

The

Spirit of St. Joseph Parish
214 North Main
Ellinwood KS 67526

Immaculate Conception Parish

310 North Main
Claffin KS 67525

Father Terrance Klein, Pastor
Sister Andre Kravec



Second Grade Students Receive First Eucharist



By Sharla Thill

April 10th was a very special day for eight second grade students at St. Joseph School. They gathered at the 10 a.m. Mass to make their First Holy Communion.

After making final preparations to receive this Sacrament, there were many smiling faces waiting in the gathering space to be a part of the procession into church. Parents were busy fixing a last minute tie or fussing with a veil. We all remember the joy of this time in our own lives. Each student received a small corsage.

Teacher for the First Communion class is Mrs. Jamie Harrington.

Father asked the eight students to come forward to receive their candle and, along with the parish, recited our profession of faith.

Those making First Holy Communion were Alvin Bowyer, son of Holly Bowyer, Ty Hammeke, son of Clint and Karrie Hammeke, Christopher Rugan, son of Gene and Karen Rugan, Ethan Schlochtermeyer, son of Jason and Heather, Schlochtermeyer, Isaiah Steele, son of Kristin Steele, Shelby Steffan, daughter of Chad and Lori Steffan, Trent Stuhlsatz, son of Chris and Julie Stuhlsatz of Great Bend; and Layton Wirtz, son of Tyler and Tania Wirtz.

Mass was full of many grandparents and extended families of the First Holy Communicants, who came to celebrate with them.



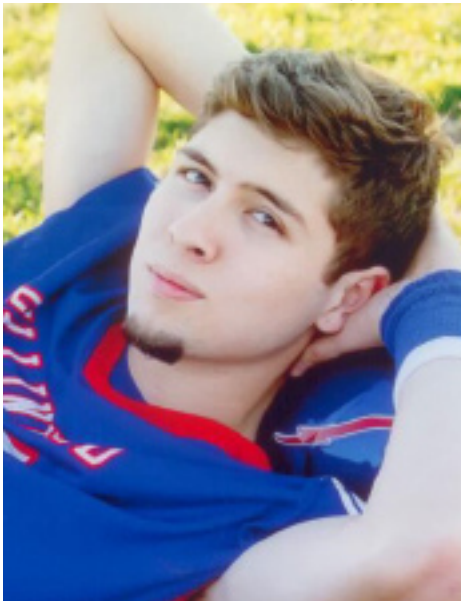
Communion Class of 2016: Layton, Ty, Trent, Shelby, Christopher, Isaiah, Ethan and Alvin.

Easter Weekend Sees Many Alumni Back To Enjoy 130th Anniversary of School



Dolores (Braun) Strecker, who graduated in 1949, came with Gerry (Cope) Fosdick, who also graduated in 1949. Here they share a moment with Mary Ann Brungardt, 98, the oldest living student who graduated from St. Joseph School.

Senior Adrian Sanchez Graduates in May



Adrian Sanchez
by Sharla Thill

Adrian Sanchez, son of Kristin Steele and Joshua Williams, is a senior at Ellinwood High School.

"I moved to Ellinwood from Kansas City the spring of my sophomore year (2014)," Adrian tells us. "I transferred from Bishop Ward high school where I played football and baseball both years."

Sanchez has played football and basketball for Ellinwood High School this past two years. "Football is my favorite sport," Adrian remarks. "The highlight of

my season was walking off our home field for the last time with my brothers, after beating a very talented Little River team."

His favorite class is computer applications, "because it's entertaining and Mrs. Betts is one of my favorite teachers, along with Mrs. Dewey." Adrian is a member of FBLA and the honor roll.

The thing he likes most to do in his spare time is hang out with friends, "I love having a good time and laughing with them."

"After high school I plan to attend Fort Hays State University, where I will major in athletic training," says the young senior. "I want to be an athletic trainer because I love sports and it will be a job that will keep me involved with the players. I will still be able to enjoy the atmosphere of game time."

Adrian has two siblings, Lexi Steele, who is in kindergarten at St. Joseph School, and Isaiah Steele, who is in second grade.

Adrian says, "My advice to all the underclassmen is to be as involved as you can. You won't regret it. Also, enjoy every moment, because these are the fastest four years of our lives and once they are gone, they're gone."

The St. Joseph Community wishes Adrian many good wishes for his future.



April Theology on Tap Talks about Resurrection

In line with the Grand Opening weekend and the prohibition era theme of the new Saloon at the Historic Wolf Hotel, attendees for the second Theology on Tap on April 2 had to recite a special password to get in the door. Once in the door, the evening was once again a hit with fellowship, beverages, and a spirited discussion led by Fr. Klein on the topic of Jesus's resurrection. About 23 parishioners and guests joined the evening. Fr. Klein presented much of the generally accepted evidence from current research and the Bible giving support for Jesus's resurrection happening. He addressed some of the arguments that people use against the resurrection and refuted these based on logic and investigative research. As always, Fr. Klein encouraged discussion and many questions and observations were shared by the crowd. Theology on Tap will continue to develop, and is planned for the first Saturday each month. All are welcome to come share in a unique evening of adult faith formation. Check the bulletin for next month's meeting and topic.



Candidates received into the church on Holy Saturday. From Left: Raylette Oeser, Taylor Siensen, Tania Wirtz, Gene Rugan, Mark Panning, Courtney Klein and Dane Wood.



