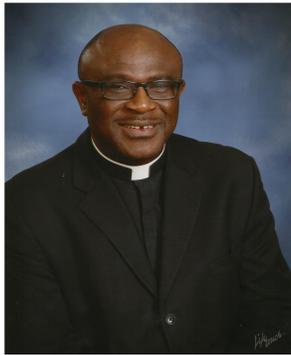


Saint John the Evangelist Eagle

Volume 11 Number 4 December, 2019



From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Parishioners,

This past week we celebrated Thanksgiving Day. I did pray for you all in a very special way and my hopes are that you all had a wonderful time together with family and friends over the period.

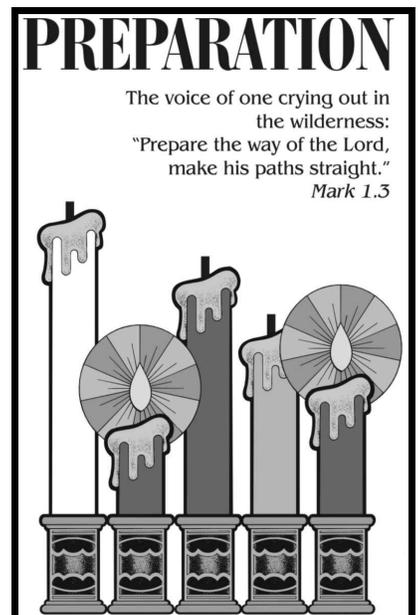
Recently we revamped our Liturgy Committee and the team has so far put in a tremendous amount of work which is helping to enhance our worship experience in our parish here. In November we had a very fruitful liturgical workshop which was well attended by most of our liturgical ministers including Lectors, Ushers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. I sincerely want to thank God for all the various ministries in our parish and the work that we all are doing to continue to spread the love in our community. May you all be richly blessed.

We find ourselves at the beginning of yet another liturgical year in the Church with Advent beginning this Sunday. Advent is a season during which we prepare for Christmas. I encourage everyone to embrace the spirit of the season which includes prayer, diligence, and joyful sharing. Remember that JESUS is the Reason for the Season. Among the many opportunities for spiritualizing the season, there are two important programs that I would strongly recommend to everyone during the first half of the month of December. Firstly, we will have an Advent Night on Tuesday Dec. 3 at 6pm. It will be an opportunity for us to gather as a community to share meal and fellowship in the spirit of Advent. It will also be an opportunity to ask some of your questions around the faith and the Church, and your pastor will help as much as possible in providing answers. Secondly I want to encourage all to attend the Communal Penance service on Sunday Dec. 15 in Olmitz at 4pm and in Hoisington at 7pm. This will provide you an opportunity to approach the sacrament of reconciliation.

This first Sunday of Advent we begin the use of our New Missals. The books are placed on the edges of the pews and are meant to remain there, not to be carried to the vestibule at the end of Mass, and not to be taken out of Church. The pages for the readings for each Mass will be in the bulletin and also on the Hymn board. I totally understand that this change may bring inconveniences to some in our community, but I want to appeal to all to accept it in good faith. I do pray that the transition will be smooth.

This edition of our newsletter contains very interesting reports of activities by the various committees of our parish, please read and be informed.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Rev. Anselm Kentus Eke, MSP
Your Pastor



Outreach Committee Report

Submitted by Jan Morgenstern

A memorial prayer service was held Sunday, Nov. 3 for those who have died this past year from St. John's and St. Ann's parishes. Candles were lit for 19 of St. John's parish and 4 of St. Ann's. Many of the family members and friends were present for the prayer service and then enjoyed fellowship at a reception after the service. Please know that you and your loved ones remain in our prayers.

We also held a memorial prayer service at Country Place Living on Sunday, Nov. 10. Many of the residents there are unable to attend the funerals of their friends. It was well attended by the residents. Eleven candles were lit for the residents who have died in the past year.

A grief support evening is planned for January. It will be an opportunity for prayer, reflection, and fellowship for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

The Ministerial Alliance, along with the food bank, are planning the Community Christmas Baskets again this year. Applications are available at the food bank, city office, Chamber of Commerce, as well as the churches. The Outreach Committee plan put the Christmas Baskets together on Monday, Dec. 16.

"Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever." ~ Psalm 118:1

"Good News Corner"

Welcome to our recently registered new parishioners:

Michael Siebert and Shauna Redetzke and baby Rosemary Siebert

Evan and Jami Merlau and children: Reese, Preston, Samantha, Benett, and Isabel



R.C.I.A. Report

"Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults"

Submitted by Judy Spangler

Are you or someone you know searching for a church to call home? If so, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) may be for you! The RCIA is a time to come together to learn about the Church and to discern if God is calling you to become Catholic at this time. If you have questions, or would like more information about the process, call Judy Spangler at 620-786-0541 or Father Anselm at 620-653-2963. An inquiry session for anyone interested will meet on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm in the parish center.

Religious Ed. Committee Report

Submitted by Rose Debes, DRE

The Religious Ed year is off to a great start! Enrollment night was held on Sept. 4 and classes began Sept. 18. Many elementary students have enjoyed coming to class directly after school. About 45 students share a snack, participate in a short lesson, and sing praise and worship songs before their classes. They've learned about Saints, Bible stories, and memorized Bible verses.

A small group of students and parents attended NCYC November 21-24. What a wonderful experience for our youth to participate in this national event and energize their spiritual life!

Our middle school students are participating in a new program this year called "Edge". This has been an awesome transition as this program is very interactive and engaging. It focuses on the students developing an understanding of scripture, prayer, the Saints, and leading a life of faith.

Thank you to everyone who donated food during our drive in November. Our high school students enjoyed spending an evening driving around town collecting your donations to help fill the parish food baskets!

Also, thank you to all of the parishioners and community members who purchased poinsettias! The first delivery date will be Dec. 4. We appreciate your support of the religious ed program!

Liturgy Committee Report

Submitted by Linda Moeder

The Liturgy Committee met on Oct. 29. The members present were Father Anselm, Faye Doonan, Janet Koester, Donna Bates, Neil Ochs, Rose Debes, Madonna Oborny, Annie Riese, Leonard Moeder, and Linda Moeder.

Father asked for thoughts on every aspect of our parish liturgy today. The problem with the Book of the Gospels falling over at the beginning of Mass was discussed, as well as suggestions for a solution.

Altar Servers: We discussed ideas to make sure the altar servers are aware of when they are scheduled to serve and to cut down on the number of 'no shows'. We discussed notifying children at Wednesday religious ed. classes, or perhaps devising a system for text notifications. We would like to eliminate the "I didn't know I was scheduled to serve" excuse. We discussed removing some of the chronic 'no show' servers from the schedule. Perhaps the servers should be asked to re-commit annually. We will decide how to handle this through religious ed. program.

New Missals: The missal that has been purchased is different from the initial two which were reviewed. These work better for the music liturgy and were basically the same cost. We will begin to use the "Journey Songs" missal at Advent in December. The missal will be left in the pews, rather than stored in shelves in the vestibule, and we can use the Prayer for Vocations card as a bookmark (which will tidy up the pews as well).

Music Number Stand: The stand used for song numbers was discussed, specifically ideas for how to make it more visible. We will look at moving it for improved visibility.

Liturgical workshop: A workshop for liturgical ministers as a refresher course and to correct errors is required. Ministers must realize that every ministry is important and must be well conducted. As an example, Father discussed the three forms of reverence: genuflection, a profound bow, and a simple bow. This workshop is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 13 at 7 pm.

Parish Mission: We discussed the scheduling of a parish mission this year. It has been difficult to

find a mission presenter and the only one found available was going to be quite expensive, so it was decided not to have a mission for Advent. We discussed having Father hold a mission himself. It was decided we will have a "question and answer" format with Father on Tues. Dec. 3 with pizza provided by the parish. We would encourage some people to bring cookies as well. It will be advertised as a "Beginning of Advent" celebration for the parish. There will be a sign-up sheet for the meal. It was suggested that we could do this as well for Fat Tuesday in preparation for Lent in February.

