

150 Years

1868-2018



# **St. Joseph Catholic Church History**



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# Pastors, Associates, and Deacons

**Oct. 1864-July 1868-** Fr. Anton Kuhls, Pastor

**July 1868-April 1873** - Fr. Rudolphus Deustermann, First Resident Pastor

**April 1873-July 1876** - Fr. John Pichler, Pastor

**July 1876-Sept. 1884** - Fr. Albert Weikmann, Pastor

**Sept. 1884-May 1890** - Fr. William Schellberg, Pastor

**May 1890-Sept. 1891** - Fr. Joseph Hardes, Pastor

**Sept. 1891-Aug. 1892** - Fr. John Bollweg, Pastor

**Aug. 1892-Jan. 1893** - Fr. John Eummelan, Pastor

**Jan. 1893-March 1893** - Fr. John Bollweg, Pastor

**March 1893-Nov. 1894** - Fr. Robert Loehrer, Pastor

**Nov. 1894-May 1906** - Fr. Frank Herberichs, Pastor

**May 1906-March 1916** - Fr. Theophilus P. Schwam, Pastor

**March 1916-May 1937** - Fr. Hugh McDevitt, Pastor

**May 1937-July 1938** - Fr. M.J. Price, Pastor

**July 1938-Dec. 1951** - Msgr. Clarence A. Bradley, Pastor

Associates: Fr. Dennis Sculley, Fr. Paul Grueter (1950-52)

**Dec. 1951-Aug. 1966** - Fr. Leo Lutz

Associates: Fr. Joseph Burdsall, Fr. Francis Maher, Fr. Frank Bodner,  
Fr. Bernard Schraeder, Fr. Charles Andalikiewicz, Fr. Frank Horvat,  
Fr. Henry Forge

**Aug. 1966-July 1979** - Fr. William Dolan, Pastor

Associates: Fr. John Erickson, Fr. Bernard Schraeder, Fr. Donald Cullen,  
Fr. Gary Christ, Fr. Thomas Punzo

**July 1979-July 1983** - Fr. Thomas Santa, Pastor

Associates: Fr. Joseph Okoye, Fr. Paul Welch, Fr. John Wisner

**July 1983-July 1991** - Msgr. William T. Curtin, Pastor

Associates: Fr. Ken Kelly, Fr. Francis Hund, Fr. Jamie Forsythe,  
Fr. Robert Everard, Fr. Chris Ruhlman, Fr. David Artzer,  
Fr. Gary Applegate

**July 1991-Sept. 1996** - Fr. Anthony J. Lickteig, Pastor

Associates: Fr. William Fisher, Fr. Dennis Schmitz

**Oct. 1996-July 2005** - Msgr. Robert N. Bergman

Associates: Fr. Ron Livojevich, Fr. William Bruning, Fr. Richard McDonald,  
Fr. John Fiala, Fr. Ron Cornish, Fr. Tom Cawley

**July 1998-July 1999** - Deacon Brian Schieber

**July 2005-July 2006** - Msgr. Raymond Burger, Pastor

Associate: Fr. Bruce Ansems

**July 2006-July 2018** - Fr. Michael Hawken, Pastor

Associates: Fr. Brandon Farrar, Fr. John Riley, Fr. Scott Wallisch,  
Fr. Quentin Schmitz, Fr. Daniel Stover

**July 2011-Present** - Deacon Tom Mulvenon

**July 2018-Present** - Fr. Scott Wallisch, Pastor

Senior Associate: Msgr. Michael Mullen

# *St. Joseph Over the Years*



**1864-1894**



**1906-1967**



**1971-2018**



**Renovation of  
1971 church  
building, 2018-  
present day**

# *The History of St. Joseph Catholic Church*

*Shawnee, KS*

*1868-2018*

***“On July 28, 1868, the first resident pastor of St. Joseph Parish was installed, and our parish was born! . . . A new presence of the ‘Body of Christ’ began in Johnson County. St. Paul in his first letter to the parish at Corinth reminds them, and us, ‘You, then, are the Body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it.’ - 1 Cor. 12:27” (Fr. Tony Lickteig, Pastor at St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph News & Views, July 25, 1993, on the occasion of the Church’s 125th anniversary.)***

*(Included in this history are excerpts from “History of St. Joseph Church, 1868-1968,” compiled by Mrs. Henry J. LeCluyse.)*

It was through the mission efforts of Fr. Anton Kuhls that St. Joseph Catholic Church was organized. Father Kuhls celebrated Mass for the few Catholics in the area in the home of Peter Wertz, a block east of the present site of the church. In 1868, he began a series of religious instruction in the Shawnee Public School Building. The group increased in numbers and Father Kuhls proposed the building of a church, which the men willingly donated money and services to its construction.

Fr. Rudolph Deustermann became the first resident Pastor on July 28, 1868. When more than 30 persons attended Sunday Mass, amazement was expressed at the immense crowd. Forty-five cents was considered the average collection.

On April 1, 1873, Fr. Deustermann turned the parish over to Fr. John Pichler. Fr. Albert Weikmann was assigned Pastor on July 16, 1876. During his time as Pastor, the rectory was remodeled and a mission church constructed in Lenexa.

Fr. William Schellberg was Pastor from September 16, 1884 to May 1, 1890. Subsequent Pastors in the 1890s were:

- Fr. Joseph Hardes - May 1, 1890 to September 1, 1891
- Fr. John Bollweg - September 1, 1891 to August 1, 1892
- Fr. H. Eummelan - August 1, 1892 to January 1, 1893
- Fr. John Bollweg - January 1, 1893 to March 1893
- Fr. Robert Loehrer - March 1893 to November 1894

During Fr. Loehrer's time as Pastor, misfortune struck St. Joseph Parish. On the Feast of the Holy Epiphany, January 6, 1894, a fire of undetermined origin destroyed the small wooden church. Parishioner Felix Van Schoelandt, a Belgian immigrant, went into the burning building three times to rescue the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph statues that are now in the church, and the Blessed Mother statue that is in the Adoration Chapel. (Felix's daughter, parishioner Mary Van Schoelandt, died January 1, 2001, and his son, John, passed away December 20, 2006.) The finish on the statues was damaged by the fire with smoke marks and small fire bubbles. Several years ago, parishioner Carol Seitter, restored the Blessed Mother statue to its original beauty, Francis Chavez restored the Sacred Heart statue, and Susan Weber refurbished St. Joseph's. Susan, years later, also was able to reattach a finger on the Sacred Heart statue that a child had pulled off!

After the fire, services were held in the school. Construction of a new church was begun immediately, and was completed during the pastorate of Fr. Frank Herberichs, November 1894-May 1906. The new church is still being remembered today as the "old stone church."

On May 1, 1906, Fr. Herberichs was transferred to Lenexa, where he became the First Resident Pastor of Holy Trinity Church, and the Lenexa parish was then separated from St. Joseph Parish. Fr. Herberichs was succeeded by Fr. Theophilus P. Schwam, who remained 10 years, the longest that any priest had presided as St. Joseph's Pastor.

Fr. Hugh McDevitt succeeded Fr. Schwamm as Pastor on March 12, 1915. In August 1916, a two-story stone rectory was begun on the southeast corner of the parish block, and was completed in 1918.

On October 18, 1924, Fr. McDevitt broke ground for a new church. It was completed in time for him to celebrate there on Christmas Day, 1926. A new rectory was completed in 1930.

The first native priest of the parish to be ordained to the priesthood was the Rev. Ambrose Keating, O.S.B., who received Holy Orders on May 26, 1934.

Fr. Michael J. Price took over the parish administrative duties when Fr. McDevitt became ill and died May 1, 1937. He was administrator until Msgr. Clarence A. Bradley was appointed Pastor on July 10, 1938. Monsignor Bradley was a stout believer in our schools, and though delayed by World War II, he initiated the building of a new high school that was completed in 1952.

Fr. Leo T. Lutz was assigned our Pastor in May 1952. Father Lutz led the drive to eliminate the large debt the parish had acquired in order to build the high school. During his time as pastor, work on a new grade school began in 1957, and it was dedicated on November 23, 1958.

Father Lutz also was gathering strength and resolution to begin a major project: the building of a new parish church to replace the aging stone church. During his last years as Pastor, the groundwork was laid for beginning the work of new church construction. A three-year financial campaign began in 1964. Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler approved new church architectural plans in October 1967.

The church structure, circular in shape and capable of seating 900, was to be erected on the site of the old grade school and face north. The preliminary design showed a strong effect of Vatican II Council. Pews for worshipers would encircle the altar, thus fulfilling the Church Fathers intent to involve all Catholics in the Liturgy. Niches around the perimeter walls would hold statues, and a shaft of light falling from overhead skylights would strike the altar with a brilliant blaze symbolic of the Heavenly Father's blessing on high. In Father Dolan's words: "It will be a worthy temple of worship, a fitting place of prayer and petition."

Preliminary plans were reviewed and approved by the Church Committee that included Rue Holland, William LeCluyse, Sr., Richard McAnany, Jules VanKeirsbilck, and A.J. Pflumm. The stone grade school, long a cherished landmark to three generations of St. Joseph Parish students, was demolished in 1968 and construction of the new church began. Our new church was dedicated on June 14, 1970.

Three ordinations took place in 1963. The Reverend Richard L. Burger was ordained in 1963, with his first Mass the following day at St. Joseph's. On June 9, twin brothers, the Rev. Emile McAnany and Rev. Patrick McAnany, were ordained, with their first Masses at St. Joseph's one week later.

Fr. William T. Dolan succeeded Father Lutz as pastor on August 25, 1966. Fr. Gary Christ was Associate Pastor, and Fr. Thomas Punzo an Associate in Residence. When Father Dolan became Pastor, one of his first and most important moves was to assist in the formation of the Parish Council. This met the challenge posted by Vatican II to involve parishioners in their spiritual and social life. The first formal organizational meeting of the Council was held April 4, 1967, with Harold Saul elected chairman.

In commemoration of the centennial year of St. Joseph Parish, a field Mass was held on September 15, 1968. The Mass was preceded by a procession of parishioners leaving the church grounds at 4:30pm, moving down Johnson Drive and into Bluejacket Park for the celebration of Mass. The high Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler, Father Dolan, Father Schraeder, Father Forge, and our immediate past Pastor, Father Lutz. Several priests from other parishes in the Archdiocese also attended. A picnic was held after the Mass at Grange Hall, 15799 W. 65th & Lackman Rd.

The Mass was the focal point of the centennial observance that began with a parish mission. A "Soup-In" (meatless soup and bread) was held on Friday, September 13th in the grade school cafeteria. Soup-In was described as part of the centennial observance--a year of thanksgiving and renewal; living a life of renewal through penance. An "Old-Timers' Dinner" and a variety show were scheduled for October. A book, "History of St. Joseph Church 1868-1968," was available in October at a nominal cost to parishioners. Information in the book about the parish's first 100 years was compiled by Mrs. Henry J. LeCluyse.

When the old stone church was demolished in 1970, the stained glass windows were donated to St. Bede Catholic Church in Kelly, KS. With permission from Father Dolan, the bells from the twin towers of the church were obtained by parishioners Frank Dusselier and Julius ("Jules") Van Keirsbilck, who made donations for receiving them. Frank hung his bell under a windmill in his backyard. Inscription on the bell reads: "Powerful Protector of the Church. Protect us your servants. Presented by St. Joseph's Society, 1895." The age of the bell leads us to believe that it was originally in the second church building.

Jules kept his bell on a platform in his backyard. He said at the time he obtained it, the bell weighed more than 1,000 pounds. The inscription on it shows a manufacturing date of 1908, installed in the stone church in 1935. *(Information about the present location of the bells is covered in a later year after the deaths of Frank and Jules.)*

Fr. Thomas Santa became pastor in 1979 when Father Dolan was assigned to Sacred Heart Church in Kansas City, KS. While at Sacred Heart, Father Dolan celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on June 12, 1988, with Sacred Heart and St. Joseph parishioners joining in the event. He passed away June 17, 1992. Father Santa was with us until 1983 when he became a Benedictine Monk at St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, where he died March 10, 2013.

In 1979, Joan Greene was named our first coordinator of religious education (known then as CCD: Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) for 7th through 12th grade students attending public schools, and a high school ministry program.

Msr. William T. Curtin was assigned Pastor in 1983. During his Time as Pastor, Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begun in the basement of the church. The Adoration Chapel was named in his honor. Monsignor Curtin celebrated his 40th Ordination Anniversary January 19, 1987.

On June 4, 1983, parishioner Pete O'Sullivan, son of James F. and Margaret R. O'Sullivan, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Joseph Church. Father Pete was a graduate of St. Joseph Grade and High Schools, and seminary graduate of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. His first assignment was at Christ the King Church in Kansas City, KS.

Fr. Francis Hund served as Associate Pastor from July 1986 to July 1987, while Fr. Bob Everard was in residence. Father Francis was instrumental in the Resurrection Choir being started in 1986, when he suggested to the Liturgy Committee that we have a special choir to sing at funerals. It is a legacy that has thrived for more than 30 years.

At a Pastoral Council meeting in June of 1987, it was voted to rename several parish facilities in memory of three devout Pastors who served St. Joseph Parish. The Parish Hall was named McDevitt Hall in memory of Fr. Hugh McDevitt, who died May 1, 1937; the Legion of Mary meeting room on the south side of the hall was named Bradley Room in memory of

Msgr. Clarence Bradley, who passed away May 15, 1952; and a new meeting room, formerly the Christian Formation Office, became the Lutz Meeting Room in memory of Fr. Leo Lutz, who died February 15, 1983. An alcove in the Bradley Room was walled off to provide a storage area.

A major accomplishment during Monsignor Curtin's time as Pastor was a final payment in early 1987 of \$11,000 on the debt for the church building, which was completed in 1970. With the debt paid, the mortgage note was burned at the June 1987 Pastoral Council meeting.

Fr. Gary Applegate became St. Joseph's Associate Pastor in July 1987. Later named a Monsignor, he currently serves as Judicial Vicar for the Tribunal at the Archdiocese.

In April 1988, Gennaro Mirocke, head football coach at St. Joseph Shawnee/St. Thomas Aquinas High School since 1951, was honored with the naming of the high school football field after him. Dedication and formal naming of "Mirocke Stadium" was held in the Fall, with many of his former players attending. Gennaro, known better as "Rocky" or "Coach", also coached basketball and track; and developed a tradition that became known as "Bluestreak Football." He moved on to become head football coach at the new St. Thomas Aquinas High School when it opened in September 1988, leaving behind him at the old St. Joseph/Aquinas High School a rich trove of tradition and memories. He passed away in 1995.

Fr. Anthony J. Lickteig became Pastor in July 1991, and Fr. Chris Ruhlman was named Associate Pastor. Monsignor Curtin was transferred to the Cathedral of St. Peter in Kansas City, KS, and passed away on May 26, 1996.

Father Tony celebrated his 40th Ordination Anniversary the weekend of December 10-11, 1994; his ordination date was December 8, 1954. Fr. Chris Ruhlman was named Associate Pastor.

On July 28, 1993, St. Joseph Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary. To commemorate the event, a special Mass was held at the church on Sunday, July 25, with Archbishop Ignatius Strecker the main celebrant. Concelebrants included Bishop Marion Forst, Fr. Tony Lickteig (Pastor), Fr. Bill Fisher (Associate Pastor), former Pastors Msgr. William Curtin and Fr. Michael Santa, OSB, and several Archdiocesan priests. Following Mass, a dinner was held in McDevitt Hall and on the parish grounds. The parish newsletter, St. Joseph News & Views, highlighted the 125 years of parish history by sharing parishioner memories in a "Special Commemorative Issue 1868-1993" on July 25. In addition, a special issue of the weekly bulletin on September 21 included old photographs of the church, historical information, and pictures of past and present parish leaders. Jim Allen, Mayor Shawnee, issued a proclamation designating July 25, 1993, as "St. Joseph Day in the City of Shawnee." The July 25th Bulletin extended a special welcome to the Archbishop. Parishioner Rick Stasi designed the Bulletin and program covers with a picture of St. Joseph, our patron saint.

In 1993, Jules VanKiersbilck marked his 51 years as being head usher since 1942. He recalled moving into the parish when there were only 250 families and two Sunday Masses. At that time, each family had its own pew and that was TRADITION! (Families purchased pews back then.)

A farewell reception for Associate Pastor Bill Fisher was held in McDevitt Hall in July 1994. Fr. Dennis Schmitz became our new Associate Pastor.

Parishioner Steven Beseau, son of Mike and Mary Sue Beseau, was ordained to the priesthood in June 1995 at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Kansas City, KS. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Joseph Church at Noon the next day. Fr. Steve was a graduate of St. Joseph Grade and High Schools, and Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, IL.

Extensive remodeling of the old Parish Convent expanded the classroom space for both the Religious Education classes and St. Joseph School. The parish Adoration Chapel was moved from the church basement to the chapel formerly used by the nuns at the convent.

On Sunday, June 30, 1996, a groundbreaking ceremony for an elevator building was held at the southeast corner of the church. The elevator was dedicated on Sunday, March 16, 1997. Julius ("Jules") and Leona VanKeirsbilck were recognized at the ceremony for their financial contribution to its construction. They also were recognized for their longtime commitment and loyalty to St. Joseph Parish and the Shawnee community. Shawnee Mayor, Jim Allen, presented them with a city proclamation designating Sunday, March 16, 1997 as "Julius and Leona VanKeirsbilck Day at St. Joseph Church."

Father Lickteig was transferred to Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Wea, September 1, 1996. Msgr. Robert N. Bergman became our new Pastor on October 1, 1996 when he returned to the Archdiocese after serving five years as an official with the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vatican. Pope John Paul II promoted him to the title of Monsignor in September 1996. Monsignor celebrated his 25th Anniversary as a priest on December 17, 1996.

Fr. Ron Livojevich was St. Joseph's Associate Pastor from September 1996 until July 1997, when he became Pastor at Queen of the Holy Rosary. Before coming to St. Joseph's, Fr. Ron had a Naval career as chaplain 1975-1996, receiving numerous commendations and ribbons for his actions and conduct. Fr. Bill Bruning was our Associate Pastor from July 1997 to July 1999.

Monsignor Bergman was instrumental in seeing that other improvements were made in the church, making it more comfortable and safe for all. A ramp was constructed leading to the elevator entrance and the east door, making those entrances handicapped accessible. Exit signs over all the church doors were installed, as well as a smoke alarm system and lighting enhancement. A new sound system was dedicated on May 31, 1998. The ceremony included a blessing of a memorial plaque recognizing the contribution by Clifford Curtis in memory of his wife, Alfreda.

