



PEACETIMES

Prince of Peace Stewardship Newsletter
Fall 2022

Prince of Peace Charities Program Offers Hope During Difficult times

The rising prices of gas, food, and nearly everything else, has affected almost everyone. Thanks to a committee of volunteers from our parish, Kearney's Catholic Community Pantry serves Buffalo County residents to help meet their basic needs during these trying times.

The pantry is supported by generous donations of money, food, and hygiene supplies. Located on the lower level (east side) of Prince of Peace, the pantry offers much more than just food items to our community members who need a helping hand. Other items they like to have on hand include, shampoo, soap and other personal hygiene products, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and diapers of differing sizes. Donations are accepted at any time of year, but they are in most need during the upcoming colder months. Monetary donations may be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plates at any of the Masses. Gifts of food and other products can be brought to the church anytime and placed on the carts inside the east doors.

Working in conjunction with the Jubilee Center, the Catholic Community Pantry is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm throughout the year. Volunteers from the pantry committee distribute needed commodities to Buffalo County families. Those who qualify, are able to visit the food pantry once each month and receive financial assistance for rent or utilities once each year. This year, since January 1, 2022, our pantry has used over \$22,500 in donations to help feed more than 1,900 people and financially assist even more. A report which details pantry activity and expenditures can be found in the bulletin each month.

Prince of Peace members dedicated to this cause include: Mike and Cathy Labun, Pat and Adell Ryan, Carol and David Hoban, Bev Schumacher, Sally Slama, Diane Stevens, Penny Spellman, Mary Lanspa, Pete Ludowese, Pat Trausch, as well as members of other parishes in our area.

If you are looking for a family advent activity that will capture the spirit of Christmas, check out the Pantry's reverse advent calendar on page 5 of this PeaceTimes.



A few of the Charities Committee Members/Volunteers (left to right) Bev Schumacher, Mike Labun, Cathy Labun and Pat Trausch



Halloween and Catholicism meet Faith Formation



The last few centuries have secularized Halloween, but the meaning of this annual celebration has its roots in the conversion of Celtic peoples to Catholicism.

In its first three hundred years, the Church often operated in secrecy because of persecution by the Romans. During this time, many people died for their faith. Some of these martyrs were honored locally on the anniversary of their death to celebrate their birth into eternal life. Eventually, neighboring communities began to

honor each other's martyrs. As time went on, and the persecution of Christians continued and intensified, there were too many martyrs to celebrate them all individually constituting a need for a common feast for all martyrs. Pope Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica to all saints and set the feast day for November 1st. Even though Christians in the West recognized this feast, it was not universally celebrated until Pope Gregory V directed that it be observed everywhere. In 998, St. Odilo, the abbot of a French monastery, added a celebration on November 2nd dedicated to praying for the souls of all the faithful departed, not just Saints. Not long after this, the holiday was also added to the universal calendar.

Around this same time, the Celts celebrated a minor holiday on October 31st dedicated to the harvest, and as a people, they celebrated the last day of *every* month. As they converted to Catholicism, Celtic peoples kept some of these traditions. Christianity also continued (and still does today) the Jewish custom of beginning a holiday celebration the night before the actual festival with a vigil. Since All Saints Day was referred to as a hallowed day (holy day) they called the night before All Hallows Eve which eventually ran together and was translated into "Halloween".





Faith Formation Coordinator, Amy Lowe wanted to bring the intended meaning of All Hallows Eve to the forefront of the reason Halloween is celebrated. So this year, faith formation students traded “Trunk-or-Treat” for a new tradition: Strolling with the Saints.

On November 2nd, K-5 students were able to “meet” 26 of the Church’s most revered Saints during their regularly scheduled class times (4:00 pm and 5:30 pm). Older faith formation students and adults volunteered to take on the roles of these Saints, learn about their lives, and dress the part. The evening started with Miss Amy explaining how Halloween began and its roots in the Catholic Church. Next, small groups of students, led by an adult, moved around the perimeter of the social hall and were greeted by each “Saint” who then told his or her story and offered the children a treat that correlated to his or her life in some way. St. Francis (patron saint of animals) gave out animal crackers, St. Matthew (a tax collector) gave out Pay Day candy bars, and St. Dominic Savio (known for his sense of humor) gave away Laffy Taffy. At the end of the event all the kids gathered together for a short recap of why Saints are celebrated on November 1st. Miss Amy encouraged the students to achieve sainthood by following the ways of the Saints they had just learned about. Everyone prayed together and the students were sent on their way to share saintly information with others using their treats as reminders.





Stewardship Committee's Building on Faith Update



Over the course of the last year, you have heard much about our Pillars of Prince of Peace Building on Faith Phase II Capital Campaign. We, the Stewardship Committee, would like to provide an update on the progress.

First, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee and Father Paul, we would like to thank those who have prayerfully and financially committed to the Campaign this past year. Your offerings are greatly appreciated and have helped to ensure our church is able to support

your spiritual needs as parishioners, in addition to others who have relied on the Prince of Peace Parish.