Dear mom,

Even though I don't take the opportunity as often as I should, I want to take time to say thank you on this Mother's Day. Even through tough times in our relationship, you've always been there for me. From protecting me as a child, to giving me someone I can turn to as an adult, you've shown me how to care for others, how to deal with life's struggles, and how to persevere through difficult times in so many aspects of my life, friendships, work, and education. Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to support me in the things I did, always coming to concerts, debate tournaments, and encouraging me to pursue teaching, even when the weight of college becomes too much. I've seen you work through a busy, demanding life, and you still take on extra responsibilities with your limited time. Seeing you create a happy life for yourself has inspired me to pursue my dreams as well, and you've always been there to help me find the courage to keep working hard. Thank you for supporting me in everything I do!

Love, Rachel Kay



Karla Gonzales and daughter Rachel Schlochtermeier

Students Need Help to Get to Steubenville Conference

St. Joseph High School PSR students will be attending a Steubenville Conference at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minnesota in July of 2016. While in the area for the conference, students will also have the opportunity to complete mission work.

"We often get asked why we do not stay local to provide mission work. One of the main reasons is when we stay local, we have local distractions. Jesus often withdrew to pray, and the withdrawing from known is part of the excitement for the youth, and an opportunity for an encounter with the Holy Spirit away from distractions," said Raechel Manley, youth group leader. "We do, however, encourage students to participate in the diocesan mission camps too."

Students and sponsors will work as the hands and feet of Christ through their mission work, and then spend special time with Him in the Eucharist at the Steubenville Conference, utilizing both experiences to build their relationship with God.

The group still needs to raise dollars for the trip and requests the parish to prayerfully consider sponsoring a student's conference or mission outreach. "The cost per person is \$550.00, and the conference is almost half of that," said Manley.

Anyone wishing to donate can drop their check off at the parish office specifying it for PSR and the mission trip or can contact Mrs. Manley at 620-680-2119, with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Are You Registered?

Did you know that demographic studies estimate that more than 1/3 of all Catholics are not registered in a parish?

If you are not registered in one of the parishes within our cluster, please consider doing so. Also, please encourage your friends and family to register!

Registering is important because: If a parish doesn't know who is out there, how can it adequately serve the needs of all. Secondly, when the services of the Church are needed – such as for a wedding, Baptism or funeral – it is easier if the person is registered. And, thirdly, registered parishioners receive helpful information about our parish through our monthly newsletter.



Daphne Doll Wins Diocesan Ness City Oration Contest

By Marlene Clayton

The preliminary round of this year's Oration Contest was held on March 31. Twenty-seven students, from grades 5-8 participated, presenting their orations for judges Lois Hammer, Denis Hammer, and Rita Feist.

The theme of the Modern Woodsmen Oration this year was "Hunger in America". Each student gave their ideas and thoughts of this topic.

The judges selected these seven finalists: Daphne Doll, Lane Klepper, Haley Troyer, Ashtin Klepper, Erin Hammeke and Madisyn Schlochtermeier. Alternate was Wittney Hammeke.

On April 6, the seven finalists competed in the Local Oration contest. Judges were Mike Westerman, Tracy Rome, and Rachel Sieker. Finishing third was Haley Troyer, second, Erin Hammeke, and first Daphne Doll.

Daphne went on to compete at the Diocesan Oration Contest on April 9th in Ness City. There she earned first place! Second place went to Abby Harding of Dodge City and third place to Ellyson Somers, of Great Bend.



"St. Joseph School Celebrates 130 Years"

by Sharla Thill

On March 26th, Ellinwood St. Joseph School celebrated 130 years of service to the church and community with an Open House and a luncheon for alumni, families, and friends. Alumni toured the school from 10 to 11. At eleven there was an Easter Egg Hunt for small children on the lawn of Wolf Park, across from the church.

The luncheon, which followed at 11:30, in the parish center, was sponsored by the Endowment and Living Legacy Committees of the school, who also prepared the food.

The members of these committees worked hard to put together a sizable collection of memorabilia from the school's long history. It included a continuous slide show of the past, and the premier presentation of a new promotional video for the school.

Invitations went far and wide to gather all who have graduated from St. Joseph School. This included our pastor, Father Terrance Klein, who himself is a 1972 alumnus of the school.

Father Klein said, "We have so much to celebrate. Such sacrifice and devotion. And so many wonderful stories of success!"

St. Joseph School remains the oldest of six Catholic schools in the Diocese, originally there were sixty. At 98, Mary Ann Brungardt, class of 1930, is the oldest alumni of the school. She attended the event with her grandson, Mark Batchman, and his children, who also attend St. Joseph's.

Josh Habiger, who graduated from St. Joseph in '95, was quick to share, "So many memories. They all make me smile."

"I remember that tater tot day at lunch was a pretty big deal, especially if you were an 8th grade server, because you could get a bigger helping."

Josh continues, "I always had great teachers that really cared, Sister Francella, Sister Noella, Angie Hammeke, Mrs. B, Mrs. Liebl, - I don't remember too many specifics, but I do remember that I always felt like they genuinely cared about me."

He also says, "I remember being so excited for my first basketball practice in 5th grade and I remember the chest pass drills and D. J. Knop's half court that won a game though I can't remember who we were playing. And, of course, Coach Thill and my favorite play 'H1', (that was a

screen for me to shoot a three).

Josh is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics at Oklahoma State University, and the son of Dennis and Marla Habiger.

Alum of the Class of 2009, Kaitlyn Wondra says, "If I could go back, I would in a heartbeat! Not to mention, the food was amazing!"

"I really liked the small classes; it allowed us to have more individual time with the teachers. We also grew really close as a class. I know I made lifelong friends throughout my nine years at St. Joseph School."