The schedule for upcoming holiday services was discussed. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Altar Society Report

Submitted by Loretta Kinman

On Oct. 24, 27 ladies of St. John's Altar Society met for a delicious Fall Soup Supper. We enjoyed chili, vegetable beef, and chicken noodle soups made by Debbie Finn and Lois McLeland. A short discussion was held about making cinnamon rolls again this year. It was decided that we would make them on Nov. 22 in the parish center. Proceeds from the sale of the rolls go to offset altar expenses in church (wine, breads, and candles). Following supper, we made a cute pumpkin craft to take home. It was a very enjoyable, fun evening and appreciate all that Debbie and Lois did to host the event.



Pastoral Council Report

Submitted by Diane Batchman

The Pastoral Council met on Nov. 14. The members present were Steve Debes, Rose Debes, John Yanda, Richard Neidhart, Neil Ochs, Diane Batchman, Linda Moeder, and Father Anselm.

New Missal / Song Books: The new missals will be put out the Friday after Thanksgiving. Because of the size of the books, they will be left in the pews and not on the shelves in the back of church.

Liturgy Committee: Father was very pleased with the attendance at the liturgy workshop held on Nov. 13. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the various ministers on the purpose and responsibilities of each ministry.

Parish Mission: There will not be an Advent mission this year. We will look for an Advent mission for next year and possibly one during Lent. We will have an "Ask Father" Advent Celebration Pizza Night on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 6:00 pm. It will be an evening of socializing and a question and answer session.

School Lot: The City of Hoisington confirmed we can build a new church on the current site or on the north parking lot, if the need ever arises. We have taken the idea of selling the school lot off the table for now. Different options are being considered for maintenance of the church and school lot grounds.

"Sunday Celebration in Absence of a Priest":

Due to the shortage of priests in our diocese, four parishes currently do not have a priest. The priests of the diocese are taking turns covering weekend masses at these parishes. When Father Anselm is covering one of these parishes, we will have a lay person who will have a "Sunday celebration in the absence of a priest", also known as a communion service. This celebration will fulfill our weekend obligation.

Please Note:

Father Anselm will be on vacation from Dec. 29 through Jan. 30. Father Mazouch will have the weekend masses in Hoisington and Olmitz during Father Anselm's vacation.

Finance Council Report

Submitted by Mike Aylward

The finance council met on Nov. 12 and members present were Father Anselm, Mike Aylward, Jim Blackwell, Lois McLeland, Debbie Finn, Jay Steinert, and Loretta Kinman. John Debes was absent. The meeting opened with a prayer.

Church Repairs: We accepted the bid from Mid-Continental Restoration to repair the mortar joints that are cracking and allowing moisture into the church. The white section below the bricks will also be addressed as it has many cracks and is chipping away. They will do the work in the spring.

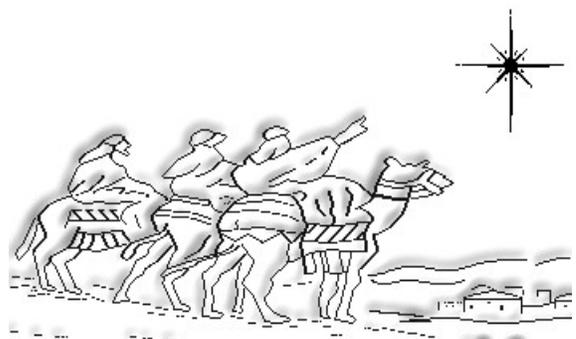
Tree in Rectory Front Yard: A new Schubert Oak tree has been planted in the front yard of the rectory. The other tree was removed after being badly damaged in a storm on August 30.

School Lot: Parish representatives met with the city manager to discuss the old school lot. It was decided to take no action for now.

Grounds Keeping: Father said the lawn care company seemed to be doing a good job. The school lot was discussed. If anyone is interested in mowing that (with the church's mower) they can contact Mike Aylward. We will make a decision on this early next spring.

Church Steeple Ladder: There are safety concerns for anyone using the ladder on the church steeple for cleaning and inspection. Mid-Continental Restoration was asked about these repairs, but they don't do this work. We are investigating getting the repair done.

Advent Mission: We tried to find someone for an Advent Mission. One presenter was found, but it was decided it was too expensive. At this time, we have scheduled Father Simeon Gallagher for Advent, 2020.



