, through her faithful prayers and sacrifices, helps lead her children toward eternal happiness. Bound together in love and friendship, these souls rejoice forever in the reward of a life lived for God.

We would love for you to join us! Come as you are, and grow with us in faith and fellowship.

St. Joseph and Mary Queen of Peace Parish News

WELCOME to Chase Hunt and Shannon Jackson to the Catholic Faith!! Both gentlemen attended OCIA classes with the St. Clement group in preparation for their Easter Ceremony. Mary Queen of Peace and St. Joseph parishioners welcome ALL of you wholeheartedly!

Another gentleman with whom we've all gotten acquainted with is Fr. Dominic coming from Ghana, Africa! He's been staying at the Rectory with Father Ussher in St. Clement while getting acclimated (literally!) to our weather here in Missouri!!--Along with our ways, our driving, our "rules and regs. Though not his first trip here, we hope it's his best and wish him well whenever he receives his upcoming assignment. Thank you, Father Dominic, for your time spent with us.

Speaking of "newbies," if you and/or your family are new to our St. Joseph or Mary Queen of Peace parishes, please look for a form as you enter church, complete the information, and put it in the collection basket at any Mass. Whether you joined us a week ago or a year ago, please let us know you're new here! With parishioners having the convenience of attending any of the three parishes, it's difficult to know when a "different face" is new to the area or a regular from one of the other two parishes. So please help us out and let us know you're new here? Thanks!

Congratulations to the St. Joseph Knights of Columbus on completing yet another Lenten Season of Fish Fry evenings! The food was good, the attendees were many, and the project was successful! The Knights and the ladies who helped them wish to thank all who brought desserts and enjoyed the evenings!

Our thanks to MQP Sodality for having their Sunday Breakfasts! With three Masses on Sundays, it's difficult to find a time for "joint participation" for such events. Good job Ladies! Now if Pray-Eat-Play can get back on track, everyone can attend the beautiful Masses/enjoy the delicious carry-in dinners/and "let the games begin!"

St. Joseph Ladies Altar Sodality has been and will be involved in various activities in and around the area. They were represented at the Ecumenical Women's Breakfast at the Methodist Church in Louisiana; delivered an Easter gift and card to each of our Catholic residents at both "Lynn's Heritage House" and "Avenir at Maple Grove" (formerly Maple Grove Lodge Nursing Home); some will be attending Anne's Anchor Fundraiser Dinner; St. Clement Sodality Bingo at St. Clement; and "Encore" at The Apple Shed in Clarksville. The group also donates to the Food Pantry in Louisiana and helps the cutting of all the (60+) pies for the annual "Thanksgiving Dinner" sponsored by the Centenary United Methodist Church; and provides one of the meals at the ecumenical Bible School. They believe in "involvement in the community—representing our faith."

Thanks go out to Randy Lovell of MQP for installing new laminate flooring in a corner area in St. Joseph's. The improvement over the torn carpet, etc. is huge!

And, Kudos to the Louisiana Knights of Columbus members for the improvements to the Seton Parish Center

floors. The Center is beginning to resemble the "Knights of the Round Table" in that the Seton Parish Center now has several more round tables to use for dinners, etc.

And last, but by no means least, progress has been made for an actual kitchen (instead of a run-down roof over four leaning posts outside) being built at the school in Ghana. Randy Lovell was one of our parishioners (MQP) who made the group trip to Ghana this past year. With his background and expertise, he sketched plans for the kitchen before the final plans were drawn. Ghana is a Mission of the Diocese of Jefferson City and with donations from many of you, the kitchen project is coming to fruition. The children seem to be happily thriving in the new school and look so cute in their bright blue uniforms—perfectly sewn and pressed.

One last note.....Have you ever heard someone talking about being asked to step up and take a job at Church? Or be nominated for an office—Parish Council, Finance Council, or be a Money Counter? Or bring a dish to a funeral dinner or other gathering? Or being asked to sign up to be a Lector, Usher, Communion Minister, or a Server at Masses?? Then have you noticed someone speaks up and says "Somebody should do something about that." OR "Oh, somebody will do it!" Are you "SOMEONE?" or "SOMEBODY?" Thank you for thinking about it!

Stewardship Council News

The newly instituted Greeter program for the Sunday 10:30 am Mass is off to a great start! This initiative enhances our parish's hospitality by offering a friendly welcome to all parishioners, particularly those who are new or visiting. We would like to expand the program to include Saturday 5:30 pm Mass if we can get enough volunteers. If you feel called to serve as a Mass Greeter, contact Katie Kessler at 319-520-8322. You may be surprised at how many new faces you may see!