In December 1997, for the first time ever, the 90-ft. Colorado Blue Spruce tree in front of the Rectory was decorated from top to bottom with white Christmas lights. With the use of a cherry picker, Pat McAnany strung 3,100 lights on Saturday, December 6, and Ray Klein finished off with an additional 1,500 on the following Monday, just in time for a lighting ceremony that night after the Holy Day Mass. Benjamin McAnany (Pat's son) threw the switch for the lighting. The Adult Choir led those in attendance with Christmas caroling during the ceremony.

In the summer/fall of 1998, the 68-year-old parish Rectory underwent extensive repairs and remodeling. Original wiring and plumbing were replaced; solid oak floors, window sills and trim were refinished, and new kitchen appliances were installed. The priests' living areas were made more modern and functional. The entire interior, from the upper floors of living/bedrooms to the first floor kitchen, dining area, living room and sitting rooms were restored to a more livable structure that would be the pride of St. Joseph's for decades. The renovation was made possible by generous donations from the parishioners and from the 1997 and 1998 Extravaganza fundraisers.

St. Joseph Grade School celebrated its 125th anniversary during the 1998-99 school year. The students and staff observed the anniversary in several special ways throughout the year, including historical notes in the school bulletin recalling facts and events from the parish's and school's past, and special displays developed by parents, students, and school staff. A banner was placed on the east side of the school building calling attention to the event, and a photograph of the entire student body and school staff in a "125" formation on the school grounds. Archbishop James Keleher concelebrated a 125th Anniversary Mass on Friday, January 29, 1999, during Catholic Schools Week. Several school alumni were involved in the service.

Deacon Brian Schieber was at the parish July 1998 to July 1999, and was ordained a priest on May 29.

A first for St. Joseph Church was the ordination of three men to the priesthood on the same day, Saturday, May 29, 1999. Through the imposition of hands by Archbishop James P. Keleher, Deacons John Pilcher (St. Joseph parishioner, son of Ray and Bertha Pilcher), John Hullinger (Holy Cross parishioner), and Brian Schieber (Queen of the Holy Rosary, Wea parishioner) became priests. Fr. Pilcher was a graduate of St. Joseph Grade and High Schools, and Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, IL. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Joseph's on Sunday, May 30.

Fr. Richard McDonald was our Associate Pastor from July 1999 to July 2001, when he was assigned to the Casa Manta Maria in Rome, Italy at the Graduate House of the North American College for further studies.

The year 1999 closed with a New Year's Eve celebration in McDevitt Hall and a special Mass to mark the passing of the century.

Under Monsignor Bergman's leadership, St. Joseph Parish was able to meet challenges posed in the new century. "Invest in the Future" campaigns raised funds to build a new St. Joseph Education Center (Grade School), to rehab the old grade school building into a Parish Service Center, and to construct a separate Adoration Chapel.

In 2001 Fr. John Fiala was named Associate Pastor. Fr. Thomas Cawley was welcomed to the parish as our Senior Associate Pastor in the summer of 2003.

Construction on a new state-of-the-art grade school building began in 2002, and Archbishop James P. Keleher dedicated the new St. Joseph Education Center on September 21, 2003. Capable of accommodating 720 students, the building consolidated grades kindergarten through 8 and religious education classes which had been spread out among three buildings on the parish campus. The facility includes 36 classrooms, including music, art, computer rooms, a large cafeteria/commons/auditorium area, and full wheelchair accessibility.

The old grade school building became the Parish Service Center in 2004, with the main floor classrooms being renovated to accommodate the Priests, Parish Office staff, Christian Formation Office staff, the Grade School Development and Accounting Office, Copy Room, and Adult and Youth Ministries.

A communications outreach of the St. Joseph Pastoral Council was launched in the Fall of 2004 with a parish website: [www.stjosephshawnee.org](http://www.stjosephshawnee.org), providing current news and information about parish ministries, groups and events, and connecting parishioners to satellite websites for St. Joseph Grade School, Christian Formation Office, and the Archdiocese.

Beth Bracken, current Director of Christian Formation and RCIA, became a member of the Christian Formation staff in 2004, being named Director in 2005. She taught Middle School Youth Ministry during the 2004-2005 school year.

Monsignor Bergman was appointed Pastor at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Kansas City, KS in July 2005, and Msgr. Raymond Burger was assigned St. Joseph's new spiritual leader. Fr. Bruce Ansems, newly ordained, became our Associate Pastor.

Monsignor Burger blessed new playground equipment at the Education Center in April 2006, along with a bench commemorating the playground donation by the Seibold family in memory of Al Seibold.

In June 2006, the parish offices moved from the Rectory to the second floor of the old St. Joseph Grade School that had become the Parish Service Center also housing the Christian Formation and Accounting offices. The northeast end of the Center became the new home for the Priests' Offices. New windows were installed on the second floor and air conditioning added to the floor as well.

Fr. Michael Hawken was appointed Pastor at St. Joseph's July 14, 2006, and newly-ordained Fr. Brandon Farrar became Associate Pastor. Monsignor Burger was named Chaplain at St. James Academy.

The Msgr. Robert Bergman Prayer Garden, adjacent to the Adoration Chapel, was completed in late summer 2006 and dedicated that Fall. Stations of the Cross line the walkway through the garden with a brick podium bearing a plaque dedicating the garden to Monsignor Bergman. The podium was erected by a team of St. Joseph Boy Scouts led by Matthew Winterhalter for his Eagle Scout project.

McDevitt Hall took on a new look in the summer of 2007. The renovation included a new lowered ceiling, new lighting, and freshly painted walls. Supporting posts were stripped off the cloth material and painted. New speakers were installed to upgrade the sound system. Restrooms on the south side of the hall were renovated to be handicapped accessible. The Bradley Room and St. Joseph Room received a fresh paint job and new carpet. Fr. Mike blessed the renovated hall before the Fall Festival dinner on September 28, 2007.

Former parishioner Br. Michael Stechmann, Order of Augustinian Recollects (O.A.R.), son of long-time parishioner Rose Stechmann, was ordained to the priesthood May 22, 2008 at Mary Star of the Sea Parish in Oxnard, California. He returned to St. Joseph's for his First Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, June 1. A reception and luncheon hosted by St. Joseph Ladies' Guild and the Pastoral Council was held after Mass.

The 140th anniversary of St. Joseph Church was celebrated on July 28, 2008. To commemorate the anniversary, an 11am outdoor Mass was held on Sunday, September 21 at Mirocke Stadium. Members of every parish organization and ministry were represented in an opening procession of the Mass that circled the field track and ended at a specially constructed altar set up on the football field. The celebration was followed by a picnic prepared by the Shawnee Council Knights of Columbus and the Ladies' Guild.

To celebrate the 2,000th Anniversary of St. Paul's birth, Pope Benedict XVI announced a Pauline Jubilee Year from June 28, 2008 until June 29, 2009. On October 16, 2008, St. Joseph parishioners participated in a prayer service led by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann to commemorate the special year dedicated to the Apostle Paul.

The two steel bells from the old stone church that were at the homes of Jules Van Keirsbilck and Frank Dusselier were donated to St. Joseph after their deaths. Jules passed away in 1990, and Frank died in 2005. The bell Jules had was refurbished by the Verdin Company and installed in a beautiful bell tower on top of the church's elevator building in August 2008. Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann blessed and dedicated the bell the evening of October 16 prior to the Pauline Jubilee Year prayer service in the church.

The bell plays the Angelus daily at 6am, 12:00 Noon, and 6pm. It also rings before the start of every Mass and tolls before funerals. Frank's bell is stored for safekeeping at McAnany Construction. When it was sent out for restoration, we were told that the bell was cracked beyond repair and would never have a good ring. There are plans to build a monument for it and place it somewhere on the St. Joseph grounds.

In addition to the bell bringing music to the parish and community, a new digital carillon system was installed. In conjunction with the bell in the tower, the carillon gives the sound of many bells. It plays seasonal hymns (based on the liturgical year) 10 minutes before Sunday Masses, and it strikes the hours from 7am to 7pm. In addition, we hear one of its many peals for weddings and other festive occasions of celebration at the church.

A major improvement on the church building in the Fall of 2008 was the replacement of the original roof with a striking new skylight, enhancing the ceiling of the sanctuary and giving parishioners shiny rays of sunlight on clear days. A special roof fund was established, and parishioners were 100% supportive in financing the project.

In the Fall of 2008, a new electronic lighted entry sign was installed in front of St. Joseph Education Center/EEC/gym off Johnson Drive, replacing the old rusted sign that had identified our parish property for many years. Text changes on the sign are computer controlled from the Parish Office, with messages including dates for parish events, daily Biblical quotes, and time and temperature reports. The St. Joseph Parish campus is identified with permanent lettering below the sign.

The beautiful landscaping around the sign was planned and completed by Boy Scout Ryan McAnany for his Eagle Scout project. The outline of the landscaped area is in the shape of a chalice.

On May 16, 2009, St. Joseph Parish hosted the Transitional Diaconate Ordination of Scott Wallisch by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann. The ordination was in preparation for his ordination to the priesthood in 2010.

The City of Shawnee embarked on a major Storm Water Drainage Improvement Project in the spring of 2009, which saw the construction of new drainage channels behind the school and a bridge between St. Joseph Education Center and the parking lot.

Our Associate Pastor Fr. Brandon Farrar was assigned Pastor at the Edgerton and Baldwin City parishes in July 2009. Fr. John Riley came to St. Joseph's as part-time Associate Pastor. Father Riley also was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese, working at the Chancery Offices for Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann.

St. Joseph School continues the legacy of quality Catholic education in our community. For the third year in a row in 2010, the school was recognized by the State of Kansas with the Standard of Excellence Award for Elementary Academic Achievement (school wide) in math, reading, and science. Our middle school students continue to place and win awards in local and State Science Olympiad competition.

The year 2010 was significant with Archdiocesan events being held at St. Joseph's. Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann hosted his first Pro-Life Forum at St. Joseph Church on January 17. It was an informative afternoon of reflection and prayer, marking the 37th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision which legalized abortion in our country.

St. Joseph Church was one of the regional sites for the Rite of Election, with area Catechumens and Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church being officially "elected" by the Archbishop for Easter Sacraments.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph held a joint meeting at St. Joseph's to collaborate on ways to better serve the needs of the poor in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 6, 2010, Msgr. Raymond Burger and Fr. Robert Pflumm concelebrated a Golden Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving commemorating their 50th Anniversary Ordinations to the Priesthood. Monsignor Burger and Father Pflumm were ordained as priests on June 4, 1960 by Archbishop Edward Hunkeler at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Kansas City, KS. They each had offered their first Mass the next day at the "old stone church" of St. Joseph Parish, home of the Burger and Pflumm families. At their Golden Jubilee Mass Archbishop Joseph Naumann and Archbishop Emeritus James Keleher were among the Ministers of the Celebration, with Archbishop Keleher the homilist. A reception was held in McDevitt Hall after the Mass.

In July 2010, Fr. John Riley was assigned Chancellor for the Archdiocese and as priest in residence at Sacred Heart Church in Shawnee. We welcomed Fr. Scott Wallisch as our new Associate Pastor. Father Scott was ordained at St. Joseph Church in May 2010, having graduated from Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, IL.

Dan Morris, a first-year seminarian attending Mundelein Seminary, served at St. Joseph Parish during the Summer of 2010.

On Friday, September 24, 2010, St. Joseph School participated in a special Mass in partnership with the Knights of Columbus, hosting a Silver Rose honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. The rose was one of three traveling from London, Ontario, Canada through the central United States and along the eastern and western seaboard. The roses were made by Mexican jewelers from fine silver. All three roses met in Texas to travel over the International Bridge into Monterrey, Mexico.

Barbara Leyden was named the Parish Director of Music and Director of the Awesome Angels and Hosanna choirs in 2010. The Awesome Angels choir was featured in the *News & Views in November 2010*, and in a *December 2010 issue of the Shawnee Dispatch weekly newspaper*. *The choir includes children from second through sixth grades, and is a combination of St. Joseph School, home-schooled, and public-school children. Padre Pio Academy children were in the choir until the Academy closed in 2018.*

Our beautiful sanctuary was further enhanced on March 7, 2011, when a new crucifix was installed above the altar. Fr. Mike Hawken blessed the crucifix at the 8:15 Mass on March 8. The Risen Christ statue that had been over the altar since the church was dedicated in 1970 is now in the St. Joseph Education Center, overlooking the main entrance to the school. The new crucifix was purchased with proceeds from the parish's annual golf tournaments.

Deacon Tom Mulvenon and his wife, Jan, were welcomed to St. Joseph Church in July 2011. Deacon Tom's duties include but not limited to assisting at the altar, reading the Gospel, preaching, baptizing, and witnessing marriages. Deacon Tom and Jan teach Marriage Preparation for engaged couples and Baptismal Preparation for new parents.

New Stations of the Cross were installed in the church in October 2011, and Fr. Mike Hawken blessed the Stations on October 21. The stations, over 100 years old, were originally in an old church no longer in existence. They were made by the Deprato Statuary Company that also made our Sacred Heart, Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph statues. The stations were constructed with plaster that is reinforced with horsehair, and each weighs 70 lbs. They were restored by Max Autenrieb Church Interior Decorating. Purchase of the stations was made possible through donations from the 2010 Golf Tournament, the Resurrection Choir, and the Religious Articles Gift Shop. Our old stations were installed at St. Joseph School.

The East Hill singers from the Arts in Prison program at Lansing performed in concert at St. Joseph's to a packed church on November 6, 2011. The chorus was joined by voices from other local choirs and volunteers to form 100 voices singing excerpts from Handel's Messiah. This was the first time that the East Hill Singers performed at a Catholic Church. The Ladies' Guild provided snacks before the concert and served dinner for the singers afterwards.

St. Joseph School was the recipient of a gift from the graduating Class of 2012--a bronze statue of our patron, St. Joseph, that is at the main entrance of the school. The statue was dedicated on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 2012. The entire school, parents of the 8th grade students, and Early Education Center students were in attendance for the blessing by Fr. Mike Hawken.

The 25th anniversary of Perpetual Adoration at St. Joseph was celebrated at the 5pm Mass on the Vigil of Corpus Christi June 9, 2012, with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Fr. Mike Hawken, and Fr. Scott Wallisch. After the Mass, altar servers and the Knights of Columbus led a procession transferring the Eucharist in a monstrance from the Church to the Chapel. A reception was held in McDevitt Hall after the anniversary celebration.

Jared Rottinghaus joined the St. Joseph Parish staff as Youth Minister in August 2012. Jared had spent a few months with the parish in 2007 on a pastoral internship while discerning a call to the priesthood. He spent three years at Mundelein Seminary, and after his seminary studies he performed ministry duties in the United States and abroad. He then made a decision to devote his vocation to youth.

An annual Corpus Christi Holy Hour and procession were jointly sponsored by our Archdiocese and the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph at St. Joseph Church on the Feast of Corpus Christi June 2, 2013. The celebration began with a Noon Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Naumann. After Mass, he was joined by Bishop Robert Finn for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Hour, outdoor procession with the Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. The Ladies' Guild served refreshments in McDevitt Hall following Benediction.

Newly ordained Transitional Deacon Jaime Zarse was assigned in July 2013 for summer assignment at St. Joseph's. He returned to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis in August for his last year of graduate studies for becoming a priest.

In July 2013 Fr. Scott Wallisch was appointed Archdiocesan Vocation Director and Chaplain of St. James Academy High School. A farewell reception showing our appreciation for his three years with our parish was held after the Noon Mass on June 30 in McDevitt Hall.

Newly ordained Fr. Quentin Schmitz was assigned as St. Joseph's Associate Pastor in July 2013. He also was appointed Associate Chaplain at St. James Academy. Fr. Quentin was ordained to the priesthood after his "graduation" from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

In September 2013, three St. Joseph Parish anniversaries were celebrated. The 145th Anniversary of St. Joseph Church was in July 2013, but a special celebration was held on September 22, combining the Church's Anniversary with the 140th for St. Joseph School and the Early Education Center's (EEC) 25th. An 11am outdoor Mass was held at Mirocke Stadium, with parish organizations and ministries represented in an opening procession of the Mass. Shawnee Mayor, Jeff Meyers, and County Commissioner, Jim Allen, gave proclamations at the end of Mass, declaring September 22, 2013 "St. Joseph Day" in the City of Shawnee and Johnson County.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a free parish picnic on the grounds between St. Joseph Education Center and the EEC, with food donated by the Knights of Columbus, Ladies' Guild and St. Joseph Education Center. The celebration was even more special with the school debt being paid off four years earlier than anticipated.

On a weekend in October 2013, Fr. Bob Hasenkamp was welcomed to St. Joseph Parish to speak at all Masses about the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (now known as Unbound Child Sponsorship). Fr. Bob is a retired Archdiocesan priest, now a representative for Unbound. The organization was founded by lay Catholics hearing the Gospel mandate to serve the poor, a mission of developing their potential, particularly through the education of children. Many St. Joseph parishioners have been long-time sponsors, and parishioners Paco Wertin, Nancy Westley, Joan Weller and Mary McCord serve on the staff. Father Hasenkamp was pleased to receive 80 new sponsorships and several one-time donations after his presentation.

Fr. Mike Hawken celebrated 20 years of his ordination to the priesthood on June 22, 2014, the Feast of Corpus Christi. A celebration dinner was held for Fr. Mike Hawken on Sunday, June 1 in McDevitt Hall and on the parish grounds, with parish organizations and many parishioners assisting in its preparation.

The duplex on the corner of King and 59th Terr. (southeast corner of the church parking lot) was purchased by St. Joseph Church and demolished in September 2014. The ground was leveled by McAnany Construction, and additional church parking space was made available.

St. Joseph Church became a pilot parish in September 2014 for "Vocation Prayer Apostolate," a ministry of the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese. Our Vocation Committee and Eucharistic Ministers who visit the sick participate in this ministry. It gives an opportunity for our sick, homebound and nursing home residents to feel part of our parish family by being included in the ministry of praying for vocations.

The East Hill Singers from the Arts in Prison Program in Lansing returned for a concert performance at the church on November 23, 2014. Arts in Prison uses the arts as a medium to help the incarcerated change their thinking, improved their decision making and imagine a more positive future. An exhibit of art and writing created in other Arts in Prison programs included items for those attending the concert to purchase. The Ladies' Guild and Mles Wholesale Meats provided snacks and hosted a dinner for the singers.

Newly ordained priest Fr. Daniel Stover was assigned our new Associate Pastor in July 2015, and also named the Assistant Chaplain at Bishop Miege High School. Fr. Quentin Schmitz left us to become Pastor of the Burlington, Westphalia, Waverly and Emerald parishes.