Highlights of School Tour

So many had a wonderful time touring the school. Marcella (Schlochtermeier) Lloyd, class of 1961, attended the school tour with husband, Jim and son, Ron.

Others included Don Werner, Class of 1963, and wife MaryAnn of Wichita, Nora (Werner) Reichuber, class of 1959, and husband, Arnold of Goddard, and Marilyn (Werner), class of 1960 and husband Leon Reichuber of Ellinwood.

Cheryl (Oberle), class of 1978, and her husband, Loren Ginther of Hays were enjoying the tour as well, and Cheryl remembered the good food and the cooks, Dorothy Moeder and June Hammer.



Chris Siefers was caught taking pictures of one of her classrooms during the tour of the school. Chris graduated in 1983 and lives in Wichita, where she works at a company that provides Software for Newspapers. She is the daughter of Larry and Sherrie Siefers.

Miss Siefers was part of a video about the school. She remarked, "It was a real highlight to spend time on a Sunday afternoon, visiting with Sister Francella and Sister Noella while they were being interviewed for the video."



The Birzer clan, children of Jerome and Mildred Birzer, all attended St. Joseph School. Bernie Birzer shared this, "Every room had a memory for me. In 1st grade, Sister Casilda would play "ISpy" and hide a little pink eraser under the headpiece of her habit. It took us a long time to guess." From left are: Tim of Lyons, Steve of Ellinwood, Bernie Rahe of Emporia, Kathy Hertel of Ellinwood, and Marvin of Casper, Wyoming.

School Tour Continued

I caught up with Mary Liebl of Wichita, who taught 7th and 8th grade at St. Joseph's from 1991 to '96. With her was Michelle Younker, class of 2002, who is now a Para at the Goddard High School. She is the daughter of Nic and Theresa Younker. They were visiting with Scott Klepper, class of 1995, wife Jennifer and children.

Michelle Klepper, class of 2007, and fiancé, were visiting in the classroom of Michelle Miller, also from the class of 2007, who came back to teach 4th and 5th grades this year. Miller is the daughter of Steve and Kim Miller. Klepper, daughter of Tony and Cheryl Klepper, is manager of Human Resources at DSMNWK in Hays.

Harold Klein, class of 1970, looks over the computer room during the school tour. Harold lives in Salina, is retired from the Frito Lay Company, and works part time for the city of Salina and USD 305. He says he appreciates schools that still have good hot lunches, and noticed many changes from his days at St. Joseph's. Harold is a brother to Father Klein, and their Dad Irvin was the custodian of St. Joseph School for many years.

Wandering around the noisy room as alumni and guests chatted while eating a wonderful lunch; I visited with Danny Jenisch, class of 1950, and wife, Gale of Missouri, and Arlene (Johanning) Kutina, of Great Bend, also from the class of 1950.

A few tables away was Loretta (Straub) Kinman, husband Keith, and family of Hoisington. Loretta was in the class of 1972.

Jason Schlochtermeyer, class of 1993, was looking at old yearbooks with his children, Maddy and Ethan, both students at St. Joseph School now. Jason's Dad, Ed Schlochtermeyer, class of 1954, member of the Living Legacy Committee, was busy drying dishes in the kitchen, but stopped to share this memory, "I remember when Larry Siefers and I got into a little mischief and had to write sentences on the blackboard. When we finished we started tossing a ball back and forth, faster and faster and then broke the blackboard."

If only there was some way to include everyone who attended this special event. It was a big occasion for all.



Graduate Sarah (Drees) Liebl, class of 1991, lives in Hutchinson. She is CFO for Harris Enterprises Publications. Here she stands with Mom, Joan Drees, and her children, Lauren and Claire, as she shows them the library at St. Joseph. School.



Luncheon Serves Over 200 Guests



Michelle Doll, of Wichita, class of 1977, was Master of Ceremonies. She said going to St. Joseph was the best education ever, both physically and spiritually.

Doll remarked, "The girls in my class are still friends and we get together every year. I asked their advice about what to say today. They all said the school lunches were the best. In fact, in high school one day we all snuck over at noon to eat lunch."

"We had wonderful teachers, Sister Veronica, Sister Imelda Rose, Sister Francella and Mrs. Ross, to name a few. In fact, they were a big influence in my becoming a teacher." Doll taught at St.

Francis Catholic School in Wichita for 17 years. She now teaches at Pleasant Valley Elementary.

Michelle shared, "When I was in 8th grade we started the school carnival. We did things at school like the Living Rosary, cleaning up yards for the elderly, and getting to be cheerleaders for the basketball team."

A video was then shown to all attending. It began with Bishop Brungardt thanking everyone for bringing Christ to students in Ellinwood for generations and generations. Many alumni from St. Joseph spoke on the video about their experiences in education.

One such alumnus was Mark Hammeke, class of 1980 who's Grandmother, Frances (Sprinkler) Hammeke went to St. Joseph School. "She was first generation of the Hammeke family," says Mark "My Dad, Vernon, also attended St. Joseph's, as well as myself. Now my two daughters, Sarah, who graduated last year, and Erin, a 7th grader, both attended St. Joseph School." Lead teacher, Marlene Clayton, said, "The school has an extended family atmosphere." Many familiar names in our parish have had four generations of students in the school, the Robls, Schlochtermeyers, Roths, and Thills. Many families are third generation.



Luncheon Program Continued

Two former teachers were interviewed. Sister Francella said, "I loved St. Joseph's School the minute I saw it. Everyone was friendly, and the students were eager to learn." Sister Noella added, "The parents of the students always worked together well."