Knights of Columbus Report

Submitted by Dan Esfeld

“Knights of Columbus Happenings”

From our founding in 1882, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. We are Catholic men of faith and men of charitable action. 2017 was a record-setting year for Knights of Columbus charitable work with an unprecedented \$185.6 million in donations and 75.6 million hours of service provided worldwide. The monetary value of K of C's service hours is valued at \$1.9 billion. Our charitable activities encompass a variety of local, national, and international projects. Our own unique charities include the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, Disaster Relief, Ultrasound Initiative, and Coats for Kids. We also partner with international charities including Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity. "We are answering Pope Francis' call to go to the peripheries," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said. "We can reach halfway around the globe to help those in need and we can reach to our neighbor next door. And we do that every day. That makes us witnesses to the faith."

Make a Difference: 100% of the Time!

One hundred percent of your donation goes directly to support the Knights of Columbus charitable cause of your choice. All fees and expenses associated with Knights of Columbus Charities, such as operating and administration costs, are covered by the Knights of Columbus. Whatever your cause to contribute to — providing a child the gift of warmth, advocating for a culture of life, giving persecuted religious minorities food and medical care or helping rebuild after natural disasters — every penny you donate goes directly to your chosen charity. Together, we will make a difference. It's the Knights of Columbus way.

Upcoming Events: *(At K of C hall unless noted)*

Dec. 9: K of C Meeting – 7:30 pm

Jan. 2020: Free Throw Contest date / time TBA

Jan. 13: K of C Meeting – 7:30 pm

Feb. 10: K of C Meeting – 7:30 pm

March 6: Fish Fry - 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

March 9: K of C Meeting – 7:30 pm

March 20: Fish Fry - 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

April 3: Fish Fry - 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

April 13: K of C Meeting – 7:30 pm

Dates and times for the monthly Texas Hold-em Poker will be published in the parish bulletin. Anyone wishing to help with one of the events please contact John Yanda at 620-617-3070 or email jfyanda66@gmail.com

Sacramental Celebrations

Baptism:

Sept. 29 - Breckyn Grace Hoffman,
daughter of Eric and Amanda Hoffman

Advent / Christmas Liturgical Schedule:

Reconciliation for the youth will be held on Wed., Dec. 4 in Hoisington at 7:00 pm. The parish adult Reconciliation service will be on Sun., Dec. 15 in Olmitz at 4:00 pm and in Hoisington at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Eve Masses will be in Hoisington at 5:00 pm and in Olmitz at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Day Masses will be in Hoisington at 9:00 am and in Olmitz at 10:30 am.

January 1 is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. New Year's Day Mass will be in Hoisington at 9:00 am and in Olmitz at 10:30 am.

Also please note - Father Anselm will be gone on vacation from Dec. 29 through Jan. 30. Father Mazouch will be substituting for the weekend Masses.





Birthday Celebrations

DECEMBER

Michelle Hitschmann...1st
 Bernard Wondra.....1st
 Ginny Axman.....2nd
 Gene Mooney.....2nd
 Corrine Boor3rd
 Christie Brungardt...3rd
 Gladys Byers.....4th
 Kurt Williams.....4th
 Doug Dolechek.....5th
 Tracey Knapp.....6th
 Michael Davis.....7th
 Derrick Kaiser.....7th
 Maleigha Schmidt...7th
 Tyann Schremmer....7th
 Taylor Boxberger....8th
 Dennis Trapp.....8th
 Michael Aylward....9th
 Shayla Cook.....9th
 Mark Crawford.....10th
 Rita Bailey.....11th
 Melissa Davis.....11th
 Nicole Staudinger...11th
 Marlene Cook.....12th
 Linda Rubio.....12th
 James Wright.....12th
 Miranda Shives.....13th
 Robert Conrad.....15th
 Paul Rziha.....15th
 Annalise Detter.....16th
 Sandrik Williams...17th
 Kira Cook.....18th
 Curtis Cramer.....19th
 Mayci Gruis.....19th
 Mary Dumler.....20th
 Trent Schremmer...20th
 Nolan McCurry.....21st
 Nicolas Rubio.....21st
 Carson Hoffman....22nd
 Barbara Springer...22nd
 Alan Charles.....24th
 Rafael Ecot.....24th
 Amy Finger.....24th
 Landon Harmon....24th