A Holy Rosary Rally in honor of Our Lady of Fatima was held on Sunday, February 14, 2016 at the church. All the Mysteries were prayed, followed by Benediction and the opportunity for those attending to enroll in the Brown Scapular.

“New Parishioner Meet & Greet” was started in May 2016 for parishioners who had recently registered at the parish. Lunch and social time are held in McDevitt Hall.

Seminarian Nicholas Ashmore was assigned to St. Joseph’s for the summer of 2016. Nicholas had finished his formation at Conception Seminary College and a year of study at Kenrick School of Theology in St. Louis.

Redemptorist priest, Fr. Tom Donaldson, Associate Pastor at St. Michael’s Parish in Chicago, led an inspiring 3-day parish mission at St. Joseph’s in October 2016, giving us a spiritually uplifting experience. The filled church each night was rewarding not only to Father Donaldson, but also to Beth Bracken, Director of Christian Formation, who coordinated various aspects of the mission, to Barbara Leyden, Music Director, for planning the music and directing our parish musicians who led us beautifully in sung prayer, to Deacon Tom, who served as prayer leader, to the Ladies’ Guild for providing hospitality each evening, and to many parishioners who served and ministered at the mission.

The year 2017 marked the 100th year anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal. Monthly Holy Rosary rallies were held in designated parishes throughout the Archdiocese in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. The February 2017 Rally was held at St. Joseph Church on Sunday afternoon, February 12. The Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary were prayed, followed by Benediction and the opportunity for attendees to enroll in the Brown Scapular. A Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was available for loan to parish families during the year. St. Joseph Church continues to celebrate the message of Fatima with First Saturday devotions.

On February 26, 2017, Fr. Joseph Gosselin, was at all Masses to tell the story of the good works of Unbound, formerly known as CFCA. Unbound is an international nonprofit founded by lay Catholics grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first.

Kenn Clem, studying for the priesthood at Mundelein Seminary, was assigned St. Joseph for the summer of 2017. Kenn and Nicholas Ashmore, were ordained deacons on May 19, 2018 at Holy Trinity Church in Lenexa. Kenn and Nicholas are scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood May 25, 2019.

Fr. Leandro Fossa, C.S., a member of the Scalabrini Fathers and Brothers, was welcomed at St. Joseph's the weekend of July 30, 2017, for the annual Mission Appeal. The Missionaries of St. Charles-Scalabrinians, is a worldwide religious order of priests and brothers with the specific mission to assist in the spiritual and social needs of migrants and refugees.

Priest changes that became effective July 5, 2018 included Fr. Mike Hawken being assigned Pastor of Church of the Nativity in Leawood, and Fr. Daniel Stover assigned Pastor of the parishes of Holy Angels, Garnett, and St. John the Baptist, Greeley, with pastoral responsibility for St. Rose Philippine Duchesne School, Garnett.

Fr. Scott Wallisch, Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations, joined us as our new Pastor, and continues as Co-Director of Seminarians and chaplain to the deaf community.

Msrgr. Michael Mullen, Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Kansas City, KS, was assigned to Senior Parochial Vicar and our Associate Pastor. He continues as Co-Director of Seminarians for the Archdiocese.

## ***Sacred Relics in St. Joseph Church Altar***

Relics of two saints are sealed in our church altar. The relics are splinters of bone from St. Dorensius (Martyr) and St. Virginia (Virgin Martyr), along with grains of incense and a document of authenticity. St. Virginia, also known as Virgana, was a shepherdess from the Diocese of Poitiers, France. No information can be located concerning St. Dorensius, probably because he was among the hundreds of martyrs who died for the Faith after Christ's death, and records were not made concerning their lives.

It is required for the valid consecration of an altar that relics of at least one martyr be sealed into the altar. This is in keeping with the tradition of offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass over the tombs of martyrs. Relics for new altars in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas are kept locked in a vault in the Chancery of the Catholic Church Office of the Archdiocese.

## ***Sister Mary Lucille Sterbenz***

Many St. Joseph Church parishioners recall seeing in the late 1980s, early 1990s, a little nun flying by on a golf cart going and coming from the Early Education Center to St. Joseph Grade School and church. St. Joseph Church was blessed with having Sister Mary Lucille Sterbenz, OSU (fondly known as "Sister Lucille"), join the parish staff in 1988 as Facilities Manager at the new Early Education Center (EEC) in the old St. Joseph High School. She had been handicapped in her legs from having polio earlier in life, but through the answer to fervent prayers asking intercession of favorite saints for healing, she was able to stand and walk short distances. She used the golf cart for transportation around our campus facilities. Msgr. William Curtin and School/EEC Principal Leon Kremer hired her to teach, supervise, and plan at the Center. Forty-five years of service as principal and teacher in several Archdiocesan schools gave her invaluable educational experience to be on the EEC and other parish offices staff.

Leon, along with parishioners Jim and Margaret Hutchinson, constructed and equipped two rooms in the EEC for Sister Lucille's living quarters. She enjoyed living close by the little ones at the Center to be their teacher. However, one night a robbery occurred when someone broke into the EEC close to her rooms. The police informed her that she could not live there because of the danger risks, so her good friends Bernie and Carol Seitter took her into their home.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities at the EEC, Sister worked in the St. Joseph School Development Office to help plan various fundraising projects for the EEC and other teachers' projects. She taught fourth grade CCD for the Religious Education Directors, Marge Sosna and Kristie Altman, and was spiritual director for the Legion of Mary.

Sister Lucille retired in May 1995 at the age of 86, and returned to the Ursuline Motherhouse in Paola, KS, where she died on November 26, 2005.

## ***St. Joseph Cemetery***

On January 1, 1961, management of St. Joseph Cemetery on Quivira Road was turned over to the Archdiocese. This marked a milestone in parish history, since the cemetery had been a parish facility since the late 1800s.

A burial place for priests is located in the site of the Crucifixion statue where our Memorial Day Mass is celebrated each year. Presently buried there are former St. Joseph pastors Rev. Hugh A. McDevitt, Msgr. Clarence A. Bradley; former associate pastor Rev. Dennis A. J. Sculley; other area priests, Msgr. J. Kenneth Spurlock, Very Rev. Anthony Dornseifer, Rev. Julian Thienpont, Rev. Frank Schepers; and buried close to the site is Rev. Lawrence Zeller, Jr.

America's millions of babies were remembered at a solemn ceremony on October 26, 1997, when Shawnee Knights of Columbus Council 2332 dedicated a granite monument to their memory at St. Joseph Cemetery. The ceremony was conducted by Archdiocesan of Kansas City, Kansas Auxiliary Bishop Marion Forst, amid the pageantry of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus honor guard. The memorial is in the middle of the cemetery, a short distance north of the Crucifixion statuary. Mike Reichmeier, Council Grand Knight, and Tom Brungardt, Council Project Committee Chairman, collected hundreds of memorial petitions submitted by concerned pro-life advocates, including respect life messages from school children, that were enclosed within the wall as a permanent memorial and prayer that pro-abortion legislation may be reversed.

## ***Vocations***

In the Autumn of 2009, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann met with representatives of the four Serra Clubs in the Archdiocese, and encouraged them to work with the Archdiocesan Vocations Office in establishing, guiding, and assisting parish vocation committees. Long-time parishioner Ralph Richardson, a member of the Serra Club of Kansas City, KS, became "St. Joseph Parish ambassador to the Serra Club", and, with Fr. Mike Hawken's approval, the chairman of the St. Joseph Parish Vocation Committee. The committee started meeting in May 2010, with Serra Club members and representatives of parish organizations and ministries, that included Altar Servers, Knights of Columbus, Christian Formation, St. Joseph Grade School and Youth Ministry, in attendance.

Ralph and the Vocation Committee implemented some of the programs and events sponsored or provided by the Serra Club and have planned activities suggested by committee members. The Vocation Committee hosted a Hospitality Sunday during which they heightened vocation awareness by showing the DVD "Fishers of Men", and provided an information booth at the parish Ministry Sunday. On Vocation Awareness Sunday January 9, 2011, committee members passed out and collected "31 Club" brochures at all Masses. About 200 individuals and couples signed up. The 31 Club is intended to make parishioners aware of the need for more vocations by giving them a particular date each month to pray for vocations.

St. Joseph Parish was called upon to be the host site of “Project Andrew” in 2010, with the gathering here of more than 50 young men (high school and college age) from around the Johnson County region. Project Andrew is an invitation for young men to come together with the Archbishop and their pastors to consider the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood.

At the 9:00 a.m. Mass on May 20, 2012, Fr. Mike Hawken blessed the St. Joseph Vocation Plaque on the north wall of the church. The plaque lists the sons and daughters of the parish who have answered the call to serve the Lord in the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. As part of the blessing ceremony, seminarian Daniel Stover lit a candle on the plaque that burns as a constant prayer for vocations.

St. Joseph Church is blessed with parishioners in and entering religious vocations. Parishioner Victoria Ann Lichtenauer, daughter of Charles and Dee Anna Lichtenauer, pronounced her final vows as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth in August 2005.

In June 2015, former parishioner Sr. Virginia Bohnert joined the religious order of the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati after graduating from St. Joseph High School in 1960. Br. Elias (Bryan) Thelen, SSA, son of Phil and Terri Thelen, made his First Profession of Vows in the Society of St. Augustine in August 2015 at St. Mary-St. Anthony Church in Kansas City, KS. Mark Mies and Tom Greer are in a five-year class of aspirants for the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese, attending classes on a weekend each month for 10 months each year. They will be ordained as Deacons in 2020.

In 2017, two young parishioners were accepted for formation to discern a call and vocation to the religious life. Alexa Van Lerberg, daughter of Frank and Isabel Van Lerberg, was accepted by the Sisters of the Apostles of the Interior Life, who serve at the St. Lawrence Center. She is at Texas A&M in College Station to begin formation and further studies. Ryan Geris, son of Joe and Tricia Geris, was accepted by the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS to study and discern the priesthood. In the fall of 2017, he began his studies at Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis.

The 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations was held on May 17, 2017. To supplement our communal prayers for vocations, Prayer for Vocations cards were available at the church entrances.

Bryan Thelen was accepted in May 2018 as a seminarian for the Archdiocese. He has applied for Pre-Theology studies at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

# *History of Parish Organizations*

## ***Altar Society/Ladies' Guild***

The Ladies' Guild is committed to: "Unite individual Catholic women to develop their spiritual growth and leadership potential . . . and to assist in Parish functions."

The Altar Society was originally formed in 1892 at the request of St. Joseph's Pastor to take care of the altar linens, flowers and candles at the church. The Art & Environment Committee assumed those duties when it was organized in the late 1980s to coordinate the liturgical environments. In May 1988, the ladies voted to change the name to Ladies' Guild, taking on a new purpose for their dedication and help to the parish.

Altar Society records show that 1893 was the first full year of the Society and the dues were 10¢. The first officers were elected in 1894. An interesting additional duty in the early 1900s was to call on parishioners by horse and buggy in the farming communities of Merriam and Shawnee, asking for help with the annual Labor Day picnic held at Hocker Grove Park in Merriam.

After the Labor Day picnics were discontinued around 1920, the Altar Society sponsored an annual summer old-fashioned ice cream social on parish grounds. When the parish began holding an Extravaganza event in 1989 (later becoming Fall Festival), the Ladies' Guild participated, along with all the parish organizations. The Guild still participates in this annual event as coordinator of desserts.

When the Altar Society was responsible for care of the altar linens, Donna Burger and Bernice Klein took care of the special altar cloth used for weddings and funerals. After each of those events, Donna would take the cloth home, washed it, and kept it there for the next wedding or funeral. She and Bernice would take it to the church for placing very perfectly on the altar. Donna also washed the other altar cloths when needed, since she had room to hang them to dry. Bernice, an experienced seamstress, made the altar cloths, including the one used for weddings and funerals. Margarita Stetson became the caretaker in 1988 when the Altar Society discontinued caring for them. She retired from the ministry in 2010 after 22 years, and turned the caretaking over to Karen DeLeersnyder.

In 1942, the Altar Society donated an American flag to the church where it was displayed in the nave of the old stone church.

During the late 1970s into the 1980s, St. Jude and St. Joseph Circle members cleaned the church twice a month with brooms, polish and cleaning cloths. They included Mary Borders, Joanne Goulding, Mona Hahner, Garnette Kelly, Ann Lavery, Pat Tucker, Mary Kay Riehle, Betty Ruder, Barbara Richardson, Nancy Mockler, Marge Mattione, Mary Hartman, Cheryl Reuter, Margaret O'Sullivan, Bonnie Ondick, and Doris Schnieders. Another group took care of the candle niches: Daisy Nicks, Barbara Nicks, Maryrose Scherman, Betty Wheeler, and Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Roos.

In 1984-85, Altar Society accomplished many priority items that they had approved to provide special needs at the church and to upgrade the Parish rectory. When additional kneelers were needed for large weddings, the Altar Society donated \$1,000 to the church toward the purchase of 12 new kneelers. They bought additional plant stands and wedding candelabras were purchased.

The ladies approved \$500 to replace outdated and inoperative appliances in the rectory kitchen, and Linda Bosilevac, Rosa Curry, Ann Lavery, and Carol VanWallegghem went on a buying spree to purchase several new kitchen appliances, new stoneware and glassware, table linens, and a Hoover Porta Power vacuum.

Much effort was devoted by its members and their families to the reception room at the rectory. The George and Ruth Barter family hung wallpaper, Janet Flack installed mini blinds, and Leo Mosbauer made a crucifix to accompany a new clock for the room. In Monsignor Curtin's bedroom, wallpaper was hung, coordinating carpet was laid, mini blinds installed, and an adjoining bathroom was upgraded. Jim Nachbar and his crew contributed a lot of hard work.

In 1986, St. Bridget Circle was founded by Josie Riner and interested members of the Altar Society, with a project of needlepointing cushions for the kneelers around the church, especially in front of the statues of the saints where parishioners prayed. Designs for each cover was chosen, with British wool and canvas purchased through the proceeds of a successful bake sale. Meeting each week in their homes for prayer, hospitality, fellowship, and learning the stitches of needlepoint lasted 14 years, bringing with it the joy of friendship, laughter, tears while working on those beautiful covers honoring the saints of the Church.

Designs were created by Jean Casey, Scandinavian design of music ministry; Mary Weida, wedding; Margaret Patrick, Sacred Heart; Loretta Glanville, wedding; and Josie Riner, St. Joseph, patron saint of our church. Mrs. Maurice Dunn did the finishing on the covers, and Lida and Larry Wurtenberger assembled the cushions on the kneelers.

Time and age took its toll, but the joy of those friendships and beauty of the cushions a memory of past years still lingers on.

Main events now hosted by the Guild include a Gift & Craft Bazaar that benefits parish needs, a Christ Child Shower for Patty's Closet at Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center, and the RCIA reception after the Easter Vigil Mass. In addition, a quilt made by the St. Martha Quilting Circle headed by Rosie Masters, makes a quilt every year that is included in a raffle at the annual Fall Festival, with proceeds benefiting the church.

Four circles are under the auspices of the Guild. They are of help to the Guild in supporting and organizing other parish functions that benefit not only the parish, but also the needy and charitable groups in the community.

Circles currently within the Guild :

- St. Agnes - Sews baby layette sets for area pregnancy centers and Catholic Charities.
- St. Joseph - Assists in various Parish events, including an annual plant sale with St. Joseph School. Makes free walker bags for those who need them.
- St. Martha - A quilting circle that teaches quilting and makes quilts for the annual Parish Fall Festival to benefit the Church.
- St. Therese - Meets monthly to pray for vocations, special Parish needs, and for parishioners and others who need special prayers. The following circles were disbanded due to age and loss of members, or their purpose being taken over by another organization within the parish.
- St. Ann: The original quilting circle was known as St. Ann Sewing Circle, making four quilts a year that were sold with proceeds benefiting the church from 1912 to about 1972. The quilters first met in their homes, then in the old stone church basement, and later in a room off the grade school cafeteria.
- St. Anthony: Visited at Sharon Lane Nursing Home in Shawnee, playing cards and visiting with patients.
- St. Bridget: Needlepointed the artistic special kneelers, 1986-2010.
- St. Jerome: Helped to maintain the Parish Library late 1980s to 1992.
- St. Jude: Catered various social events (wedding receptions, K of C functions, etc.), giving monetary assistance to foreign and community missions and to St. Joseph Parish special needs.
- St. Margaret: Provided food for the Johnson County Food Pantry. Sent sympathy and get well cards to parishioners.
- St. Monica: Organized in 1988 to provide spiritual and social support to young parish mothers and their families; assisted with starting and helping to maintain a nursery for many years in McDevitt Hall; sold Povitica bread to cover costs of sending infant items to Rome for distribution to Third World countries.
- St. Patrick: Originally a crafters circle organized in the early 1970s, made various items that were sold with profits specified for social and charitable events. The members also made a variety of dolls for an Extravaganza doll booth. When they discontinued making dolls in the 1980s they took on a project to sell packaged pecans in the Fall, becoming known as the "Nut Ladies."

Guild committees are Church, Community, Family, History, International, Legislative, Membership, and Publicity.

Through its affiliation with the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Women, the Guild supports international needs, such as clean water in third-world countries and the education of school-age children.

On Sunday, November 5, 2017, a luncheon celebration of the Altar Society/Ladies' Guild 125th anniversary was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Shawnee Mayor, Michelle Distler, presented a proclamation designating the day as "St. Joseph Altar Society/Ladies' Guild Day." Special recognition was given to Mildred Rieke, 100, the oldest living former President of the Guild, and Margarita Stetson, 98, the next oldest member. Past and present officers were recognized. Emily Lopez, lead consultant for the Office of Adult Evangelization for the Archdiocese was guest speaker. Her topic was "Serving with a Joyful Heart," in keeping with parish ladies serving the parish so joyfully for 125 years.

Current officers of the Guild are: Co-Presidents, Marianne Glavinich and Pat Young; Secretary, Ella Smith; and Treasurer, Linda Bosilevac.

All ladies of the parish are considered members of the Guild. Annual dues now \$15; lifetime membership, \$75.

## ***Fathers' Club***

Throughout the 1980s, members of the St. Joseph School Fathers' Club hosted shrimp dinners and other events to benefit several improvements at the rectory, church, McDevitt Hall, and the old grade school. They also used their manpower and expertise to build and renovate. The club's first president, Mike Walberg, was the "foreman" for most of their endeavors, and St. Joseph Grade School Principal, Leon Kremer, was supervisor for many of the projects the club undertook.