Father Klein introduced alumnus Reba Thomas, who made the wonderfully produced video about the School. Reba is a 2007 graduate of St. Joseph's and lives in Ponca City, Oklahoma. She is the Video Productions Coordinator for Schatz Strategy Group and the daughter of Rick and Lori Thomas.

The video will go on the school's Web site. It shows what we have accomplished and hope to accomplish in the future.

Our pastor, Father Klein spoke to the gathering and talked about the school being a steadfast pillar of Catholic Education and a real tool of evangelization.

"Lay people from Germany were the first teachers in the school 130 years ago," Klein shared. "Imagine how it must have been to leave Germany and come to Kansas. You don't have to ask why. They were faith filled people."

"Imagine the sacrifice of the early settlers here who passed on their Catholic faith to their families. I can't testify to that, but I can testify to the faith and sacrifice that so many families have poured into this school today and they continue to do so."

Father remarked, "I was amazed as I



Father Klein visits with Dan and JoEllen (Klepper) Stremel of Dodge City during the school tour. They both graduated in 1977. Dan is Financial Director for the Catholic Diocese and JoEllen works for an Optometrist.



wondered over to the parish hall before the German Buffet in November, for the making of the sausage. There were grandfathers, fathers, sons and students, all sharing in the work." The German Buffet, held each year, is the biggest money making fundraiser for the School. All parents and students are on hand to make it a success.

One of Father's final remarks was to say, "What a blessing so many have returned to help us celebrate. You are the



biggest advertisers we can have for the future of our school."

A beautiful brochure, which was shared with all, reads, "For over 130 years, we have provided the people of central Kansas with an education, second to none, deeply grounded in the Catholic Faith. Unlike most private schools, this has never been done through tuition for parish families. Rather, we rely upon the generous support and concern of parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends.



To Make You Smile

The young lady, whose husband was in Vietnam, was sitting in a cafe with her small son. She picked up a wishbone, held it so the boy could take the other end. They tugged, it broke; he had won. Noticing the disappointed look on her face, he put his hand on her shoulder and said: "Don't worry, Mom, I made the same wish you did."



The Math teacher gave this assignment to the class: Write a real-life story to go with this number sentence. Also, solve the problem. 24 plus 9 equals _____. Ella gave this answer: Ella got on 24 of her moms nerves. Soon she got on 9 more. How many total nerves did Ella get on? 33 nerves.



Lead teacher, Marlene Clayton, talks with Ethan Linden, class of 2006, who is attending K-State and studying Mechanical Engineering, and Betsy Snell, class of 2012, who is a senior and will be going to KU next year. Ethan is the son of Bill and Kay Linden, and Betsy is the daughter of Tom and Jolene Snell. Ethan commented that he has lots of memories of first playing basketball in the 4th grade.

We Remember

Father Henry Hildebrandt

The Parish Priest in Ness City, Father Henry Hildebrandt, died on March 26, on his 61st birthday.

Father Henry received a Papal mandate by Pope Francis in 2016, designating him a Missionary of Mercy during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

In a recent article in the Diocesan Paper, Henry wrote: "How can we live on a planet with people who are poor and who are struggling in a multitude of ways, and not reach out to them somehow?"

"How can we live in a world where people are fleeing war, and not try to do something for them? If we have experienced the love of our Father, how can we not share it?"

Fr. Henry was a priest for 29 years, and was ordained in Pratt. He also served as Assistant Pastor at St. Rose in Great Bend in the late 80's.

Divine Mercy Novena

The Novena to the Divine Mercy started Good Friday morning at 8:45. It was prayed at that time through Saturday within the Octave of Easter.

Each of the nine days had a different meditation prayed by the group gathered and followed with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, recited on rosary beads.

Both St. Mary's of Holyrood, and Prince of Peace Parish at St. Patrick's, Great Bend, held Divine Mercy Sunday prayer services in the afternoon.



Men of the parish, Mark Panning, John Billinger, and Ryan Komarek bring up the cross for adoration during the services on Good Friday. Father Pascal Klein, in his homily, shared that being March 25th this year, it was also the day we would have celebrated the Annunciation, the day the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her she would be the Mother of God. It would be 84 years from now when we would witness this again. Father remarked that unless you are very, very young today, you will not experience this again.



Father John, former pastor, spends part of Easter Sunday in Ellinwood, enjoying dinner and a game of soccer with the Hammeke Clan: Angie Hammeke, Clint and Karrie Hammeke and family, Mark and Lori Hammeke and girls, and Matthew and Amy Hammeke family and children. You will remember that it was a beautiful sunny day perfect for Father's favorite pastime, playing soccer.



Graduation

Six 8th Graders will graduate from St. Joseph School on May 15, at the 8 a.m. Mass. They are Kyler Doll, David Hammeke, Kennedy Harrington, Kaitlyn Panning, Kelly Ann Williams and Luke Wondra.

The mosquito is a small creature designed by the Creator to make us think better of flies.

PSR Breakfast

The high school PSR students will be offering a Breakfast, following Mass on May 22 in the parish hall. Money will go towards their upcoming Mission trip.

Food Bank Needs

At the present time the needs of the food bank are as follows: chili beans, canned potatoes, tomato sauce, dry beans, applesauce, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, pineapple, gravy mix, pickles, crackers, hamburger helper, cake mix, vegetable oil, baking powder, tissues, and especially sugar and jelly. Your continued support is appreciated.