Celeste Meitner.....24th
 Jason Robinson.....24th
 Janelle Lang.....25th
 David McLeland....25th
 Preston Merlau.....25th
 Dayton Nett.....25th
 Elizabeth Klima....26th
 Samantha Merlau...27th
 Leon Klug.....28th
 Donna Nett.....28th
 Blake Reeves.....28th
 Robert Finger.....29th
 Ben Brewer.....30th
 Giovanni Gonzalez..30th
 Kameron Schneweis.30th
 Mary Beth Higgins..31st
 Kathy Hitschmann...31st
 Tim Schremmer.....31st

JANUARY

Jakob Breit.....1st
 Jon Lange.....2nd
 Elizabeth Gruis.....3rd
 Cheryl Schremmer...3rd
 Emaline Debes.....4th
 Curtis Hitschmann..4th
 Patrick Kephart.....4th
 Ambrose Demel.....5th
 Cameron Knapp.....6th
 Renita Schremmer...6th
 Ally Beck.....8th
 Delores Kaiser.....8th
 Anita Meade.....8th
 Clair Birzer.....9th
 Josh Debes.....9th
 Danny Dolechek....9th
 Patricia Radke.....13th
 Andrew Debes.....15th
 Jason Ingram.....15th
 Michael Demel.....17th
 John Crawford.....18th
 Jerry Morgenstern..18th
 Kade Cook.....19th
 Chris Beck.....22nd
 Tyler Reeves.....22nd
 Khloe Schneweis...22nd

Nolan Wilborn.....22nd
 Brian Wilborn.....24th
 Cindy Wilborn.....25th
 Sharon Dreiling....26th
 Jim Steiner.....26th
 James Farmer.....28th
 Duane Koester.....29th
 Celine Wright.....29th
 John Yanda.....29th
 Maria Zamarripa....29th
 Leonard Rziha.....30th
 Brandon Schremmer.30th
 Thomas Urban.....30th
 Patty Quade.....31st

FEBRUARY

Cole Birzer.....2nd
 Steffan Dolechek...2nd
 Loretta Finger.....2nd
 Janet Koester.....2nd
 James Springer....2nd
 Dustin Colston.....3rd
 Jacquelyn Gonzalez..3rd
 Johnathan Gonzalez..4th
 Nancy Crawford....5th
 Herman Schneweis..5th
 Michael 'MJ' Aylward.6th
 Starla Bieberle.....6th
 Bill Luebbbers.....7th
 Duane Stout.....7th
 Alexander Mooney...8th
 Alexis Rubio.....9th
 Reece Aylward.....10th
 Bridgett Schneweis..10th
 Barbara Polzin.....11th
 David Byers.....12th
 Karley Zecha.....12th
 Evan Merlau.....13th
 John Staudinger....13th
 Tyson Beck.....14th
 Randy Polzin.....14th
 Kody Cook.....15th
 Jeannie Hein.....15th
 Lori Lane.....15th
 Duane Polzin.....15th
 Michael Riese.....15th

Wally Schneweis....15th
 Peyton Kinman.....16th
 Bob Morgenstern...16th
 Elaine Yanda.....16th
 Della Boxberger....17th
 Curt Colson.....17th
 Rick Crawford.....17th
 Dan Schmidt.....17th
 James Sekavec.....17th
 Teresa Doze.....19th
 Ronald Schremmer..20th
 Hayden Beck.....21st
 Connor Boor.....21st
 Kylie Crawford....21st
 Aydan Davis.....21st
 Thomas Demel.....21st
 Caleb Birzer.....23rd
 Emily Zorn.....23rd
 Brady Reif.....24th
 Livvy Brewer.....25th
 Alan Hoffman.....25th
 Brooke Koester....25th
 Krista Brewer.....26th
 Corinna Demel.....26th
 Greg Willis.....26th
 Grant Dolechek....27th
 Becky Luebbbers...28th
 Joan Rziha.....28th
 Bonnie Schremmer..29th