Their first project in 1981 was to build a library in the school basement. Then came the teachers' lounge, ceiling fans, and installing new lighting fixtures in all the old grade school classrooms. The Fathers' Club was paid \$2,500 when most of the members made up the crew of St. Joseph parishioners that cleaned Arrowhead Stadium late Sunday afternoon and evening after a football game. The payment went toward the purchase of the first Apple computers for the new computer lab in a grade school room they had renovated. The fathers also built stands for the computers.

A major project was tearing out the collapsible wall and replacing with dry walls in the area that was to the immediate right when we walked into McDevitt Hall. A storage room the club built for all the chair carriers in McDevitt Hall also involved installing dry wall. Subsequent presidents Ralph Saucedo, Ron Derks, and Mel Carney oversaw projects at the campus buildings, with Mike Walberg and Frank Pflumm as foremans. At the rectory, they took out all of the radiators and replaced all the two-prong plugs with three-prong. Three new 1st grade rooms were constructed at the school building and New playground equipment was installed at the school.

Club members remodeled a room adjacent to McDevitt Hall in 1986, the "Achievement Center", to accommodate students with special needs. When the new school was built, the room became available for parish meetings. Proceeds from a shrimp dinner in 1987 were used to purchase tables for McDevitt Hall. The men constructed an extension of the cafeteria kitchen to accommodate freezers, a refrigerator, and a large work table. In 1987-88, 80 man hours were spent by Fathers' Club members and many other volunteer parishioners replacing church kneelers that had been repaired at a cost of \$950.

The club disbanded in the early 1990s when the number of members declined because their children graduated from the Grade School, and not many fathers came forward to join.

## **Garden Club**

*Fr. Francis Hund, our Associate Pastor 1986-87, was on a little garden committee that planted flowers on the parish grounds to add to its beauty before a formal club was established. The Garden Club was organized in 1993, with a purpose of keeping the house of the Lord as tidy and beautiful as possible by maintaining the parish grounds. Danny Pflumm, a member of the Parish Council at the time, encouraged his father-in-law, Bernie Seitter, and his wife Carol, to handle the responsibility of mowing, fertilizing, and planting flowers and bushes. After retirement, Danny and Julie and their children joined them. Soon more parishioners became interested, and the Garden Club became a very active group. The club also helped the Knights of Columbus beautify their grounds by planting bushes along the west side of their hall.*

A mid-90s fundraiser by the Garden Club was building a family courtyard of bricks at the front entrance of the church. Bricks were purchased by parishioners with the names of family members engraved on them. The courtyard included a statue of St. Joseph. With the renovation of the church, the bricks will eventually be relocated in the prayer garden area on the south side of the church.

The rose garden came about when a friend of Dennis Schmitz planted the roses in 1994 as a gift, and Garden Club members Bill and Mary Ann Kasper, Mary Crary, and Don Eberle assumed its care in 1996. The Kaspers continued to handle the roses until 2008 when Mike Walberg and Don Eberle agreed to oversee them. The rose garden was eliminated fall 2016 due to the rose rosette disease.

Carol Seitter headed the Garden Club until she retired in the fall of 2006, when Carol Lust became the new leader. The members meet Tuesday evenings from May to November planting, weeding, watering and trimming. Other times Ed Cronin, Don Eberle, Gus Lickteig, and Joe Lust mow, seed, and spray the church grounds.

St. Joseph Circle donated many of the statues you see throughout the church grounds. In 2007, Susan Weber designed and made stepping stones for the area between the church and Adoration Chapel.

Trees and aging bushes in front of the church were removed after a microburst severely damaged a pear tree in 2009. Joe Lust had the idea to construct two raised beds, and the Garden Club, along with the assistance of Joe Keehn and Tim McAnany, did the work and finished the project in spring 2010. The club also refurbished the HVAC area in 2013, following installation of the new system, by adding sod and boxwoods.

Following church renovations in 2018, the front of the church, along with areas on the west and east side, were redone by contracted landscapers. The Garden Club added new bushes and plants by the ramp on the southeast side. They also revitalized the hosta garden on the west side by moving overgrown ones from the rectory & planting additional donated hostas to that area.

## ***Knights of Columbus Shawnee Council 2332***

The Shawnee Knights of Columbus Council 2332, one of the largest in the state of Kansas, was formed November 21, 1921, with a charter class of 70, most of the members were St. Joseph Church parishioners. Michael Keating served as Grand Knight, chief executive officer of the council, and Rev. Hugh A. McDevitt as chaplain.

Several prominent Shawnee citizens who served in other first year offices were Andrew J. Pflumm, Deputy Grand Knight and Financial Secretary; Adolph B. Chown, Chancellor and Trustee; Jeremiah Keating, Recorder; William Bousman, Treasurer; Robert H. Miller, Advocate; Henry Vogel, Warden; Richard Keating, Inside Guard; John Lally, Sr., Outside Guard and Trustee; and Fred Hauser, Trustee. All of these men were leaders in the city and parish during the 1920s, and their names are recognized on some Shawnee streets.

The early meetings of the Council were held in the coal bin of St. Joseph's old stone church, and continued there until a new brick Knights Hall was erected on the site of the present building. It was occupied on Columbus Day 1948, and a grand opening dance was held on January 10, 1949.

The water bill for October was \$1.38 and the light bill \$1.96. A whopping \$48 was paid for the building, and it may still be seen under the kitchen serving bar where it was reset following hall remodeling in 1967.

In 1953 the Council offered the hall free for five years to St. Joseph Parish for use as two classrooms to accommodate increasing students at its grade and high school, a number which reached nearly 1,100, overwhelming in the now long gone obsolete old stone school. During this period the Knights held meetings in cramped style in grade school desks, and there was no thought of holding dances, shrimp dinners, banquets or other social events, now a hallmark of the present Council. In 1967 the Council more than doubled the size of the hall with its current structure. The hall is named in honor of Rev. William T. Dolan, who served 26 years as council chaplain from 1966 until his death in 1992.

The Knights hold monthly meetings in the hall, and they are host to several community services. It is available for renting by parishioners and the public at nominal fees. The Council promotes worthy religious and social programs, such as pro-life, clothing collections for the needy, financial support for the handicapped, and workers for parish religious and social events. The Council also provides financial support of Catholic education. The Knights have an insurance program with the industry's highest financial security rating, offering coverage at the lowest rates obtainable.

Shawnee Council now has about 500 members. Catholic men 18 years of age and older are eligible for Knights of Columbus membership.

## ***St. Joseph News & Views***

*St. Joseph News & Views*, newsletter for parishioners, celebrated 35 years of publication in March 2017. Parishioner Ann Lavery, a Pastoral Council member 1982-84, suggested at a Council meeting that it would be helpful for the parish to have a "newspaper" or some kind of insert in our bulletin to let parishioners know about the various parish organizations and the role they played in making this a great parish. With the support of Fr. Thomas Santa, Pastor, a group of parishioners, Kristie Altman (who was named editor), Linda Bosilevac, Betty Calcara, Ed Cole, and Ann Lavery, met along with Father Santa to discuss preparing a newsletter that would include parish and parishioner information. (There is no record of those who attended, but there might have been a couple more parishioners whose names are not recalled.) The Finance and Parish Councils approved the proposal, and Volume 1, Number 1, was published March 6, 1983, titled "Newsletter, St. Joseph Church, Shawnee." It was printed on 8 ½ x 11 bond paper at the parish.

In a "Name the Parish Newsletter Contest" 33 parishioners submitted ideas, with Rich Rippey, a fifth grader at Merriam School, submitting the winning entry: *St. Joseph News & Views*.

During its past 35 years, *News & Views* has included articles and photos covering special parish events (Extravaganza/Fall Festival) St. Joseph Table, blood drives), and activities of St. Joseph School, Early Education Center, and CCD/School of Religion/Religious Education Program, Padre Pio Academy; Knights of Columbus activities ("And Now. . . The Knightly News), Altar Society/Ladies' Guild, Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, CYO, and special inspiring articles, including a monthly "Mary's Corner" column; Adoration Chapel, interviews with our priests, deacons and resident seminarians, and with parishioners active in the parish; parish ministries and novenas, vocations, ordinations of priests, and St. Joseph parish campus renovations.

Several parishioner advertisers helped finance printing the newsletter by professional printers in earlier years. It has been printed along with the Parish Bulletin since March 2006. *News & Views is a valuable record of St. Joseph Parish history.*

The *Parish Pulse*, a forerunner of *News & Views*, was prepared in the late 1960s by the St. Joseph Parish Lay Council. While the Editor's name is not listed or recalled, articles and photos were requested to be sent to Joan Van Wallegghem, and writers included Evelyn Boutte, Peggy Clabaugh, Mike Fern, Mary Catherine Garrett, Ben Nicks, Bill Nicks, Frank Peterson, and Vi Schnieders.

### ***News & Views Editors***

March 1983-June 1987	Kristie Altman
July 1987-Sept. 1988	Barbara Bichelmeyer
Oct. 1988 thru Oct. 2012	Linda Bosilevac & Betty Calcara
Dec. 2012 thru Jan. 2014	Rosie Rieke & Parish Office Staff
Feb. thru Aug. 2014	none issued
Sept. 2014- currently	Betty Calcara & Linda Oneslager

*Note: Kristie Altman and Barbara Bichelmeyer were known as "Copy Editors," checking and editing articles. The lead position to plan and compile feature articles, and prepare the layout, was changed to "Editor" in October 1988. Margaret ("Maggie") Nowak, English teacher at St. Joseph School, was "Copy Editor" for a few months, with Judy Guarr succeeding her in 1989, a position she still holds. Judy prepared the layout in the newsletter's early years.*

### ***Padre Pio Academy***

In 2003, Padre Pio Academy moved to the top floor of the old grade school building. The Academy was a private, independent Catholic school that provided the Classical curriculum. Classical education depends on a three-part process of training the mind often referred to as the Trivium. The Trivium consists of the Grammar Stage, the Logic Stage and the Rhetoric Stage. Education based on these stages has existed since the times of the ancient Greeks. A further element in the Classical approach to schooling is the blending of subjects as much as possible. This blending grows with the child as he progresses through the 3 stages of the Trivium. With this foundation, these students are able to go to high school and college, as it provides them with the tools to discern their future vocational direction.

The Academy had its beginnings in 1999 in an empty building owned by Dick and Cecilia Sandifer off of I-35 & Lamar. After a 30-day novena to St. Joseph, they found out that they were invited to become part of the St. Joseph community. For 15 years in the old St. Joseph school building, hundreds of children walked through their doors seeking the education the Academy provided. Padre Pio Academy closed its doors at the end of the 2018 school year.

## ***Parish Library***

A Parish Library was first opened in 1985 by Elaine Galliard, Director of Religious Education, in the Legion of Mary meeting room adjacent to McDevitt Hall with only a few books. Her first volunteers were Jo Kitts and Joan Van Walleghem, who prepared books for shelving and typing hundreds of cataloging cards, and Ed Cole, Lynn Cole, Linda McClanahan, Carolyn Messbarger, Shirley Schmitt, and Kim Steil, who were library attendants when it was open on Sunday mornings. Through donations of hundreds of books, more shelf space was needed, and the library was moved to the St. Joseph Parish Education Center across the street west of the church. Parish staff members JoAnn Herd and Betty Calcara were new volunteers who assisted Elaine by starting St. Jerome Library Circle to help maintain it.

When the Parish Education Center was demolished in the summer of 2004, the library relocated to a former St. Joseph School classroom on the west side of McDevitt Hall. Elaine, along with St. Jerome Circle, continued to keep it open, adding a few religious goods for parishioners to purchase. The Circle disbanded in 1992, and Christine Brown and Betty Rafferty became head librarians, with Ev Boutte, Mary Roos and Edna Warren spending many hours helping to update cataloging the books. A wide variety of books, magazines, videotapes and audiocassette tapes for adults and children were available. The library was open on Hospitality Sundays after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 Masses. With the hope of renewing interest by a younger group, Betty Rafferty turned the library over to parishioner Bret Cortright. He recruited Ann Lavery to help keep the library open. However, due to lack of interest, and with Fr. Mike Hawken's permission, it was closed in 2015. Many of the books were donated to Padre Pio Academy and Conception Seminary libraries, with remaining books stored at Betty's home.

In a casual conversation, Darlene Mansfield mentioned how nice it would be if there were books in the Adoration Chapel to take home. The idea of a "Little Library" was born, with Fr. Mike Hawken wholeheartedly agreeing to it. Bookshelves were installed in the alcove area inside the main door of the Chapel. It was a good location for a number of books from the closed Parish Library still needing a home. Betty Rafferty maintains the library, and receives occasional calls about it.

With the birth of the "Little Library," books, magazines, and DVDS are made available to take home to read, keep as long as needed, and return for others to enjoy.

# **Scouting**

## **Boy Scouts**

Membership in Boy Scouts is open to any boy above the age of 10 ½ and under the age of 18. Scouting offers to help boys work toward character development, citizenship training, personal fitness, and spiritual growth through interaction and leadership of other boys in patrol meetings, troop meetings, special outings, camp-outs (in good and bad weather), summer camp, and high adventure.

Merit badges are earned by the boys as they advance toward earning their Eagle Award, the highest achievement the Boy Scouts of America bestows on its members. The merit badge program gives Scouts an opportunity to examine subjects to determine if they would like to further pursue them as a career or vocation.

Boy Scout Troop 194 has operated under the National Charter of Boy Scouts of America through the sponsorship of St. Joseph Church since 1937. Our Scout program initially was under the sponsorship at another church in the area since 1934. In the 1940s Troop meetings were held in the basement of the old stone church. After the new grade school was completed, meetings were held in its cafeteria until the new church was completed in 1970, and the Scouts began meeting in McDevitt Hall.

The Troop charter was renewed in February 1967, and the Troop Committee was reorganized, with Warner Reeder, Jr., Morris Kellner, John Davidson, Dick Sandifer, Bud Pflumn, Jr., Richard Kilbride and Bill Robert accepting posts of leadership. Dan Land was Scoutmaster. Through the years, many new Committee members, including mothers, came and went, as the Scouts advanced through the ranks, became Eagles, and “graduated.”

In August of 1968, due to business reasons, Dan Land resigned as Scoutmaster, and Dennis Roos took over leading the Troop. He was followed by Don Ruhlman in 1970.

When Jim Nolan’s son Mike joined the Troop in 1972, Don Ruhlman was the Scoutmaster and Vic Roos the Committee Chairman. Don talked Jim into being Scoutmaster, which extended to 1989. Jim said his goal was to help boys grow and learn, to gain a headstart in getting along with others, and to teach them how to save lives. He achieved that goal and more. He guided hundreds of Troop 194 boys to the various levels in Scouting, with 10 becoming Eagle Scouts and 10 more being prepared for the Eagle Award.

Bryan Bokenkroger became Scoutmaster when Jim retired in 1989, and Gene Tesson took over after Bryan retired in 1998. Rick Harris, the current Scoutmaster, took over for Gene in 2003.

As Jim Nolan says so well, in Scouting nobody sits on the bench while the others participate. It is fun for everyone, and the experiences the Scouts have can’t be gotten anywhere else. The plaques posted on the McDevitt Hall walls tell the story of the Troop.

## **Cub Scouts**

Cub Scout Pack 3284 was chartered through St. Joseph Church in 1958. Cub Scouts is a year-round program that offers fun activities that promote character and leadership development. Our program is designed to be hands-on, and parents are encouraged to play an active role in them. Cub Scouting's overall mission is to help young people build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness.

Cub Scouting at St. Joseph's focuses on boys in Kindergarten through fifth grade (or from ages 6 through 10). The boys are divided by school grade into small groups (Dens) that meet regularly to work on "adventures" that includes fun, games, crafts, and building skills. Boys and their families meet once a month in the Parish Service Center for a Pack meeting when awards and advancements are presented and the boys participate in songs, skits, and demonstrations.

Cub Scouting embraces the outdoors through camping, hiking and water sports. They also focus on helping our communities through service projects, STEM development, and building confident scouts through our wide range of activities. We teach the boys that they have a duty to God, country, community, family, and themselves.

The Cub Scout program is designed to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect). These are met through the 10 purposes of Cub Scouting: Character Development, Spiritual Growth, Good Citizenship, Sportsmanship and Fitness, Family Understanding, Respectful Relationships, Personal Achievement, Friendly Service, Fun and Adventure, and Preparation for Boy Scouts. All Cub Scouting activities throughout a program year seek and incorporate these 10 purposes.

Jeremy Braithwaite is the Pack's current Cubmaster. Previous Cubmasters in recent years include David Barry, Chad Kessinger, Matt Thomas, Gene Tesson, and many, many others over the last 60 years.

# *History of Parish Ministries*

## **Art & Environment**

Art & Environment (A&E) was organized in the Fall of 1986 by Associate Pastor Fr. Francis Hund on behalf of Msgr. William Curtin and the newly formed Liturgy Committee, asking Josie Riner to recruit parishioners for assistance on using their creative talents to enhance our worship space. Joanne Postlewait and Maggie Heeter signed on to help in 1987, bringing their ideas for enhancing the celebrations of the liturgical seasons.

This was a new field of ministry for them, and one of pure joy, never missing an opportunity to surprise our parishioners, as well as the priests, using the words of Scripture as a guide. Adding a touch of whimsy for the children on Pentecost and Halloween was especially delightful. A&E members knew they were inspiring worshipers when brides planned their wedding around the decor of Christmas and Easter.

After 18 years, the reins were turned over to Linda Drabik and Karen Brandl in 2004 for this ministry to continue bringing the visual work of Art & Environment to our parish. In 2018, Linda decided to “retire,” and Karen Brandl officially took over as leader, along with the help of Patty Santee, Teresa Dollison and others with their talents.

Art and Environment ministry follows the guidelines set by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Our Pastor also contributes his own ideas to the Liturgical Art and Environment.

A&E is open to both men and women of the parish. Members include individuals with a variety of backgrounds and experience that include decorating, construction, assembly, flower arranging, plant care and sewing. Individuals who can help in setting up and taking down major liturgical environments, such as as Christmas and Easter, also play an important role in this ministry.

## **Blood Drive**

St. Joseph Parish has cooperated with the Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City in obtaining blood donors since 1975, with parishioners Gerald and Margaret Humble, the first coordinators. Anna Derks became coordinator when the Humbles retired from the ministry in July 1988. Virginia Wiedel took over the blood drive coordination in 1996. The parish sponsors blood drives three times a year with the Center at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Parishioner appointments are scheduled by telephone two weeks prior to the drive.