A Welcome Reception was held on March 8 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass to celebrate our new parishioners joining the Catholic Church this Easter. It was a joyful gathering and a wonderful opportunity for our newest parishioners to be greeted and embraced by our parish community.

The Council has been working on several projects, one of which is the implementation of a database of parishioner information. This system will support the parish in many ways, including the ability to send group texts or emails when important information needs to reach everyone quickly. We are in the beta testing phase of the new software and working out the kinks.

We are also keeping in touch with the Hope Center in Bowling Green to find out what their greatest needs are. They need meat (or monetary donations for the purchase of meat), Hamburger Helper, peanut butter and macaroni and cheese. Drop off any items in the baskets in the vestibule.

Be sure to pick up a Stewardship Ministry Guide, available at all the exits of all three of our parishes. This guide informs parishioners of all the ministries available in each parish and the contact person. The ministries are broken out into the four Pillars of Stewardship - Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. It is a good reference to have available.

St. Clement School News

8th Grade Graduates

Clark Arnold, son of Theresa and Scott Arnold
Zoe Baker, daughter of Theresa Noellsch Baker & Dominic Baker
Jayten Edmond, son of Justin & Elizabeth Edmond
Oliver Hartin, son of Joe & Elizabeth Hartin
Faith Korte, daughter of Stephen & Angie Korte
Wyatt Long, son of Aaron & Whitney Long
Lucy Raney, daughter of Bradley & Katie Raney
Philip Robinson, son of Jerad & Sarah Robinson

National Catholic Educational Association Conference

Mrs. Henderson and the teaching staff will be attending the NCEA Conference in Minnesota April 6-9. Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Merz worked together on applying for a Continuing Education Grant through Jefferson City Diocese and we are happy to report that we received reimbursement funds for 90% of costs. This will reimburse the Home and School Association who generously raised funds for this educational experience.

Our enrollment at SCS is growing!

We are projecting an enrollment of 23 Kindergarten students for next year. Thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. Barbara Scherder-Goetz, the cost of a paraprofessional for the Kindergarten classroom has been fully funded for the 2026-2027 school year.

Pre-school continues to grow! We are already fully enrolled for next year with 20 students, and we have up to five additional families on our waiting list. We are exploring the possibility of expanding with dedicated rooms for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds in the future.

With steady numbers across our other grades, we anticipate welcoming around 107 students in Pre-K through 8th grade next year—a wonderful sign of continued growth in our school community.

A new server for the parish and school was made possible through a generous gift from Mrs. Ellen Scherder Stanko, with the Knights of Columbus graciously covering the remaining cost. We are truly blessed by their support.

Five new security cameras will be installed, and two existing cameras will be replaced. This project is supported by a generous donation toward the equipment and installation, along with a grant awarded by Cuivre River Electric Cooperative.

We are looking for a nurse for the 2026-27 school year to work 2-3 days per week. All current teachers and staff are returning for the 2026-27 school year.

Upcoming events

- Easter Break - April 3 -12 / NCEA Conference for Staff April 6 -10
- Sketch Day - April 17
- Preschool Screening - Monday, April 20 by appointment
- Smithsonian - Friday, April 24 at 1:00 pm
- Diocesan 8th Grade Mass - May 5
- Vocation Day - 6th grade - May 6
- May Crowning / Kite Day - Friday, May 8 - Crowning followed by Rosary starts at 7:45 am and finishes after 8:15 am Mass. Kite flying at 1:30 pm
- 8th Grade Graduation - Wednesday, May 13 at 6:00 pm. Begin with Mass and then a dinner at the Parish Center.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten graduation/promotion - Thursday, May 14. Pre-K graduation starts at 1:00 pm and Kindergarten will follow at 2:00 pm
- Last Day of school / Early Mass / Field Day Activities - Friday, May 15

Teen and Adult Retreat Opportunities

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)

TEC is a 3-day program for teens age 16 - 21. For anyone interested in attending a TEC, the dates for the rest of the year are: April 11-13; June 13-15; July 25-27; November 7-9. 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 July 10-11; September 25-26; December 11-12. 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.

Men and women attend separate Cursillo weekends and if married, the husband must attend first. The 2026 dates are: Men: June 25-28 & Sept. 17-20. Women: April 16-19, July 16-19, Nov. 12-15.

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 or anyone that has attended Cursillo.

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

Better Together Parish Newsletter

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