Kindergarten Discovery

On Wednesday evening, April 6 at 7 p.m., St. Joseph School held an informational meeting for pre-kindergarten age children and their parents. If you were unable to attend and have questions, please call the school office at 620-564-2721.

"My Roses!" said the King. And his gardener smiled.

Family of Past Parishioners Remembered

For those of you who remember Mat and Mary Robl, their oldest daughter, Lorene Phyllis Gnaedinger, 83, passed away on March 4, 2016 in Florida.

also

Frank Robl, Jr. son of Frank & Gertrude Robl passed away on March 14 in Texas.

School's Out

On May 11th, students of St. Joseph School will have their last day of school for this year.

"Mother Teresa, is there something that ordinary people can do to make the world better?"

"Yes, Smile at one another."

To Be Ordained

Mark Brantley and Jacob Schneider will be ordained transitional Deacons on Saturday, May 21st, and Juan Salas, who spent a summer with us, will be ordained a Priest on Saturday, June 4. Keep them in your prayers.



Beautiful Easter arrangement adorns the gathering space in back of church.



Lorene Schartz, left, visits in her home with lead teacher, Marlene Clayton, and four upper grade girls on a recent Wednesday morning. As part of a school project, the girls made chocolate chip cookies with Lorene's help. Lorene shared with the girls and showed pictures while they enjoyed the warm cookies. On the right are Kennedy Harrington, 8th grade, Daphne Doll, and behind, Wittney Hammeke and Ashtin Klepper, 7th grade.

The rest of the two classes enjoyed visits with Ruth Corbett where they played Chinese checkers, and Jeanie Strobl where they talked about art.

Power of Prayer

Someone has said if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during World War II, an adviser for Churchill organized a group of people to pray for their country?

They would drop what they were doing every day as a prescribed hour for one minute to pray collectively for the safety of England, its people and peace.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America if you would like to participate. Every evening at 9 p.m., Eastern Time (8 p.m. Central) (7 p.m. Mountain) (6 p.m. Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation.

If you know anyone else who would like to participate, please pass this along. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

Sarah Laughed

Genesis 18:12

Do you remember the last time you had a really good laugh?

It could be the laughter of joy at the news, or it could be the laughter of incredulity at such an outlandish prediction. Laughing brings a freedom and lightheartedness. Jesus has a sense of humor as well. When he and Nathanael first meet, Nathanael quips, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Jesus shoots back, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him!" He seems to be in on Nathanael's joke, and he doesn't mind it at all.

Think about the week that is coming to an end. Have you laughed much? If not, look back, and see if there were moments for joy that you might have missed. And if you think you've laughed plenty, well, laughter is one thing you can't get too much of! Think about an embarrassing moment that now brings a smile to your face. And if all else fails, ask someone to tell you a good joke!

There's nothing like a good laugh to remind us that no matter what we are experiencing, we still have a lot to smile about.

"Jesus, thank you for the gift of laughter. Ignite my joy today. Help me find you in every situation today so that I can rejoice and laugh with you."

Isaiah and Lexi Steele Baptized at Saturday Mass

by Sharla Thill

Father Klein baptized Isaiah and Lexi Steele on April 2, following the 5 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish. They are the children of Kristin Steele.

Lexi wore the traditional white dress and Isaiah wore a white shirt to symbolize purity of their souls.

"St. Joseph Parish is the first Catholic home to Isaiah and Lexi," says their mother. "Both attend school at St. Joseph School where Isaiah is in Mrs. Harrington's second grade class, and Lexi is in Mrs. Doll's kindergarten class."

Kristin continued, "Isaiah made his First Communion this month with his classmates during the April 10th Mass. Both were excited to receive the sacrament of Baptism and are actively working to build on their new Catholic faith."

Maternal Grandma, Vicki Sanchez resides in Dodge City, where Kristin's dad, Al Sanchez was laid to rest in 1999. Godparent, is Jill Ritchie. Both were in attendance.

"I formerly worked at Ellinwood District Hospital, where I met Jill," says Kristin. "Her daughter Ayla Ritchie is in Lexi's kindergarten class. We have been colleagues and friends for the past four years. She graciously accepted the role of being Godparent for both."



**Isaiah and Lexi Steele
Baptized at Saturday Mass.**

Kristin currently works at St. Rose Health Center in Great Bend. She is in areas of Cardiac Rehab, Surgery, and Convenient Care.

Their Dad, Christopher Steele, resides in California, with paternal grandfather, Bill Steele. Paternal grandmother, Jamie Steele, resides in Arizona.

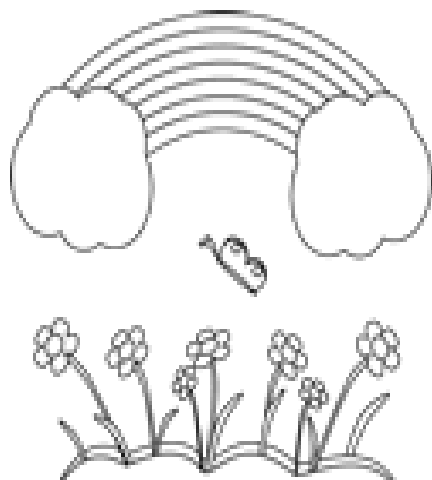
We Promised You Tulips



Yes, JoAnn Roth and Glenda Heinz promised us tulips and they did not disappoint. Lexi, kindergarten, and Remi Thomas, age 4, enjoy the flowers in front of church following Mass. They are the children of Josh and Cami Thomas.