Volunteers are welcome to assist with the drive, and Virginia has a faithful group of parishioners who help three weeks before the drive making phone calls for appointments, distributing brochures and posting flyers, and preparing publicity. On the day of the drive, volunteers are available to provide donors with snacks after their donations. Volunteers assisting Virginia through the years have included Joyce Engetschweiler, Betty Calcara, Loleeta Cordel, Ron and Rosie Masters, Doris Pflumm, Mary Jo Pflumm, and Mary Kay Riehle.

Our Parish was recognized by the *Shawnee Dispatch* newspaper in August 2009 for 35 years of sponsoring blood drives in conjunction with the Community Blood Center. The parish blood drive ministry also received the 2008 "Outstanding Church Award" by the Blood Center for our years of serving the community and for a large increase in units of blood donated within a year.

Virginia Wiedel continues to put forth untiring efforts encouraging parishioners and others in the community to donate.

## **Christmas Adoption Program**

Every year St. Joseph parishioners are given the opportunity to assist needy families during the Christmas season. The Christmas Adoption Program's goal is to lessen the burden on families struggling financially so that their Christmas can be the joyful, Christ-filled holiday we all strive for. The program had its beginning in the early 1980s by parishioners Bill and Edna Goetz. During their volunteer efforts with Catholic Charities, they were made aware of the needy within St. Joseph Parish. When they retired from the ministry in 1995, Cindy and Scott Lynn willingly stepped up as coordinators and are still doing so today.

Families receiving assistance are chosen from St. Joseph Parish members, St. Joseph Grade School, EEC and Religious Education classes, as well as the neighborhood community. Recipients are single elderly adults or couples, families in need due to medical bills or job loss, single parent households, multi-generation families, or many other issues that make providing Christmas gifts for their families difficult. They receive gifts, a turkey and supplies for a holiday meal, as well as other food, toiletries and household staples. They also receive a grocery gift card provided by proceeds from the annual St. Joseph Table.

The donations to sponsor the families come from various sources. Parish families, St. Joseph School groups and PTO, Ladies' Guild and its circles, various church groups, civic organizations, and local businesses adopt the families in need. Adopting a family (or individual) entails getting a wish list for the members of the family they are sponsoring. They choose off the wish list what they want to provide, wrap the gifts and return them to the church for distribution to the recipients shortly before Christmas. The program also accepts cash and gift card donations to provide for any families not adopted. The food, toiletries, and household staples that are

collection, Thanksgiving food collection at the EEC, the Angel Tree collection coordinated by the Christian Formation Office, and a parish turkey drive. The program is run on a confidential basis so the sponsors and the recipients do not meet to ensure the privacy and dignity of the families in need.

No parish funds are used to sponsor this program. We are blessed to be solely funded by the generosity of the parish members and donors. The program usually sponsors 40-50 families each year, as well as distributing any extra food or supplies to other local charities.

## ***Feeding the Hungry & Helping the Needy***

A monthly food drive for the needy is held at the church on the second weekend of each month. Nonperishable food items, paper products, laundry detergent, hygiene products, diapers, etc., are collected at the church. Envelopes are provided for cash donations, used to assist clients with rent, utility bills and prescriptions. Our food and other product donations are distributed half and half to Shawnee Community Services and to Catholic Charities food pantry at its emergency assistance center in Overland Park. Gail Mies coordinates the ministry.

In the Fall of 2014, a new ministry at St. Joseph Parish was formed to provide meals for the gentlemen residing at the Shalom House in Kansas City, KS. Shalom House is a Catholic Charities home for men to have a safe place to eat, sleep, and get assistance with social services. Following the footsteps of the high school youth group, which had been fulfilling this corporal work of mercy of feeding the hungry for quite some time, this new ministry comprised of adults led by Matt Flickner and Jared Rottinghaus serves a hearty meal on the first Sunday and second Tuesday of each month.

Through "Morning Glory Ministries," a parish ministry begun a few years ago, several parishioners provide meals once a month to the homeless at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, MO. Dunrie Lewis has been the contact person for a number of years.

Seana Yearsley and Jared Rottinghaus started a ministry of serving meals about six years ago at the Franciscan Sisters, Poor of Jesus Christ women's shelter in Kansas City, KS. Until recently, Seana coordinated it on the first and third Tuesdays each month, and Missy Rose on the fourth Tuesday. Randi Crabtree and Mary Sutton now share providing the meals on those dates.

## ***Funeral Luncheons***

Funeral luncheons for families of deceased parishioners began around 1988 under the umbrella of the Altar Society (now the Ladies' Guild). The Society provided money to purchase coffee and sugar, as well as paper goods and cleaning supplies. A Funeral Luncheon Committee was organized, with Larry and Kathleen Mertz and Ann Lavery, the coordinators.

Volunteers helped to prepare, serve, and provide side dishes. Families of the deceased provided the meat and bread. After an initial "seed money" from the Altar Society, the ministry was supported by donations from families and friends of those being remembered. Today the committee has a contact list of parishioners who wish to donate side dishes to the main courses provided by the families of the deceased.

The luncheons were originally held in the Parish Center west across the street from the church. Because there were classrooms on the upper levels at the time, gas ovens and burners were removed, and only warming ovens were available. The purchase of two electric stoves was made possible by financial donations.

When the building was demolished in 2004, the luncheons were moved to McDevitt Hall. New tables and chairs, along with kitchen utensils and dishes were made possible by donations from family members of the deceased. Several high chairs were donated for mothers with small children. Parishioner Mary Jo Pflumm purchased a much-needed large freezer. Additional freezers were purchased later. Doris Pflumm's daughter and son-in-law, owners of a linen company, donated nice white tablecloths and napkins that were used for ordination dinners and other special occasions.

When Larry and Kathleen Mertz retired due to failing health, and also Ann Lavery at the same time because of family commitments, Ann Peters was appointed the new coordinator, joined by Carol Manley, Wilma Hambelton and Doris Pflumm. When Ann Peters retired in 2005 because of poor health, Doris Pflumm became coordinator, assisted by Bill and Mary Ann Kasper. Bill, with the help of other parish men, collected pies and cakes from Price Chopper and Hen Houses. The desserts were frozen for serving at the luncheons, and also donated to the Food Kitchen in Kansas City, KS. Charlotte Garbee became coordinator of the ministry in 2012 when Doris retired.

In addition to the tables and chairs in McDevitt Hall, the Funeral Committee purchased furniture for the ladies restroom. The committee paid for a picture of Father McDevitt to be enlarged and framed with a silver plate added on it to be hung in the Hall.

The brass bell that Father rings before prayer belonged to Doris, who had given it to her mother-in-law when she was ill and rang it when she needed help. Doris says that when she hears Father ringing the bell she thinks of Margaret Pflumm.

## ***Homeless Ministry***

“St. Joe’s Clothes,” a ministry started by the Christian Formation Office five years ago, accepts parishioner donations year round during business hours of used clothing, personal items, sleeping bags, blankets, and other items to be distributed to local assistance agencies for homeless men and women. Special collections (Angel Tree at Christmas time, “Undie Sunday”) are made periodically to supplement the collection.

## ***Food Kitchen***

Hot Lunch Service, Inc. (formerly St. Mary’s Food Kitchen), is located in the Willa Gill Multi-Gill Multi-Purpose Center in Kansas City, KS. The kitchen has provided noon meals since February 1982. The service is open every day of the year. Groups from several church denominations and various organizations prepare meals and serve them on designated days. Our parish day at the kitchen is the third Wednesday of each month. Several parishioners donate sloppy joes, ham, chili beans, or cash, and many go to help serve. St. Mary’s Food Kitchen was the first free food kitchen in Kansas City, and is now the largest in the metro area. Margaret Humble and Mary Roos were our first co-chairs, followed by Joanne Goulding and Barbara Meehan, with Joyce Morrison helping to coordinate. Nancee Koporc has coordinated the ministry since 2009, when Joanne and Barbara retired.

## ***Grace-Filled Greeting Card Ministry***

“When You Care Enough to Send the Very Best” is a long-time Hallmark Cards slogan. The Grace Filled Greeting Card ministry at St. Joseph Parish can match that slogan!

The card-making was the brainchild of Linda Dunehoo with the Christian Formation office in 2003. They were originally small note cards made by the Garden Club as a fundraiser for the parish grounds, evolving into greeting cards as a ministry for giving to parishioners. Sue Hager and Lisa Pieper were the creative gems behind the handmade designs of the new cards.

Hundreds of parishioners have received gracefully designed cards created by volunteers. Among those receiving cards either by mail or hand-delivered are the homebound, the ill, those who have deaths in the family, and those in the military thanking them for their service to the country. Birthday, graduation, and Baptism cards are also sent, and congratulatory cards for First Communion and Confirmation are prepared to be included in the packets for children receiving those Sacraments.

Ministry members meet in the kitchen of the Parish Office Center, where their artistic talents are used to make uniquely designed greeting cards. Supplies are funded through the Christian Formation Office budget. Sue Hager is the current coordinator.

## ***Homebound, Nursing Homes, Hospital Ministries***

In 1979, Bernadine Asher was asked by Father Santa to coordinate a group to visit sick parishioners in the 14 area hospitals. At that time, the hospitals would notify the church office when a parishioner was hospitalized. The parish secretary then gave Bernadine the name and she would go herself, or dispatch one of her 12 volunteers. When the parishioner came home, went to a relative's home or to a nursing home, Bernadine again was notified and follow-up visits were made.

In the early days of this ministry to the sick, Bernadine and her helpers would meet at her home to coordinate their visits to the hospitals and later to the homes. Their charity was not restricted to just "visits": They voluntarily provided meals, baby-sat, elderly-sat, took parishioners to the doctor, grocery-shopped, and picked up parishioners for Sunday Mass. The most important part of the ministry, though, was the bringing of Holy Communion to the shut-ins and being a liaison between priests and parishioners for Confessions and the administering of the Sacrament of the Sick.

The hospital visiting and the ministry to shut-ins became linked firmly. As the parish grew, so did the numbers of hospitalized and shut-ins, and in 1985 two committees were formed: Hospital Visits, headed by Kathleen Mertz, and Home Visits, coordinated by Bernadine. Bernadine's home visitors were Alice Bauer, M.J. Brennan, Betty Calcara, Jim Drew, Dan Dunn, Carol Keef, John Kukula, Charles Marotta, Jane Murphy, Frank Peterson, Bertha Pilcher, Catherine Roos, Billy Schafer, Lida Wurtenburger, Betty Velghe, and Lenora Zoeller. They also visited Sharon Lane Nursing Home, Trinity Lutheran Manor, Sunflower Apartments, Bluejacket Lodge, and Shawnee Lodge.

Virginia Wiedel shared the visits with Kathleen to Shawnee Mission Medical Center; Lucy Rieke and Mildred Rieke visited hospitalized parishioners at Providence Hospital in conjunction with being on the hospital's Ladies Auxiliary; Loretta Colwell called on Overland Park Regional Hospital patients; and Bernadine Asher, Joanne Goulding, Mona Hahner, Bill and Barbara Nicks, Marty Reichert, and Doug West all made visits to other hospitals in the metro area when notified of parishioners being admitted.

Present hospital visitors are Heidi Fox, Fran Illum, Giovanna Michaelis, Mike Reichmeier, Barbara Riley, Irene Sheerin, Virginia Wiedel, and Sherman Zimmerman. They are basically in two teams, going to Shawnee Mission Medical Center two or three days a month. There also is a monthly meeting chaired by the Catholic Chaplain, at which one of our St. Joseph priests attends.

Our hospital ministry volunteers participate in the Johnson County Pastoral Region Ministry of offering Communion daily to patients in Johnson County who register as a Catholic when they enter the hospital.

Parish Extraordinary Ministers are available to take Communion to those who are confined in nursing homes, are homebound, or are in the hospital.

Communion is offered weekly at Sharon Lane Health Services, Shawnee Gardens Healthcare & Rehab Center, Brookdale at Rosehill, Brookdale Shawnee, Blue Jacket, Shawnee Hills, Sunflower Apartments and Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center. Mass is celebrated by one of our priests once a month at Sharon Lane, Shawnee Gardens, Brookdale at Rosehill, and Trinity.

Communion visits to parishioners who are homebound and unable to attend Mass are made by volunteers when requested through the parish office.

Most of the visitors to the hospitals, homebound and nursing homes are not Communion lay ministers, but they bring a spiritual message by giving the patients a prayer card, praying with them, and informing them of prayers being said in their behalf by the parish. If a patient requests a priest for anointing or Communion, the visitor contacts the Parish Office.

Virginia Wiedel now coordinates the volunteers for these special ministries.

## **Legion of Mary**

Fr. Leo Lutz (Pastor, 1952-1966), concerned for the spiritual needs of our rapidly growing parish, discussed with his retreat master how best to serve those needs in addition to the Sunday Masses (five being said at the time in the small church building, plus two in the grade school cafeteria). He was advised to have a laymen help promote the religious activities of the parish, and in 1960, he formed the first Legion of Mary group.

The first group, called Our Lady of Lourdes, was started in September 1960. Parishioners who originated the group included Rita Hayes, Helen Henry, Joe Pflumm, and John Scherman. Conducting a parish census was first on their agenda. Parishioners met, some for the first time, seemed pleased to know about the new ministry that would help supplement their spiritual needs. This group continues to meet to this day with 11 members. In 1961, it was apparent that another praesidium was needed as the parish was expanding rapidly. *A new group, Spouse of St. Joseph, led by Frank Peterson, lasted for many years, but had to disband as members aged and were unable to continue working in the ministry.*

Early records show that in 1968 the Legion's Spiritual Directors were Father Schraeder, Sister Willa Mae, and Sister Aurelia, serving 1,300 parish families. The Legion now ministers to 2,400 parish families. Becky Mitalski is the current president of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Legion of Mary membership includes two classes: Active members attend a weekly meeting, are assigned two-hour weekly duty, and pray the Legion prayers and Rosary daily. Auxiliary members pray the Legion prayers and Rosary daily.

Works of the Legion of Mary include: new family visitation, home-to-home visitation, rest home and care centers visitation, home enthronement, evangelization, invitations to RCIA, visiting lax and inactive members, and visiting the bereaved.

Benefits (blessings) of Legion membership are many:

- Fulfilling God's commands in Matthew:25, "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do for me"
- Fulfilling of the Beatitudes with spiritual works of mercy
- Receiving weekly Catholic education and spiritual formation
- Bringing special grace and blessings to you and your family
- Being God's instruments to bring souls back to Him
- Receiving spiritual benefits of daily prayers of members throughout the world
- Acquiring friendships with other parishioners
- Getting a new lease on life by committing to a weekly regimen of work and prayer
- Personal sanctification--a school for sanctity, giving back to God--the tithing of time

## **Music Ministry**

The Music Ministry serves St. Joseph parishioners by leading the sung prayer at weekly Masses and other liturgies. Music ministers serve as choir members, cantors, keyboard players, or other instrumentalists.

Looking back at the history of our music ministry, it was found that one of the first choirs sang in the 1930s, but our records don't show details.

Around 1948, Sister Theresa Marie, OSB, Principal of St. Joseph High School, started a young men's choir. The members were of grade school, high school, and college age. The group sang at various parish events, the highlight of which was midnight Mass. This group was active for five or six years. Members included John, Walter, James and Robert Gardner, Gene Thorne, Bill Nachbar, Ed and Pat Hauser, Raymond Kearns, Patrick Henry, and Joe Boutte.

The **Adult Choir** that sings for 10:30 Mass and Feast Days has been in existence the longest of our various choirs. It had its start at the request of Fr. Dolan in 1966 under the direction of Sr. Corinne Marie. Joe and Mary Borders, Joe and Evelyn Boutte, and Charlie and Mary Catherine Garrett were among the original members. Directors following Sr. Corinne Marie were Sandy Porter, Sheri Reilly, Ann Schumacher, Christopher Funk, and Jeremy Martin. Our current director is parishioner Joe Heidesch, who is a cantor and member of the St. Joseph Small Ensemble. His full-time job is Director of Choral Activities and Director of Fine Arts for St. Thomas Aquinas High School. The "**St. Joe Small Ensemble**" is a specialty group joined by audition and sings for special occasions.

The **Resurrection Choir** that sings when requested for funerals had its beginning in 1986 by Fr. Francis Hund, Associate Pastor, who suggested a funeral choir at St. Joseph to the Liturgy Committee. Joan Van Wallegghem presented the idea to the Pastoral Council, where it was agreed that it was a needed ministry. Father Hund served as an advisor to the new choir of 14 singers, selecting music which expressed a message of hope and accented the themes of the readings used for funeral liturgies. Darlene Barry led the group from the organ until an injury caused her to retire in 2012. Barbara Leyden, the parish Director of Music Ministry, now leads the choir from the keyboard. The self-proclaimed "Dead Beats" sing for an average of one funeral a week all year. There are now over 60 members who come whenever possible to minister. Hymn boards mounted on each side of the sanctuary were purchased by the Resurrection Choir in 1992 as a memorial to the people that the ministry serves.

**Hosanna!**, a choral ensemble, sings for 9:00 a.m. Mass. Organized at the request of Fr. Tony Lickteig in 1992, it celebrated 25 years of music ministry in 2017. Led by guitarist Bill Heimann, a small group of musicians banded together to lead the assembly in their sung prayer, using more than the traditional organ accompaniment. The name of the choir was chosen to match their mission:

to pray together while making the spiritual journey to salvation -- "Hosanna", coming from the Greek and Hebrew words for "pray" and "save us!" The original handful has grown to over 30 members. The choir includes singers from 9th grade to adult, and there is a tradition of husband-wife and parent-child teams. Steve and Dianna Burke and Theresa Dungans, charter members, are still going strong. Barbara Leyden directs the group and Daryl Currie plays the keyboards.

Theresa Dungans and Carol Olson Rubsom planned the music, played guitar, and sang for every Noon Mass from 1983 until 1988. Theresa had to discontinue playing for health reasons in 1988, but was able to join Hosanna! when it began in 1992.

**Cantors** are confident musicians with a pleasant singing tone able to proclaim the responsorial psalm and Gospel acclamation clearly and effectively, and to engage the assembly in their singing of all the hymns and acclamations at Sunday and Feast Day Masses when there is not a choir present.

During Father Dolan's years as pastor (1966-79), he informally requested both cantors and lectors at some of the Masses. An organized cantor program began in 1987, with Christine Marion and Carol Schemmel being instrumental in starting the program, and other original cantors were Gary and Linda Nelson and Kathy Sims.

Various **Youth Choirs** were launched through the years. Marilyn Pederson led one for 4th and 5th graders around 1969-70; Darlene Barry led one; Janis Pilcher directed one in the 1990s, as well as a "Laudate" choir that sang at the 8:15 Mass on Saturday mornings. Karen Rezac led a group for several years, for which her daughter, Olivia, came up with the name, the "Awesome Angels." Our current K-12 choir program includes: Cherubim (Kindergarten to 1st grades), Awesome Angels (2nd-6th grades), and Archangels (singers and instrumentalists, 7th grade through high school),

**Keyboard players:** Organists are the backbone for the music ministry at weekend Masses, Feast Days, weddings, funerals, and the weekly Novena. St. Joseph Church has been blessed through the years with many organists and piano players enhancing our liturgical celebrations. Past history records for the 1930's show that Anna Keating, sister of Fr. Ambrose Keating, had served as organist at St. Joseph's for 25 years, many times playing the organ and singing the High Mass with no assistance. Past head organists Mary Catherine Garrett, who was at the organ 1962-94, and Darlene Barry, who started in 1963 and retired in 2012, were "guiding lights" for future organists. Other previous organists include Thomas Andrews, Claire Bernardel (who played for Novena all through high school and beyond), David Brandt, Mary Cashman, Margaret Dulin, Joanne Lucore, Janis Pilcher, Ann Marie Scahill, Mary Stevermer, Alexa VanLerberg (currently in formation with the Apostles of the Interior Life, religious order), Virginia Wiedel, Connie Wurtenberger (who played while still in high school), and Norma Zahner.

Current organists/pianists are Daryl Currie, Millie Hill, Barbara Leyden, Mike Malinowski (now in his 40th year on the keyboards, starting in 1978), Martha Marin, Barb Riley, Samantha Tyler, and Matt Winterhalter (a graduate of St. Joseph School). Daryl and Barbara each have been playing at St. Joseph's for many years, and both have close to 50 total years playing for liturgy from serving in the music ministry at other places.

In November 2003, Mike was presented the 2003 Archdiocesan "St. Cecilia Award for Outstanding Parish Musician", commemorating his 25 years as organist at St. Joseph's. The presentation made by Monsignor Bergman was a total surprise to Mike, and was inscribed with words of appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the people of God and the Sacred Liturgy through the ministry of music. It was signed by Archbishop James Patrick Keleher and Michael Podrebarac, Archdiocesan Consultant for Liturgy.

## ***Prison Ministry***

In 2015, Mark Mies, coordinator of Prison Ministry, and a friend were thinking about prison ministry; neither knowing the other was considering it. They both were on a team hosting a men's Cursillo weekend, when who does the Holy Spirit put in their path but the warden of the Wyandotte County Detention Center; Mark and his friend let him know of their desire to minister the imprisoned. In just a few months, with the help of more recruits, they began a Bible study at the Detention Center. When they started, they were seeing one pod of men for one hour every two weeks. They are now seeing men in two pods every week and their band of volunteers has grown to 16 men, five from St. Joseph Parish (Jared Rottinghaus, Buck Hartley, Mike Walberg, and Bob Matulis).

Our ministry is part of the St. Dismas Prison Ministry hosted by our Archdiocese. St. Dismas was the "good thief" who hung on the cross beside Our Lord and to whom the Lord said, "This day you will be with me in paradise." The St. Dismas group also ministers to men, women and children in detention in Johnson County, as well as the women at the Wyandotte County Detention Center.

Men in the detention centers show a genuine desire to discuss the Bible and to learn more about Our Lord and how to better communicate with Him. They submit prayer petitions written on a piece of paper that are then compiled on a prayer list to be distributed among the ministry group so that they can pray for the men and their intentions. Regular requests are for the Lord to change the men while they are incarcerated.

In 2017, Fr. Mike Hawken agreed to permit an appeal for donations for the ministry. Through the generosity of our parish, each month over 100 of our incarcerated brothers receive a Magnificat, a monthly periodical with Scripture, meditations, and prayers.

In addition to the ministry that Mark and his recruits are dedicated to, there is a ministry in place where inmates are becoming oblates in the Order of St. Benedict. These inmates commit to living their lives according to the rules of St. Benedict, which includes daily praying the Liturgy of the Hours and

Rosary. Needed are adults who would be “pen-pals” to these inmates--a great opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life and to be “Christ” to someone who really needs it.

Mark says that he has not done anything affiliated with the church that has been as rewarding as this ministry.

## ***Rebuilding Together Shawnee***

In October 1996, a volunteer team from St. Joseph Church led by Mike Walberg joined “Christmas in October”, a metro-wide volunteer organization that has a mission to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of qualified homeowners in need. Mike and a group of parishioners refurbished a house in Kansas City, KS for a needy family, and the project became an annual tradition for Mike and his team, on occasion refurbishing more than one home over several October weekends.

In 2008, after 12 years of being affiliated with the Christmas in October organization, the St. Joseph Parish team joined “Rebuilding Together Shawnee” (RTS) with a similar mission as that of Christmas in October. To qualify, a homeowner must meet financial need requirements and fill out an application for submitting to RTS. The RTS organization provides our team with insurance, and they also prequalify recipients. RTS notifies Mike Walberg, our coordinator, of a home or homes that need upgraded, most within Shawnee, and he organizes a work team. The St. Joseph Church team, that now has approximately 50 volunteers, has completed 38 projects over the years. Some of the volunteers have been on board from day one, some have retired, and others have joined. Those from day one who encouraged and helped Mike and Judy Walberg were Carol Lust, Mike Titus, and Jack Freund.

Our team includes high skilled craftsmen, and many others who help the pros with the hard work necessary to complete the projects. There are those who plan, organize, and others who provide food, drink, and run errands. There are several who participate by donating dollars that help provide the team with needed supplies.

The home upgrading has included everything. You name it, and they have done anything to ensure the need is met. The project completion makes a deteriorating home more pleasant and livable.

The RTS organization is very supportive, with Co-Presidents Neal Sawyer and Ron Freyermuth and other board members eager to provide assistance. The large projects are also made possible with the generosity of several businesses and contractors.

Mike feels that RTS is a great ministry, and he has enjoyed working with so many committed and faith-filled people. He prays that God may continue to bless the team, their families, our Parish, and Shawnee. The team is now working toward an even more productive direction with RTS. By doing this, they hope to help more qualified applicants.

*“Most of us are not called to do great things. We are called to do small things with great love.” (Blessed Mother Teresa)*

## **Religious Articles Store**

Religious articles are sold in the main vestibule of the church, with a good selection for any occasion: Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, weddings, birthdays, etc. The store is open every weekend all year long.

The religious articles store had its beginning in 1990 when Edna Goetz and Ann Peters with the Ladies' Guild St. Jerome Circle had a display counter in an area outside McDevitt Hall on the south side. It was later moved to the main vestibule of the church where the baptismal font had been located (font was moved to the Narthex, just outside the sanctuary doors). The store was enclosed with glass walls, and had easy access for parishioners to shop after Mass. When Edna retired because of health reasons, Bill and Mary Ann Kasper and Doris Pflumm assisted Ann, alternating their times after all Masses. Upon Doris and Ann's retirements, Bill and Mary Ann continued to maintain the shop, and Mary Ann stayed on for awhile after Bill's death in 2008, turning the reins over to Francine Winterhalter with her first volunteers, Tandy Reichmeier and Lindy Vandeberghe. There now are a number of dedicated volunteers that help after all the Masses.

Francine is in charge of buying and displaying items, while Jo Cronin handles scheduling and coordinating volunteers.

## **Religious Education & Youth Ministry**

Parishioner Joan Greene was teaching at St. Joseph High School during the school year of 1978-79, and had just given birth to a daughter in June 1979, when our new pastor, Fr. Thomas Santa, offered her a part-time job as coordinator of "CCD" (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) for 7th through 12th grade students attending public schools, and at the same time he asked her to start a high school ministry program. Through the youth ministry, she was able to bring teenagers of the parish into activities that were inspiring spiritually and fun socially, and over the six years that she was Youth Minister the program grew from just a handful of kids to over 150 participating at some level year-round.

For Religious Education, Joan had the assistance of about 25 other adults that she trained to work with teens. Some worked as teachers in the school of religious education, some in youth ministry, and several did both. As time went on, the ministry expanded from a broad welcoming agenda that was the base of the pyramid to higher levels of spiritual development, and finally to the top levels where kids were reaching out and ministering to each other.

Fun activities with the youth ministry included putting on a musical play, "Godspell," forming three baseball teams to play with teams from other Johnson County parishes, and bowling. Joan retired in June 1985 to spend more time with her family and to get her masters' degree.

The Religious Ed program was known as CCD until 1986, when it was renamed Religious Education Program under the umbrella of the Christian Formation Office, with Elaine Galliard as Director. Elaine's office was originally located at the Rectory, and moved to the Bradley Room in McDevitt Hall in 1986.

Marge Sosna became Christian Formation Director in 1991. She also coordinated and instructed the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), first begun at St. Joseph's in the 1970s. The program welcomes and prepares adults who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith, supporting those who are interested in joining the Church. Approximately 700 new Catholics went through the program during her tenure.

On Marge's retirement in 2005, she expressed appreciation to parishioners who supported her programs, as well as the RCIA team that worked with her--Mike and Carmie Titus, George and Ruth Barter, Mike and Judy Walberg, Bill Butler, Mildred Rieke, Renee Humble, and Bill and Delores Metz.

Elementary and Junior High Religious Education Coordinators through the years were Pat Tackett (1981-86), Susie Hutchins (1986-87), Kristie Altman (1987-2000), and Kathy Clevinger was coordinator 2002-2004, after about a two-year gap without one. Fr. Richard McDonald helped fill in the gap for a brief time.

Beth Bracken, current Director of Christian Formation and RCIA, became a member of the Christian Formation staff in 2004, being named Director in 2005. She was Middle School Youth Minister during the 2004-2005 school year.

During Beth's 14 years with Christian Formation, she has guided hundreds to the Catholic Faith through RCIA. Starting in September every year, weekly convert classes start for those who wish to become Catholic. Known as Catechumens, they receive instructions in the principles of Catholicism with a view to baptism. Those who are already validly baptized in another Christian Faith are Candidates. At an Easter Vigil Mass, the Catechumens are welcomed into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist, and the Candidates are received into the Church through Profession of Faith, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

A big part of Beth's job is religious education for K-8 public school children, preparing them for the sacraments. Children at our grade school who are older and need to receive First Communion are on an as needed basis. With the help of second grade teachers and Barb Zanatta at St. Joseph School, they are prepared for their sacraments through retreats and celebrations.

Beth is grateful for her RCIA team: Jim Brunner, Linda Carrera, Anna Cooke, Mike Dorman, Gail Shepard, and Richard Sulzen, who are trained to educate and make presentations at the weekly classes. Over 30 catechists are recruited and trained to lead throughout the year.

Many of Beth's responsibilities for her job as a Director don't really fall under the job title. In reality, much of what she does for the Parish is a ministry of being one-on-one with parishioners to serve them. While her job primarily entails guiding students at the school who need to receive the Sacraments, leading Vacation Bible School, and coordinating and instructing the RCIA, she also is available to help parishioners and those she meets through RCIA who need someone in special situations (godparent at baptisms, being at the bedside of the dying and consoling their families, comforting the sick and their family members, to name a few). She and Jared Rottinghaus, Youth Minister, also volunteers at Shawnee Mission North to work with at risk high school students. As a "Parish People Person", she helps remind our parish family about God's love for them.

## ***Youth Ministry***

After Joan Greene retired as Youth Minister, the parish was without one for a short time in 1985, and adult volunteers filled in to keep the ministry active. Billy Schafer became the leader in 1986-87, and other coordinators through the years were Cheryl Sommer, Tim Swan, Gina Smith, and Chris Walters. Gina was Youth Ministry from 2005-2008 and Chris started in 2008 and left in June 2012 to become a Theology teacher at St. James Academy. Jared Rottinghaus became the new minister in August 2012.

Jared's role as Youth Minister provides support to youth with religion classes for public school students in grades 7 and 8, and formation for high school age youth, fostering growth in an understanding and love for their Catholic Faith.

Our High School Youth Group meets weekly on Sunday evenings. Youth nights consist of a combination of games, food, catechesis, small groups, and fellowship. Each June the Youth attend a Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference in Colorado for a week, followed by three days of camping, rafting, and rock climbing in the mountains. In July every year, the Youth Group participates for a week in Prayer and Action, a local mission trip where students help the needy during the day, then have a retreat-type experience and fun in the evenings. The high schoolers prepare and serve a meal once a month at a men's homeless shelter in Kansas City, KS.

Also, they go monthly to the Franciscan convent near Blessed Sacrament in KCK to cook a meal for the Sisters and any guests that may be staying with them. Parishioners participate by providing food items, cash for the meals, and chaperone help. Each December, the Youth Group helps to put on a Christmas party for the families of Alexandra's House, who have experienced the loss of a child.

The Middle School Youth Group meets on Wednesdays throughout the school year.

Each meeting consists of food, games, an instructive talk in the faith, and small group time. Jared's dedication to the ministry nurtures relationships between youth, their families, peers, parish, and community.

## ***Sign Language for the Deaf Community***

St. Joseph Church has had a ministry for the deaf and hard of hearing since 1969 with Mass being interpreted for them. The ministry is committed to supporting Catholic deaf and hard of hearing persons in achieving full inclusion in the life of the Church.

Our 10:30 Mass is interpreted on the first and third Sunday of each month, with parishioner, Joan Macy, doing the interpreting, using American Sign Language (ASL). Initially, Tania Aranki also interpreted at the Masses. Their goal was to be available and welcoming to the deaf community, while making sure that the emphasis in their interpreting was on the altar.

Interpreting is sometimes done at holy day Masses and at special occasion prayer services. Three or four deaf/hard of hearing individuals regularly attend the interpreted Masses, and a couple come from other parishes that do not offer this ministry.

Mass interpretation provides evangelization to the deaf/hard of hearing community, and helps them spread the Good News as well.

## ***Respect Life***

The St. Joseph Parish Respect Life Committee has a mission of being on the forefront of pro-life issues in order to influence change in our city, state, and nation. Our goal is to be known as a parish of articulate and enlightened individuals who defend the defenseless unborn babies peacefully, prayerfully, and positively. The committee is a branch of the Pro-Life Office of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The respect life cause at St. Joseph's started during Fr. Dolan's time as Pastor, with Ray Pilcher a sole coordinator. Ray organized an annual collection that supported an Archdiocesan benefit for defending the unborn. It was known as "Pennies for Babies", a collection that encouraged children and parents to donate pennies for each year of their life to the cause. A table with pro-life pamphlets and small baskets for the collection was set up in the church vestibule. Back then, a collection of \$100-plus was considered good! Ray turned the position over to Betty Calcara in 1978, who continued the Pennies for Babies collection, and encouraged other parishioners to become members of a formal Pro-Life Committee in 1983. In 1994, the committee recommended that we request "Bucks for Babies", since there was a greater need for donations.

Judy Guarr, a *News & Views reporter*, who volunteered, wrote a monthly column about the pro-life cause. Kim Wary became coordinator in 1994 when Betty retired. Jo Hathorne, current coordinator, took over the reins when Kim moved out of town in 1997. Irene Sheerin, Judy Guarr, Barb Carney, and Betty have been regular supporters of the committee.

Jo keeps us informed with Bulletin announcements about pro-life and anti-abortion issues that come before us nationally, in Kansas, and locally, encouraging us to show our support to our legislators who will be voting on them. She also helps us be aware of the Archdiocesan pro-life agenda that includes an annual 8th grade pro-life forum and several projects guiding and offering help for pregnant women. An annual "Baby Bottle Boomerang" project, jointly hosted by the Respect Life Committee and the Ladies' Guild, is held Mother's Day to Father's Day that gives parishioners an opportunity to pay special tribute to our parents who gave us life, and helps give life to the unborn.

Plastic baby bottles are distributed at all the Masses on Mother's Day weekend to take home and fill up with extra pocket coins, or cash and checks, and return to the parish on Father's Day. The donations benefit the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic that is a haven for expectant mothers who choose life for their babies. This event was started 12 years ago at the suggestion of Barb Carney, whose brother's church, Queen of All Saints in South St. Louis County, had been doing it. It has been overwhelmingly successful at our parish, with over \$150,000 collected over the 12 years for Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic. Parishioners donated \$13, 017 to the 2018 collection.

An annual Christ Child Shower, also hosted by the Respect Life Committee and Ladies' Guild, is held on the first Sunday in December in McDevitt Hall that benefits Patty's Closet at Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center in Shawnee. Playpens are set up at the entrances of the church and at St. Joseph School for two weeks to collect donations of baby clothing, diapers and accessories, as well as personal items for moms (shampoo, facial tissue, special soaps, hand lotion).

Patty's Closet is a special room named in memory of parishioner Patty Brown, who worked for many years with St. Joseph's pro-life ministry. She died in 1998, and her husband Forrest, who also worked with the ministry, passed away in 2006. Forrest and Patty were the parents of Melissa Nachbar, a second-grade teacher at St. Joseph School.

Another parishioner who had great devotion to the pro-life cause was Alice Hoelting, who passed away in 2001. An emergency food pantry at Advice & Aid for moms who need food was named "Alice's Restaurant" in her memory in 2002. It was established at the Advice & Aid's old location at LaPetite Daycare in Shawnee on 66th Street, with the Hoelting family providing grocery items for its shelves, and Monsignor Bergman giving it a special blessing. The Ladies' Guild donates pantry items periodically at its location now on 75th Street.

In addition to the Christ Child Shower, for nearly 50 years, members of the Ladies' Guild St. Agnes Circle have sown thousands of layettes for donation to young mothers who chose life for their infants.

The circle had its beginning at the request of Fr. Dolan who asked Gertrude and Helen Ohmes to sew layettes for the mothers in need. The layettes are donated to the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic, Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center, and to the Christ Child Shower. In the past, St. Agnes Circle has donated layettes to Catholic Charities Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling, and they have made baby blankets for Catholic Charities Emergency Center in KCK and for a Catholic Charities Mobile Resource Bus. St. Joseph parishioners join with parishioners from other Johnson County Catholic churches in an

Annual Life Chain held from 95th & Nall to Missouri in early October. The year 2017 was the 30th year for the chain, with St. Joseph's being represented every year. This is a public stand of prayer and witness for life. The parish always has a great turnout for the yearly dinners held by the Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center and Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic.

Our parish is cultivating a Culture of Life in our own community, something that St. John Paul II said is urgently needed.

## ***Respite Care***

Many of us, at one time or another, have had to care for a family member in the home for an extended period of time. The long hours of care are a joy to be able to do, but can be tiring as well.

We are blessed at St. Joseph with a ministry that relieves caregivers of ill family members to take a break now and then. For 33 years, our Parish Respite Care volunteers have helped caregivers to have time off to rest, run errands or do chores.