PRAYING FOR RAINBOWS

Written by Emily Peterson (daughter of Ray & Sandi Oberle)



Recently we welcomed a girl into our home. And ever since, we've been praying for rainbows.

Honestly, she can't even begin to comprehend all that's gone on in her life that has led her to be living with us. But from what small glimpses we get from her and the book that goes with her wherever she lives, it wasn't all that good.

Yet she cries for it. Her heart aches for the only life she has ever known, even if it was all too unfair to her. She would sob to me about how much she misses it, sometimes for hours on end. There wasn't a whole lot I could say, so I would pray. And when she seemed beyond consolable, I would talk with her about God, the Great Comforter and how He hears her each time she calls.

I can't say that it clicked. As far as we could tell, this kid hadn't been to church much, if at all, and didn't seem to understand the point of prayer, much less the concept of God. But we did it anyway. Time and time again I told her that she could talk to God anytime about anything that is troubling her or thank Him for what He has done.

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7

At night we would ask her what she wanted to pray for. One of the first things she ever requested, other than that we pray for her family, was rainbows. (This shouldn't be surprising....after all, what little girl doesn't love rainbows?) But it struck me in a strange way. Granted, I have been an emotional mess ever since we got the girl because it is a sad situation and we have really seen God move in glorious ways. The Biblical account of the reason

He made rainbows is pretty amazing and so applicable.

Rainbows come after storms and are signs of God's promise.

"I have placed my rainbow in the clouds as a sign of my promise until the end of time, to you and to all the earth." Genesis 9:13

I know that should she understand in the slightest the implications of that, she would probably see it as this being her storm. That being taken away from her family and the only life she has ever known and being placed with total strangers who do everything differently is the "storm" of her life. I suppose in a way we are.

But instead I would like to think of us as the rainbow. That through God's grace in this place, she can come to know what true love and care looks like. That she can see the storm that her life has been thus far and come to know she is worth far more than whatever things this world has thrown her way.

She is terrified of storms. Yet she doesn't understand that the situations surrounding her life have been some pretty bad weather. Or maybe she does. I don't really know. But I know this...every day this girl asks me to pray for rainbows.

I know it is the desire of her heart to go "home" to be with her mommy. I hope to be able to see that happen. Realistically, I don't know if that day will ever come. If it does, I pray she be kept safe from the storm. And if it doesn't, I pray we can help her find that hypothetical pot of gold at the end of her rainbow so that she can feel the Son shine upon her shoulders in whatever her next step will be.

***Live
Laugh
Love
& Pray***



2016

Clafin Senior



Michael James Ryan

Michael James Ryan is a senior at Central Plains High School and is a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Clafin. He is the son of Jim and Lisa Ryan. His grandparents are Eugene and Shirley Hoelscher (Great Bend), Mary Ryan and the late Francis Ryan (Solomon).

While in high school, he has been involved in Football, Basketball, Tennis, FFA, NHS, PSR, and Band. His accomplishments include National Honor Society, Football State Championship Team, 2nd Place State Basketball Team, 2nd Place State Tennis Doubles, All-League & All-District & All-State in Football, All-League & All State in Basketball.

Michael plans to further his education at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS. He plans to play basketball at college while earning a degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Physical Education.

His hobbies include playing football, basketball, and tennis and watching sports.

Maryssa Menges Comes For Baptism



by JoAnn Roth

Baptism is the sacrament of faith, erases effects of original sin, necessary for our salvation, and gives the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, council, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Godparents are asked "What do you ask of God's Church?" and they respond "Faith!"

On Sunday, April 10, Maryssa Lee Ann Menges was Baptized at St. Joseph Church by Father Terrance Klein. *Luke 3:16* "...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Maryssa was given a pre-baptism anointing with the oil of Catechumens followed by baptism from the water of the Easter font. Her baptism candle was then lit from the Easter candle and she was anointed with the sacred perfumed



Maryssa and her great grandmother, Gerry Menges, share a moment before her Baptism .

chrism oil. Her extended family witnessed the sacrament and gathered after for a celebration and a special cake made by her grandmother, Pam (Dave) Wirth.

We welcome Maryssa into the Catholic faith and as a member of St. Joseph Church.

What Love Means to Young Children!

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.." Rebecca, age 8.

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissie, age 6.

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri, age 4.

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny, age 8.

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka, age 6. (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet).

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." Noelle, age 7.

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine, age 5.



Maryssa is pictured with Fr. Klein, Michael Menges, brother, Katrina Wirth Menges, mother, and Mikayla Menges, sister.



Her sponsors are her aunt Kari (Dalton) Wirth, of our parish, and aunt Pamela (Brenden) Wirth, of Mankato.

ICC Ministry Schedule May, 2016



Sunday, May 1, 2016 - 10am

Lector: Kent Praeger, Kathy Krier
 EM: Karlynn & Fred Beck, Rita Stueder,
 Dawnya Hickel, Peggy Feist
 Greeters: Ann & Alan Beck
 Gifts: Jane & Jon Oeser
 Servers: Lexi and Lawson Oeser
 Sacristan: Dee Krier



Saturday, May 7, 2016 - 5pm

Lector: Nancy Schartz, Sue Weber
 EM: Doris Feist, Bridget Letourneau,
 Nancy Liebl, Sr. Andre, Joan Miller
 Greeters: Ryan Harrison Family
 Gifts: Doris & Gene Feist
 Servers: Anthony & Jacob Oberle
 Sacristan: Joan Miller

Sunday, May 8, 2016 - 8am

Lector: Richard Rugan, Brady Rugan
 EM: Carmen Johnson, Dan Demel, Jim Oberle,
 Laurie Feist, Sheri Holmes
 Greeters: Sue Hammeke, Margaret Frisbie
 Gifts: Lisa & Jim Ryan
 Servers: Emily & Devin Ryan
 Sacristan: Judy Oberle



Sunday, May 15, 2016 - 10am

Lector: Janell Hubbard, Laura Schlessiger
 EM: Barbara Musgrove, Rita Stueder, Carla & Todd Liebl, Sr. Andre
 Greeters: Don Hickel Family
 Gifts: High School Graduates
 Servers: Delaney Rugan, Callie Zink
 Sacristan: Dee Krier

Saturday, May 21, 2016 - 5pm

Lector: Toby Holmes, Nancy Schartz
 EM: Carol Herter, Joan Miller, Dawnya Hickel,
 Bridget Letourneau, Kathy Krier
 Greeters: Connie & John Miller
 Gifts: Cathy & Alan Kirmer
 Servers: Jacob Oberle, Tyler Holmes
 Sacristan: Sr. Andre

Sunday, May 22, 2016 - 8am

Lector: Nancy Liebl, Janet Hitschmann
 EM: Karlynn & Fred Beck, Jim Oberle,
 Bill Thomas, Nancy Liebl
 Greeters: Bobette & Marvin Kirmer
 Gifts: Aaron & Kirk Schneweis
 Servers: Brianna Hickel, Anthony Oberle
 Sacristan: Judy Oberle

Sunday, May 29, 2016 - 10am

Lector: Lexi Broeker, Lori Koester
 EM: Rita Stueder, Carmen Johnson, Doris Feist, Peggy Feist, Dan Demel
 Greeters: Richard Rugan Family
 Gifts: Kyle Kasselman Family
 Servers: Emily & Devin Ryan
 Sacristan: Joan Miller



Weekday schedule

Lector

E. Min.

5/3/16 Jane Steinert
 5/5/16 Nancy Schartz
 5/6/16 Kathy Krier
 5/10/16 Sr. Andre
 5/12/16 Jane Steinert
 5/17/16 Nancy Schartz
 5/19/16 Sr. Andre
 5/24/16 Kathy Krier
 5/26/16 Jane Steinert
 5/31/16 Nancy Schartz

Bill Thomas, Sr. Andre
 Kathy Krier, Joan Miller
 Jim Oberle, Sr. Andre
 Bill Thomas, Kathy Krier
 Kathy Krier, Joan Miller
 Jim Oberle, Bill Thomas
 Kathy Krier, Joan Miller
 Bill Thomas, Sr. Andre
 Jim Oberle, Joan Miller
 Sr. Andre, Kathy Krier



**May 2016
Daily
Eucharistic Ministers**

4 - Marcelle Hinz, Kirk Hroeger
6 - Gerry Minges, Angie Harnacko
11 - Shari Thill, Glenda Heins
13 - Joy S., JoAnn Roth
18 - Kirk Hroeger, Marcelle Hinz
20 - Hope Joiner, Angie Harnacko
25 - JoAnn Roth, Glenda Heins
27 - Joy S., JoAnn Roth



Grocers

Saturday - 8:00pm

Verna Hobl
Paul Hushka
Yvonne Strecker
Frances Horne
Connie Potts
Cotton Potts

Sunday - 8:00am

David & Kadi Gonzalez
Josh Komarek
Janie Komarek
Charlie & Denise Joslin

Sunday - 10:00am

Tom & JoAnn Raeli Family
Jeff & Sandy Roth
John & Marlene Clayton

Weekday Services Week of May 1 - Emily Troyer, Britton Dutton

May 7 & 8

Lector 1
Lector 2

8:00am Ser.

Mass at Clarissa

10:00am Ser.

Linda Schiba
LeRoy Thill

Eucharistic Ministers



Marcelle Hinz
Shari Thill
Mel White
Lori Hilleinger
Jana Schlochtermeier

Accompanist/Cantor

Servers:

Maegen Dell
Kathryn Hoch

Weekday Services Week of May 8 - Daniel Harnacko, Kennedy Harrington

May 14 & 15

Lector 1
Lector 2

8:00am Ser.

Wiley Harrington
Karen Mitchell

8:00am Ser.

KHS Student
KHS Student

Eucharistic Ministers

Jane Hinz
Steve Hinz
Joan Klopfer
Joe Schalte
John Clayton

Glenda Heins
Angie Harnacko
Joy Schlochtermeier
Paul Schlochtermeier
Curtis Wolf

Accompanist/Cantor

Servers

Shana Weber
Coby Heins

KHS Student
KHS Student

Weekday Services Week of May 15 - Grant Klopfer, Madelyn Schlochtermeier

May 21 & 22

Lector 1
Lector 2

8:00am Ser.

Mass at Clarissa

10:00am Ser.

Derek Joiner
Larry Drees

Eucharistic Ministers



Jalayne Hyling
Ed Schlochtermeier
Kirk Hroeger
Kent Roth
John Roth

Accompanist/Cantor

Servers

Jenna Della
Kayanna Harnacko

Weekday Services Week of May 22 - Marlene Harnacko, Daglene Dell

May 28 & 29

Lector 1
Lector 2

8:00am Ser.

Steve Hilleinger
John Clayton

8:00am Ser.