The definition of what Respite Care does is "short-term temporary relief for those who are caring for family members in the home." Originally under the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Women, the ministry is now a parish ministry under the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

Mildred Rieke coordinated the ministry from its beginning until 2016, when she turned it over to Dorothy Speckin because of her health. Dorothy had been with Mildred also from the beginning. Mildred continued to coordinate the ministry, even when she could no longer help relieve caregivers. Her sincere dedication was an inspiration not only to those who served with her, but also to those who were in need of respite care. She died at 100 years old in May 2018. In addition to Dorothy, volunteers have included Margaret Compton, Bill Garies, Dolores Gasser, Eloise Hult, Ann Kerry, Terry Maxwell, Mary Pat Nachbar, Mary Roos, Rose Mary Sanders, Dan and Lili Stewart, Jack and Georgia Stephens, and Helen Zasadny. Current volunteers are Dorothy, Rose Mary, Mary Ann Moore, Julie Seibold, and Cindy Ratkey, with Dorothy as their coordinator. All have been well trained to help, and are insured.

Volunteers serve as companions for the homebound, meeting with the families and caregivers ahead of time to coordinate their needs.

They show a lot of love, compassion, and patience toward those they care for, as well as for the caregivers they are relieving.

Respite Care is available to help those as our Lord commanded: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

## ***Ushers***

Jules VanKeirsbilck came to the parish in 1928, and he became one of the parish’s first ushers. He recalled moving into the parish when there were only 250 families and two Sunday Masses. At that time, each family had its own pew and that was TRADITION! Families purchased pews back then.

Jules received special recognition in 1983 for his 55 years of usher service and having been chairman of the ushers since 1942. After 52 years as chairman, he turned the ministry over to Charlie Garrett in 1994. Charlie retired in 2005, and Monsignor Bergman asked Mike Calcara to assume the position. Mike relinquished being chairman in 2008 because of medical conditions, and Fr. Mike Hawken asked Ed Cronin, long-time parishioner and usher, to lead the ushers ministry. Ed is now celebrating his 10th year.

Ushers are present at Sunday and Holy Day Masses to greet parishioners and guests as they arrive for Mass, and to provide them with assistance as needed. Ushers help find seating when the church nears capacity, take up the collection, and distribute the weekly Bulletin and other materials when required. Both men and women serve as ushers, as well as high school youth.

## ***Liturgical Ministries***

Altar servers assist priests at the daily, weekend, Holy Day, First Communion and Confirmation Masses, and at special liturgies, such as Stations of the Cross. Any boy or girl in the fifth grade or older is eligible for serving. Girls started serving in 1989. Priests originally trained the servers, followed by Tom Ohmes assisting Fr. Gary Applegate, Terry Carter, Bernie Seitter, and Larry Brunner. Later, Lisa Pieper joined with Larry, but he is now the main instructor, with Michelle Hanson doing the scheduling.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are parish lay men and women whose role is to help the priest distribute the Eucharist at Mass. Some also take to the homebound, hospitals, and nursing homes. When the ministry first began in the 1980s, they were trained at the Archdiocese, later by LoLeeta Cordel, Beth Bracken, and Anna Cooke, and are now trained periodically by Rod Coday, coordinator.

Lectors proclaim the Scriptures during the first and second readings at each weekend Mass. A lector has a natural talent for public speaking and is willing to make a commitment to prepare and proclaim the Word. There is no history about lectors in the parish records, but some parishioners recalled that during Father Dolan’s years as Pastor, he requested lectors at some of the Masses. The first lectors included Charlie Garrett, Mike Frain, and Sherry McAnany. Chris Brown is the current coordinator.

# *Special Religious Observances*

## ***Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena***

Before Novena services begun at the church on Tuesday evenings, Rosary prayers were being said by ladies from the parish's Altar Society at their homes on those evenings to pray for peace in the world and for their men--sons, fathers, husbands, nephews--who were in the military and serving overseas during World War II in the 1940s. They had chosen Tuesday evenings while their menfolk were attending their Knights of Columbus meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. Parishioner Ben Nicks recalls that his mother, Elizabeth Nicks, was one of the ladies in the original group praying the Rosary, along with Mattie Schumacher, Delia Baier, Aunt Tracy VanDeKerkhove, Catherine Pflumm, Mrs. Liebst (whose first name he couldn't recall) and a few others who he no longer remembers.

The group grew so rapidly that they could no longer meet conveniently in the ladies' homes, and permission was granted in 1951 by St. Joseph's pastor, Fr. Leo Lutz, to meet for a Rosary service every Tuesday evening in the old stone church. Father Lutz later added Novena prayers and Benediction.

Parishioner Margarita Stetson recalls attending the novena when she first started attending St. Joseph's in 1954, and helped to set up the Mother of Perpetual Help icon that is displayed in front of the altar for the service. Now 99 years old in 2018, her health problems have prevented her from attending regularly in recent years, but she recites the novena prayers at home on Tuesday evenings.

Starting at 7:00 pm, the novena consists of praying the Rosary, reciting prayers written by St. Alphonsus Liguori asking the Blessed Mother for her help and protection in matters both spiritual and material, a Gospel reading, and Benediction. Following Benediction, the Divine Phrases are recited, and the service ends with singing "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name".

Parishioners through the years have shown their great devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help by attending the Tuesday evening service, not only to participate in it, but also to assist the priest or deacon leading the novena prayers and Benediction. Margarita said that in the early years, Joe Anthony Baptist, son of Amparo (Baptist) Villalpando, was especially helpful to the celebrant, and to her in setting up for it. He assisted them in the 1970s for seven years until he moved out of the area.

When Msgr. William Curtin was Pastor, John and Joan Kronawitter's sons, Jim, Jeff, and Joe served at the novenas regularly during their grade and high school years and beyond. When Monsignor was assigned to another parish, Roy Baldwin, Bill Goetz, and Bill Schnieders became aides.

He and Jarrett Mies, son of Mark and Gail, are now the current assistants. In 2018, Joseph, Jude, and Angelo Bernardel, sons of Tony and Jane Bernardel, started serving in cassocks and surplices that they had asked for at Christmas so they could serve novena.

## **November Remembrances**

Throughout the month of November each year, two special remembrances are held in the Church. A “Book of Life” is on display next to the Easter candle, reminding us of our Risen Lord--Alpha and Omega--our Beginning and our End. Parishioners are invited to write the names of their departed loved ones in the book, and they are remembered during the Masses in November. Fr. Mike Hawken said it is not only a reminder of our connection in the Communion of Saints, but also of “the book of life” in Revelation, where the names of the those who have been washed in the “blood of the lamb” are recorded. He said our Book of Life also finds tradition in ancient Necrologies (“Lists of the Dead”) that were kept in monasteries. Our book serves as a Necrology for our departed parishioners, family members and our friends--a roll call for heaven of those who have passed from this world and who we pray are among the saints surrounding the throne of the Lamb in heaven.

Also in November, the church has a “Saints and Souls Display” at the St. Joseph Shrine. Parishioners are invited to bring pictures of departed loved ones, as well as statues and pictures of saints for the display.

Fr. Mike Hawken reminds us that St. Monica told her son, St. Augustine, “I don’t care where you bury me, I just ask that you continue to remember me at the altar.” Our “Book of Life” and “Saints and Souls Display” are reminders that at every Eucharist we “remember our departed brothers and sisters, who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again.”

## **Memorial Day Mass at St Joseph Cemetery**

*St. Joseph parishioners express the true meaning of Memorial Day when they attend a Mass held at 9:00 am on that day hosted annually by the Shawnee Council Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph Cemetery in remembrance of our deceased loved ones and fallen military. Many of our parish veterans, and some who are currently in armed services, attend the Mass along with parishioners and others.*

Memorial Day Masses were started by the Knights in the late 1960s under the time as Pastor, Father Dolan, and were originally celebrated at St. Joseph Church in memory of their deceased members, with only members of the Knights in attendance. The Masses were discontinued after Fr. Dolan left our parish in 1979, but in 1986 Fr. Tony Lickteg and Leo Rieke were instrumental in bringing the tradition back, with an outdoor Mass celebrated at St. Joseph Cemetery in the Crucifixion section. The Knights helped with the readings and scheduling servers. There were no chairs, no donuts, no coffee, that are part of the service today.

About 50 attended, and they met after Mass at Shoney's Restaurant in Shawnee for breakfast. Leo noticed at one of the services his aunt and a couple of elderly women standing, so he went to the Knights of Columbus Hall and grabbed a few chairs for them. A couple of years after that, more and more parishioners were attending, and the Knights were providing 100 chairs, and a few dozen donuts, coffee and, orange juice to be served after Mass.

Tommy Zarda became involved in the early 1990s, with Leo Rieke and Larry Brunner assisting him to inspire many more Knights to help make the celebration comfortable for all attending the Mass and to enjoy the fellowship of parishioners after Mass. The Knights now load up more than 250 chairs from the K of C Hall early on Memorial Day morning and take to the cemetery. Eighteen dozen donuts, three dozen bagels, coffee, orange juice and milk are provided and served by the Knights after Mass.

The Knights organize those to assist the celebrant: cantor, lector, Eucharistic ministers, and altar servers. They work with Catholic Cemeteries for the altar and sound system, and flags.

In case of rain, the Memorial Day Mass is held in the church, with refreshments provided in McDevitt Hall after Mass.

## ***Rosary Before Mass and at 2:45pm Monday-Friday***

Praying the Rosary before Mass was first started many years ago when the Ohmes sisters, Gertrude and Helen, prayed the Rosary at the 6:25am Mass for a number of years. After they were unable to continue, parishioner Gene Pemberton took over. When the senior ladies who attended that Mass saw him every weekday morning, they would say "There's the Rosary Man!" He is still known by that name today.

Gene has had great devotion to the Rosary since childhood, reciting its prayers with his family every evening at the time his brother David went into the service in World War II. When he married his wife, Connie, they prayed the Rosary every night before bedtime with their six children. As an active member of the Legion of Mary, another Rosary Ministry, for nearly 50 years, he visited parishioner homes encouraging the recitation of the Rosary Prayers. His brother, Don, made plaster cast statues of the Blessed Mother to give to those whose homes legionaries visited to promote family rosaries on a daily basis. Gene and his fellow legionaries were able to place 25 statues in homes before the mold for them wore out and could no longer be used.

Gene's love of the Rosary prompted him to approach his fellow Knights of Columbus members, asking them to assist in implementing the praying of the weekend Rosary. This included Saturday morning Masses, Saturday evening Masses, and all Sunday Masses. Starting in March 1987, Gene, Dr. Paul Burger, Tom Zarda, John Watson, Ron Masters, Vincent Hoefler, young Bill Nachbar, and other Knights began praying the Rosary before all the weekend Masses. One of the original intentions of the weekend Rosary was to facilitate the building of an Adoration Chapel for the parish; within a few months those prayers were answered, and the construction of our new, present Adoration Chapel was approved.

One Saturday after Mass, Gene saw a parishioner crying. It was just after the 9/11 tragedy, and her son was leaving for the service. Gene went to Msgr. Bergman and asked if he could start an afternoon Rosary to pray for our troops overseas and to bring about peace in the world. Monsignor agreed, and Gene started the next week, reciting the Peace Rosary, Monday through Friday at 2:45pm. The Rosary is still being prayed at that time every weekday, with other parishioners now helping to lead it. Previously held in the church, the Rosary was relocated to the Adoration Chapel during the church's renovation, and to continues to be prayed there today.

Gene continues to pray the Rosary daily at the weekday and Saturday 8:15am Masses, Saturday evening Mass at 5:00pm, and Sunday morning Mass at 7:30. In 2019, on March 27, the same date the weekend Rosary began in 1987, Gene will celebrate the completion of his leading 25,000 Rosaries at St. Joseph Church. He will also be celebrating his 85th birthday and his 60th wedding anniversary that same week.

# *Church and Parish Service Center*

## *Renovations*

On the weekend of September 10-11, 2016 Fr. Mike Hawken announced to the parishioners what he called an exciting time in the life of St. Joseph Parish Community as we prepared to celebrate our Parish's 150th Anniversary. A Building Committee, in union with SFS Architects, had been working for more than a year on plans for the renovation of the 50-year old Church building and Parish Service Center (60-year old former grade school).

He revealed the plans at all the Masses that weekend for the much needed improvements to the buildings. Parishioners were invited for hospitality after the Masses to view a visual presentation of the plans, pick up brochures, and to meet members of the Building Committee and a Fundraising Committee who were there to answer our questions.

The campaign to raise the necessary funds for the renovations was named "Journey of Grace 150", recognizing the 150 years parishioners have continued to build St. Joseph Parish into the thriving community we have today.

A lot of excitement and enthusiasm was generated when Father made the announcement and asked for prayers for the success of the fundraising campaign. A special Journey of Grace 150 Prayer was prepared for reciting at the end of all Masses during the campaign.

The overall goal was \$6 million in pledges over three years, with 50% (\$3 million) in cash by December 31, 2016 to begin construction. Construction goals were to begin late April 2017 and to complete December 2017.

Following a Noon Mass in December 2016, the Journey of Grace 150 campaign team led a guided tour through the church to discuss the renovation plans in detail. During the tour, a sample design of the new stained glass windows featuring scenes from St. Joseph's life was revealed. The new windows will replace the current colored glass block windows in the sanctuary.

Highlights of the plan were made available to the parishioners in a December 2016 flyer with pictures in color and a description of the areas to be renovated. They included:

- A covered entrance and drop-off area, with a flat front entrance accessible to all--no steps!
- A new narthex/expanded vestibule with gathering spaces, a new bride's room, new accessible restrooms, video boards, and additional seating for overflow Masses and special events.
- Wider, accessible aisles and abundant natural light throughout the sanctuary.
- New flooring, pews, choir area and ambo (pulpit) in the sanctuary.
- New stained glass windows and enhanced devotional areas in the sanctuary.
- Elevator, air conditioning, and new windows for the Parish Service Center.

An April 2017 flyer about the Parish Service Center improvements included information about the elevator making all three floors handicap accessible; air conditioning throughout the Parish Offices, Christian Formation Offices, Youth Ministry Offices, and meeting spaces; replacement windows for the first and third floors; an enclosed front porch/entrance area and new landscaping to improve the building's curb appeal.

The Journey of Grace 150 renovation project was approved early 2017 by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, and the campaign goals were nearly met by then.

So that renovations could begin in May, the last Masses to be celebrated in the Church were the First Holy Communion Noon Mass on April 30 and the Monday morning Masses on May 1.

Pews were removed from the Church on May 1 and offered to parishioners to purchase at \$250. The maintenance staff and more than 60 volunteers removed and packed interior furnishings and supplies to be taken to the gymnasium at the Early Education Center (formerly St. Joseph High School), where the Liturgy Committee helped Fr. Mike Hawken to immediately transform it into our temporary worship space during renovation. Masses began to be celebrated on Tuesday, May 2, and weddings, baptisms and funerals continued to be celebrated at the gym as well.

The gym floor was carpeted, giving the area a comforting appearance and easy to walk on. Comfortable chairs were purchased. There were no kneelers, so we stood during the Eucharistic Prayer. Overflow seating and cry room were in the smaller carpeted gym where Mass was seen and heard on a big screen. Confessions took place in the little carpeted gym at the normal 3:30 time on Saturday.

Parking spaces behind the gym were available for the handicapped. A side entrance accessible from the parking area allowed handicapped parishioners to enter the gym on level ground with no stairs.

On the evening of May 1, Boy Scouts dug up the memorial bricks in front of the church and stored them to be placed in another location on church grounds after the renovation.

A fence was erected around the Church perimeter to secure the construction site. Some parking spaces remained available in the parking lot of the Parish Service Center south of the Church. The Adoration Chapel remained open 24/7, with parking spaces also kept available.

Temporary changes to the Parish Service Center entrance were made during renovations. Parishioners wishing to visit the business or ministry offices to attend a meeting or plan a baptism, wedding or funeral, were asked to call the Parish Office to receive instructions for entering the building.

Construction activities moved along well, but a few minor setbacks caused the completion to be a little later than scheduled. After 10 months in the "Gym Church," the doors to the newly renovated church were open for Sunday Masses on the weekend of March 3-4, 2018! Adding to the festivities that Sunday was the annual St. Joseph Table and dinner in McDevitt Hall. The opening day concluded with a special St. Joseph Church Open House at 3pm, at which many of the renovation features were explained, and the new 3-manual Allen Organ and Steinway Grand Piano were played for our enjoyment.

A special Mass of Blessing was celebrated by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann on Sunday, March 11 at 11am. A short champagne toast and reception followed the Mass in McDevitt Hall.

Special thanks were extended by Fr. Mike Hawken to our Liturgy Committee, maintenance staff, and many parish volunteers who did an amazing job of vacating the church for renovations to take place, transforming our gym into our church and preparing the newly renovated church as our worship space again.

The \$6 million renovation project (completed on budget) included improvements to lighting, sound, and fire suppressions in the church, as well as wheelchair accessible entrances and seating. Abundant natural light and a spacious new narthex with accessible restrooms, a bride's room, religious articles store, and cry room provide generous accommodations for worship service and gatherings.

The sanctuary is awesome and inspirational! The stunning new baldachin, or ciborium, suspended from the ceiling over the altar features new lighting and a beautiful stained glass window of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. The baldachin visually highlights the importance of the altar. A new holy water/baptismal font in the narthex welcomes worshippers into the sanctuary, reminding us of baptism, which welcomes us into the life of the Lord and the Church. New stained glass windows feature the lives of St. Joseph, Jesus and the Holy Family. Beautiful medallions in the floor of the center aisle represent the Holy Trinity, the Christogram IHS symbolizing Jesus Christ, and the symbol of the mother pelican feeding her babies, which represents Jesus, who gave His life for our redemption and feeds us in the Eucharist. New pews, new kneelers, and tile flooring. The curved pews emulate the shape of the round church and provide excellent sight lines of the altar.

As we celebrate our 150-year anniversary, we have renovated our Church and Parish Center to better accommodate the needs of our parishioners and welcome new ones.

Thanks to Fr. Mike Hawken for his inspiration, and to the Building and Fundraising Committees for helping to make it all possible, and to the parishioners for their support.