Sharon Galt
Kent Roth

Eucharistic Ministers

Josune Haglig
Hope Joiner
Willa Minges
Jana Wirtz
Melanie Zink

Lori Harnacko
Rick Thomas
Lori Thomas
Sharon Galt
Catherine Strecker

Accompanist/Cantor

Servers

Karen Harrington
Caden Brown

Cody Zink
Kylor Dell

Weekday Services Week of May 29 - David Harnacko, Whitney Harnacko

St. Joseph May 2016



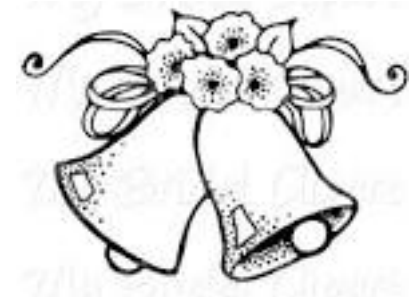
Happy Anniversary



1	Logan Panning	20	Josh Komarek	2	Vernon & Louise Hammeke
3	Ron Strecker	18	Rachel Strecker	3	Dennis & Marla Habiger
	Rick Thomas	19	Jared Oelke		Roy & Elaine Schlochtermeyer
5	Gilbert Schartz		Cody Zink	7	Robert Joy & Marcella Birzer
	Jenna Snell	21	Jamie Rowan	9	Charles & Marita Elliot
	Grant Klepper	22	Kent Robl	10	David & Mary Tudor
6	Jim Collins		Nicklaus Strecker	11	Bill & Tracy Williams
	Catherine Hammeke	23	Craig Robl	12	Kevin & Gina Clair
	Christopher Rugan		Marc Waite	16	Mike & Kala Moeder
7	Dan Zink		Lorraine Petz		Mathew & Amy Hammeke
8	Jeslyn Klepper	24	Kynlee Doll	20	Robert & Grace Anderson
9	Matt Hammeke	26	Lauren Thill	21	Jesse & Audrey Lewis
11	Ashley Bayer		Keaton Lewis	24	Ryan & Patricia Panning
	Vivian Klepper	28	Steve Hammeke		Terry & Karla Siefers
12	Maurice Schreck	29	Paul Huschka	26	John & Tammy Sturn
	Monica Hammeke		Kala Moeder	28	Steve & Lori Billinger
13	Melissa Tudor		Father Charles Mazouch	30	Leon & Linda Sobba
15	Isaiah Steele	30	Julie Clemons	31	Leon & Marilyn Reichuber
			Brent Manning		
		31	Mike Moeder		

Immaculate Conception May 2016

1	Toby Holmes	20	Perry Krier	23	Peyton Dody
2	Kevin Dolechek		Denise Schmidt		Erika Gisick
3	Mary Rooney	21	Larry Hekele	24	Jamie Liebl
5	Bernice Barnes		Tate McKenna		Janel Rugan
6	Madeline Demel		Janae Ryan	26	John Miller
8	Paxton Dody	22	Darlene Bortz	29	Lexi Broeker
	Callie Zink		Candra Miller		Pauline Oberle
9	Sydney Feist		Michelle Strube	30	Jacob Oberle
	McKinley Harrison		Nancy Wirth	31	Kendra Oberle
	Janell Hubbard				Abby Stueder
11	Fred Beck				
	John Ross Zink				
12	Barbara Musgrove				
14	Peggy Feist				
	Angela Liebl				
	Brenda Pflughoeft				
	Jane Steinert				
15	Janae Hekele				
18	Patricia Kirmer				
19	Victor Oberle				
	Robert Reif				



Happy Anniversary

5	Robert and Nancy Beck
15	Richard and Mary Lou Letourneau

Please inform the Parish Office if there is an error, or if a name has been omitted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2016  Ascension of the Lord						
1st Sun. of Easter Mass 8:00am [E] Mass 10:00am [C]	2 Mass 10:15am Vchro	3 Mass 8:15am [C]	4 Mass 8:15am [E]	5 Mass 8:15am [C]	6 First Friday Mass 8:15am [E] Mass 10:00am [C]	7 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [C]
Ascension Mass 8:00am [C] Mass 10:00am [E] CPE Graduates honored at mass.	9 Mass 10:15am Vchro Pastoral Council 7pm [C]	10 Mass 8:15am [C]	11 8 th End of School Year Mass 8:15am [E]	12 Mass 8:15am [C]	13 Mass 8:15am [E]	14 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [E]
15 Pentecost Mass 8:00am [E] 8 th Graduation Mass 10:00am [C] CPE Graduates honored at mass.	16 Mass 9:30am Hospital Finance Council Mtg. 7pm [E] Conf. Mtg. 8pm [C]	17 Mass 8:15am [C]	18 Mass 8:15am [E]	19 Mass 8:15am [C]	20 Mass 8:15am [E]	21 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [C] Miller/Christian sen wedding [E]
22 Most Holy Trinity Mass 8:00am [C] Mass 10:00am [E]	23 Mass 10:15am Vchro Conf. Mtg. 7:30pm [E]	24 Mass 8:15am [C]	25 Mass 8:15am [E]	26 Mass 8:15am [C]	27 Mass 8:15am [E]	28 Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5:00pm [E] Steele/Bronce wedding [E]
29 Corpus Christi Mass 8:00am [E] Mass 10:00am [C]	30 Mass 10:15am Vchro	31 Mass 8:15am [C]				

St Joseph Catholic Church
Immaculate Conception Church
214 North Main
Ellinwood KS 67526

Change Service Requested



2016



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
Ellinwood, KS 67526

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER



9AM to 1PM
Sunday, May 22nd
St. Joseph Parish Center

Free Will Offering Accepted.
All proceeds go towards missions and conference.