## **Building Committee**

Fr. Mike Hawken, Pastor  
Pat McAnany, Chairman  
Dan Stewart  
Bob Bryon  
Terry Carter  
Joe Keehn  
Kurt Kuhlmann  
Mike Korte  
Leon Roberts

## **Fundraising Committee**

Libby Knox, Coordinator  
Fr. Mike Hawken, Pastor  
Pat McAnany, Co-Chair  
Dan Stewart, Co-Chair  
Mel McAnany  
Mark Mies  
Cindy Pflumm  
Pat Regan  
Rosie Rieke  
Tim Seibold  
Asta VanKiersbilck



# *Parish Campus Buildings*

## **Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**

Perpetual Adoration of the Holy Eucharist was established at St. Joseph Parish in 1987 on the Feast of Corpus Christi. It was spearheaded by our Legion of Mary members who were impressed by the testimony of Legion members in Wichita of how parishes there were being renewed and revitalized as a result of Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

After gaining approval from Archbishop Ignatius Strecker and our pastor, Msgr. William Curtin, St. Joseph Parish's first Adoration Chapel was constructed in the hallway directly below the vestibule. More than 500 signed up to fill the 168 hours per week of adoration. Today more than 400 parishioners and others continue to fill the chapel 24 hours a day, 52 weeks every year.

In 1992, the chapel had outgrown its space and was moved to the old convent chapel where it remained for 12 years. For about a year, adoration took place in a small room located on the south side of the old grade school.

Spearheaded by Msgr. Robert Bergman, our new free standing chapel was built at the southeast side of the church in 2005, the year of the Eucharist. Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann dedicated the chapel on May 29, 2005.

Several historical items were incorporated into the building:

- The Blessed Mother statue saved in the fire that destroyed the first church in 1894.
- Stained glass windows from the convent chapel in the building that became church property years later and was demolished in 2004.
- A mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe was originally in the dining room of the convent. It had been brought from Puebla, Mexico by Betty McAnany's mother, Marie Elena Scherer, as a gift to her friend, Father Lutz. There are two more mosaics from Puebla in the north and south foyers of the St. Joseph Parish Center.
- Two stained glass pieces from the old stone church that were donated from the Bill and Mary Alice Charlton family where they had been stored, and are in a wooden casement built by parishioner Al Faltermeier.
- A stained glass window with a lamb on it, representing the "Lamb of God", was from the baptistry in the old rock church.

- The window of Christ below the lamb window was also from the old church.
- The “Magnificat Cross” was donated by the John and Jane Mika family. In 1988, John traveled to the Valley of Gardena in Northern Italy, where he commissioned an artist to hand carve the corpus of Jesus. It arrived in the United States in the fall of 1990. Shortly after, Joe and Robin Mika built the wood cross for the corpus to hang on. The Mika family traveled all over the country to various Marian conferences with the crucifix. Its permanent home is in our chapel.
- Roy Baldwin used portions of the marble Communion rail that had been in the old stone church built to make posts for the small altar that holds the Monstrance.
- Angels on each side of the St. Joseph statue facing us when we come onto the Chapel were donated by the Ohmes family in memory of their parents, Ray and Loretta Ohmes.

Twenty years of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration was celebrated on Corpus Christi Sunday, June 10, 2007. A holy hour of prayer was held in the church with Archbishop Emeritus James Patrick Keleher, Msgr. Gary Applegate, Msgr. Raymond Burger, Fr. Mike Hawken and Fr. Brandon Farrar as celebrants. Following the holy hour, the Knights of Columbus escorted the Archbishop with a monstrance containing the Eucharist in a procession from the church to the Adoration Chapel, where the monstrance was installed. Several hundred parishioners joined in the procession and a reception in McDevitt Hall.

In August 2018, the Chapel signage was designated as “Monsignor Curtin Adoration Chapel.”

## ***Parish Convent***

A convent for the Benedictine nuns who taught at St. Joseph Grade and High Schools was built west of the church in 1963. The nuns resided there until 1979 when the building became the Shawnee Lodge for Senior Citizens and Handicapped Persons. In December 1992 the church took over the building for parish use, and the lodge was closed. It reopened that month as the Parish Education Center for the Christian Formation Office staff, School of Religion classes for Catholic public school students, and for parish meeting rooms.

Expanded remodeling in 1995, expanded classroom space for both the School of Religion and St. Joseph School and a small Parish Library. The parish Adoration Chapel was moved from the church basement to the chapel formerly used by the nuns.

During May-June 2004 the former convent building was vacated for demolition in the following month because of foundation deterioration. The Adoration Chapel and Christian Formation Office staff relocated in the old St. Joseph Grade School building. St. Joseph School and School of Religion classes relocated in the new St. Joseph Education Center. The vacated area is now a parking lot for the church and playground for the school.

# *Special Parish Events*

## **Christ Child Shower**

An annual Christ Child Shower sponsored by the Ladies' Guild for parishioners to participate in is held every December in McDevitt Hall to benefit "Patty's Closet", a special room opened in 1999 at the Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center in Shawnee to provide baby items and maternity clothes and personal items for women who choose life for their babies. The room is named in memory of Patty Brown, who was a strong supporter of the pro-life ministry at St. Joseph Church for many years. Patty passed away in June 1998. Her husband, Forrest, who also worked with the ministry, passed away in January 2006, a little over a month after he attended the Christ Child Shower with his daughter, Melissa Nachbar, a second-grade teacher at St. Joseph School.

The memory of Patty and Forrest is kept alive with the Christ Child Shower for parishioners to attend and bring their donations to replenish the supply in Patty's Closet.

## **Extravaganza/Fall Festival**

Historically, St. Joseph parishioners have always been closely knit, not only through their spiritual bond from attending Mass, but also through social events that develop life-long friendships and makes us like family. The event that draws the largest number of parishioners for fun and camaraderie is our annual Fall Festival. A forerunner to the Fall Festival was the parish Extravaganza, and before Extravaganza the Altar Society sponsored an annual old-fashioned Ice Cream Social held on a parking area back of the first grade school building. Hand-scooped ice cream cones and cake were served; Knights of Columbus served roasted hot dogs and beverages, and a few games were available, as well as band music for dancing.

In 1983, the Altar Society expanded the event, with the Knights of Columbus and the Aquinas Booster Club assisting with many more food and beverage booths and games, and raffles were added. The event was held on the new grade school grounds (now St. Joseph Parish Center). In the following years, the social continued to grow with additional activities and more parish organizations participating in planning carrying out the festivities.

In 1989, Mickey Taschler proposed something that would expand the Ice Cream Social to a huge occasion with even more booths, games, and special events for all ages. She consulted with Msgr. William Curtin about St. Joseph Parish sponsoring an Extravaganza in the Fall.

The first Extravaganza was supported by the Parish Council, the Ladies' Guild, St. Joseph School and PTO, St. Joseph School Fathers' Club, Christian Formation Office, Knights of Columbus, parish Youth Group, Aquinas Booster Club, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts--and hundreds of parish volunteers.

Many parishioners today recall the first Extravaganza on a beautiful, sunny, very windy, September Sunday afternoon that was kicked off with Noon Mass celebrated at Mirocke Stadium by Monsignor Curtin--his vestments and the altar cloth flapping in the wind. Following Mass, the events held on the EEC grounds and the gym included a variety show, rock concert, youth band, square and polka dancing, bingo, many games, rides and special activities for children, American and Mexican food, raffle booths and several new booths. And of course, ice cream and cake were served!

The tradition of celebrating Noon Mass at Mirocke Field before the afternoon festivities continued through 1994, with one rain out in 1991 when Mass was celebrated by Fr. Tony Lickteig in church instead. Extravaganza events that Fall were held under tents during the on again, off again rain, but many parishioners remained to participate.

Fried chicken dinners were introduced to the Extravaganza festivities in 1994 on the Saturday evening before the Sunday events. When the Extravaganza was moved from Sunday afternoon to Saturday in 1997, the chicken dinners were changed to Friday evenings, with bingo and music for dancing after dinner on the EEC grounds.

From 1991 through 1993, golf enthusiasts participated in an Extravaganza-sponsored golf tourney at a course in the area on the Saturday before the Extravaganza. The tourney was discontinued, since many of the golfers were scheduled as volunteers for the Sunday event. It was offered again in 2005 as a 4-person scramble the weekend before Extravaganza events. The 2007 tourney was held as a "Golf Classic" in the Spring instead of in the Fall, but were discontinued after the 2010 tournament.

Extravaganzas were held every Fall for 16 years, and in 2005 a name change was made to fit the season and to stimulate new interest. The event became the Fall Festival, with all the excitement and fun as were the Ice Cream Socials and Extravaganzas. The program included many of the traditional events, and new ones were added to appeal to all ages.

Numerous parishioners have coordinated the Extravaganza and Fall Festival events, doing an outstanding job of bringing parish families and friends together to socialize and enjoy games, drawings, food and music.

The monetary advantages from the Ice Cream Socials, Extravaganzas, and Fall Festivals have been great. In the early days of the Ice Cream Socials, the Altar Society used the proceeds for several charities; Extravaganza and Fall Festival events benefited various St. Joseph Church and School needs.

The 2018 Fall Festival was held in conjunction with St. Joseph's 150th Anniversary celebration held on Saturday, September 15.

## ***Gift & Craft Bazaar***

In early November 1980, the Altar Society (now Ladies' Guild) held a "Craft Sale" as a fundraiser to benefit sending an Altar Society officer to the National Council of Catholic Women convention and to support charitable organizations. The sale was held in McDevitt Hall with 24 vendors.

The success of this new project inspired the ladies to continue holding the sale annually, with name changes, now in its 37th year. For many years, it was held on Saturdays (9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. or 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and on Sundays, 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Starting in 2000, it began to be held on Saturdays only from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In 1995 the sale was renamed "Craft Fair," and with the Grade School yearly auction being scheduled that year the first weekend in November, the ladies decided to start holding it in September in conjunction with the Parish Extravaganza, later the Fall Festival. Booths were set up on the Grade School grounds, and also in the small EEC gym.

Another new name, "Gift Bazaar," was designated in 2008, due to the various items being sold by the vendors that were appropriate gift ideas. The location was moved back to McDevitt Hall and held on the third weekend of October.

Because of the increased variety of crafts that were being sold by the vendors, the Ladies' Guild approved changing the name to "Gift & Craft Bazaar" in 2014. The third weekend in October became the traditional date that doesn't conflict with a Gift & Craft Bazaar being held annually by the City of Shawnee.

There were only two years that the event was not held. It was canceled in 2005 during the construction of the Adoration Chapel, and in 2017 while the Church was being renovated.

Coordinators of the event through the years have included Anna Cooke, Bette Hammes, Bonnie Ondick, Mary Kay Riehle, Barbara Richardson, Carol Seitter, Nancy Yonker (coordinated several times), Terry Klapmeyer, Connie Sambol, Sandy Tharp, Jackie Cortright, Nancy Wrigley, Shannon Foley, and Hettie Ann Leary. Current coordinators are Linda Oneslager (coordinator numerous times) and Mary Spruk.

The bazaar continues to be held in McDevitt Hall, filling the available space with more than 50 vendors. It has become an incentive for early Christmas shopping, with hundreds of gifts, crafts, and handmade religious items available.

Proceeds now benefit the needs of St. Joseph Parish, as well as those of several charitable causes that include Catholic Charities and Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center, and in the past for purifying water in a third world country, paying for goats in Kenya where it is a livelihood to sell them for providing food for the needy and a high school education for children, and making lunches available for the homeless in our community.

## ***St. Joseph Table***

In late 1991 Steve and Dianna Burke introduced the idea of our Parish having an annual St. Joseph Table celebration to Jim and Kathy Riggs and Bill and Christine Marion. Steve had fond memories of being raised in the Northeast neighborhoods of Kansas City, Missouri where many of the Catholic parishes held St. Joseph Table events on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19th. Therefore, in March of 1992, the three couples visited many of the St. Joseph Tables and through the kindness and generosity of those parishes, gleaned ideas, information, and advice on organizing and executing a format for our first St. Joseph Table, which was held in March of 1993.

The original three couples became the first steering committee. When Jim and Kathy Riggs retired and moved to southern Missouri, John and Susan Weber, who had volunteered from the first days, joined the steering committee to replace the Riggs. This committee of three couples, with the help of our publicity chairman Betty Calcara, has coordinated the event until the decision was made to add long-time volunteers Glenn and Chris Brown in 2016 and Mike and Mary Pezza in 2017, who have been excellent additions to the committee.

### **Description of the St. Joseph Table:**

1. Large altar for St. Joseph with his statue in the center of the table that is decorated and filled with homemade pastries and baked goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, bottles of wine and much more all sold for donations.
2. A special dining table with three table settings dedicated to the Holy Family.
3. “Cash and carry” tables filled with a variety of Italian cookies made and packaged by parish volunteers are the result of two Saturdays that are set aside each year when volunteers from the parish make and bake between 6,000 and 7,000 cookies with ingredients donated by parishioners. Also included on the cash and carry are other ethnic home baked items donated by parishioners, imported pasta, and homemade cannolis made while you wait.
4. A homemade Italian Pasta Dinner prepared and served by men of the parish which includes:
  - Imported Italian Buccatini with choice of two made from scratch sauces – traditional Milanese or marinara
  - Seasoned bread crumbs (representing the sawdust from St. Joseph’s workshop)

- Freshly made Italian garlic bread
  - Marinated fresh vegetable salad (made by volunteers in the parish)
  - Dessert consisting of Spumoni ice cream with the homemade Italian cookies
  - There is no charge for the dinner; however, a donation box is available for those attending who wish to make a contribution to help those less fortunate.
5. A raffle table at which people can take chances for a donation of \$1 on a variety of items; many are beautiful religious icons
  6. Live Italian music during the festivities; some popular for sing-along

**Purpose of the St. Joseph Table:**

1. To give thanks for prayers answered and share a meal as a community.
2. To help those in need with food provided by the proceeds from the Table.
  - This is done in the form of grocery gift cards sent to individuals and families throughout the year who are struggling to overcome a life situation that places them in need of help. Currently, approximately 30 families a month receive these benefits.
  - Grocery gift cards are also provided for approximately 40 families each year through the Christmas Family Adoption Program at the parish.
  - During the past 26 years, nearly \$170,000 has been raised at our St. Joseph Table, going toward feeding the hungry of our parish and surrounding community.

It takes hundreds of volunteers and donations to put on this event each year, and new volunteers are always needed and welcome. The Table has always had wonderful support from our pastors and parish staff, and it is hoped by all those involved that the St. Joseph Table will continue to be a highlight of the parish for years to come, bringing our parish community together to enjoy fellowship, wonderful food and continue to do its work of helping others in need.

# *A Tribute to Fallen Soldiers*

## *St. Joseph Parish Servicemen Who Gave Their Lives Serving Our Country During WWII and Subsequent Wars*

**Robert A. McAnany, Jr.:** Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force Coastal Command. Robert died in the crash of his Airspeed Oxford aircraft on October 1, 1941 in England before the U.S. entered World War II on December 7, 1941. His funeral took place at Causewayhead Cemetery opposite Silloth Airfield. In 1950 his body was brought to the United States and laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery.

**Chester Rieke:** 1st Lt., U.S. Army, 30th Infantry, 3rd Inf. Div., died October 4, 1944 in Letholy, but later his body was brought home for burial in St. Joseph Cemetery. Chester was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Distinguished Service Cross.

**Andrew J. Pflumm, Jr.:** PFC, U.S. Army 157th Infantry, 45th Inf. Div., died February 18, 1944 on Anzio Beach in Italy. He is buried at St. Joseph Cemetery.

**Robert Shocklee:** 1st Lt., U.S. Army, killed in 1944 on the 17th day of the invasion at Normandy Beach; was buried in Brittany American Cemetery outside St. James, France.

**Elmer "Tillie" Hartman:** B-24 pilot based in North Africa and Italy. His aircraft collided with another over the Adriatic Sea on a Ploesti (Romania) raid March 24, 1944; no bodies recovered.

**Fred "Butch" Bauer:** Died in Okinawa. (Unable to locate more information.)

**Joseph DeMaria, Jr.:** Air Force pilot, killed in an air crash in Lubbock, TX in 1943 during an air show that was promoting the selling of war bonds. Jasper is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Kansas City, MO.

**Benjamin A. Nicks III,** son of Ben Nicks and the late Daisy Nicks, died in battle during the Vietnam War on April 23, 1970. Ben said his son "died in harness," meaning that he died in military uniform. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

**Christopher Taylor:** U.S. Marine pilot, died January 2, 1981 in a jet fighter crash on a flight training accident in North Carolina. (Benjamin Nicks III and Christopher are buried within a few feet of each other in St. Joseph Cemetery.)

**Christopher G. Walsh:** 2nd Class Navy Petty Officer, a Navy hospital corpsman assigned to a Marine detachment in Iraq, was killed by a roadside bomb in Fallujah, Iraq on September 4, 2006. His wake and funeral Mass were at St. Joseph Church on September 14-15, and he was buried at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

## ***Women on the Home Front Who Did Their Part***

While men in the military served our country overseas during WWII, parish women on the home front supported and served important roles.

**Mary M. Cashman** enlisted in April 1944, after her fiancé was killed in the Pacific Arena. Her basic training was in the WACS at Fort Des Moines, IA. She was sent to train as a Medical Technician at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, TX. After graduating in a class of 140, she was assigned to WAAFS Air Force Base hospitals to care for the wounded that were sent to the States to recuperate. She served from 1944 to 1947 in several hospitals in the States.

**Mary Anne (McAnany) Textor** was working at Hallmark when her older brother Robert died in the crash of his RAF plane in England. She said that when that Gold Star was hung in the window, making greeting cards just didn't seem that important anymore. When the U.S. Government opened a school in Kansas City, KS to train people to build B-25 bombers at the North American Aviation Plant in Fairfax, Mary Anne applied. She worked on maintenance problems requiring repair or attention in the final assembly. She later gained the position of overhaul weight check clerk, and later was able to employ her own meager skill as a WAM (woman aircraft mechanic). Mary Anne passed away September 6, 2013.

**Mary Helen (Rieke) John** also worked at the North American Aviation Plant. From 1942-1945 she worked in the office in charge of office supplies. She worked the early shift--6am-3pm--leaving home at 5am to be there on time. Mary Helen died January 27, 2009.

**Antoinette "Tony" (DeMaria) Ingala** joined the services as a WAVE. In 1944, she received training for Naval Intelligence in New York and Iowa. She later was stationed at Navy bases in South Carolina and Florida, where she typed confidential Navy information. Antoinette passed away October 6, 2015.

## ***St. Joseph Parish War Mothers***

During World War II, parish mothers of sons serving in the military met Tuesday nights at each other's homes to pray for them. As the group got larger, they started meeting at St. Joseph Church while the Knights of Columbus men were at their Tuesday night meeting.



*Thank you to all those who spent many hours researching  
and compiling the History of St. Joseph.*

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*Betty Rafferty*

*Mary Spruk*

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**ST. JOSEPH  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

JOURNEY OF GRACE