We have had a wonderful response to our Capital Campaign and based on your feedback have identified the improvements that will be made for our church. A new gathering space will be constructed to the west of the church to welcome all who enter. This space will also be used for weddings, funerals, and other social activities. New Faith Formation and meeting room space will be added and utilized by the Faith Formation programs. This year there are more than 240 youth enrolled in classes, and the existing space is overflowing. The improvements will continue to allow for the gathering of committees, small groups and individuals who use it almost every day throughout the week. The church offices will be relocated to the west of the church and south of the gathering space. This will be completed to make additional room for the classrooms and provide increased safety and security for the building with controlled entry.

To date, \$2.4 million has been raised for our expansion through the generous donations by one-third of our parish. As a parish, we are so close to fully funding the 3 priority improvements. This month, letters were sent to parishioners who had yet to make a commitment, that is, a yes or no to contributing. Members of the Stewardship Committee and volunteers will be following up with phone calls to those who received these letters. We would like 100% participation. This does not mean you need to donate, parish would simply like to know your intentions.

We have chosen to commit to the Capital Campaign because we know the impact it will make for generations to come. Prince of Peace has been an important part of our lives through attending Mass and receiving the sacraments, helping us in the best and worst of times, and building relationships with a supportive parish family. We have chosen to be a part of an exciting time in our church and are joining with others who feel the same. We are making this commitment not only for ourselves but also for our children and grandchildren along with your children, grandchildren, friends, and future generations.

Mother Teresa once said, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." Our goal is to be a Stewardship Parish - a community who is noticeably committed to prayer, parish ministry, and generous financial support. All three are equally important. In the coming weeks we ask those who are contacted by church volunteers to prayerfully make their commitment toward the Building on Faith Capital Campaign.

May God bless you as you make your commitments.





Prince of Peace Community Pantry Family Activity Advent Calendar

December 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Box of Cereal	2  Peanut Butter	3  Deodorant
4  Laundry Soap	 Macaroni & Cheese	6  Canned Chicken	7  Bar Soap	8  Canned Tuna	9  Toilet Paper	10  Toothpaste
11  Canned Vegetables	12  Dish Soap	13  Canned Beans	14  Box of Crackers	15  Ramen Noodles	16  Boxed Rice or Potatoes	17  Package of Pasta
18  Spaghetti Sauce	19  Snacks	20  Spaghetios, Ravioli & Chili	21  Jelly	22  Canned Fruit	23  Canned Soup	24  Shampoo & Conditioner
25  BLESSED Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

For the past few years the pantry committee has published a “reverse” Advent Calendar asking for donations from the parish. During the month of December, parishioners are encouraged to collect products to donate. This would be a great family Advent activity! Purchasing each and every item on the calendar is not required, but they do represent the pantry’s most popular needs. Please feel free to substitute any of the items; the pantry can use any and all nonperishable food items. You can choose to bring in the items early or even after the holidays are over. There will be a table set up in the parish hall from December 19th through December 22nd, and after December 27th.

New Members to Prince of Peace

Hospitality is one of the four pillars of Stewardship and so we would like to give a warm welcome to the following families that have joined our parish in the last few months. Please extend a welcoming hand to them when you see them during liturgies and parish activities.

Mitchell Borgmann

Spencer & Emily Knoble

Zachary & Kelcey Wetzel

Connor Wiggins & Ashley Einspahr



SAINT COLUMBAN



The life of Saint Columban (also referred to as Columbanus) reveals a man who exercised remarkable stewardship over his life of faith and his gifts for evangelizing.

He was born into a noble family in West Leinster, Ireland, in about 543; a time when the great Celtic monasteries were being established in Ireland. He received a classical education and as a young man became attracted to the monastic practice of integrating prayer, manual labor and study of scriptures into one's daily life. He entered the renowned monastery of Bangor and for many years embraced a life of asceticism.

In mid-life, he believed he was being called by God to preach the Gospel in foreign countries. He responded to this call, becoming one of the great Irish missionary saints. He established a number of monasteries in present-day France and Italy including the famous monastic community at Luxeuil in France, where he served as abbot for more than 20 years.

At age 70 he resumed his missionary journey, traveling over the Alps to Lombardy where he finally settled on gifted land in Bobbio. Here he founded the monastery that has the greatest claim to him. He remained there until his death on November 23, 615. His followers continued to preach the Gospel in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy, and are credited with founding over 100 monasteries.

Saint Columban invariably attracted large crowds who were struck by his enthusiasm for the Gospel, his persuasiveness and humility. He and his monks led the simplest of lives, and their meals oftentimes consisted of nothing more than forest vegetation, herbs and berries. He developed a monastic rule and promoted penitential practices which emphasized private confession to a priest and doing penance. He also wrote a commentary on the Psalms.

In 2004, a portion of Saint Columban's journey from Ireland to Italy was highlighted in a travel memoir entitled, *The Accidental Pilgrim: Travels with a Celtic Saint*. The author wrote about his experience of retracing the missionary journey of St. Columban on bicycle.

-catholicstewardship.com



Prince of Peace Catholic Church

2407 W 56th St
Kearney, NE 68845
308-236-9171
www.princeofpeacekearney.com
Return Service Requested

Weekend Masses:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday, 7:30 a.m.
Thursday, 12:05 p.m.

Reconciliation:

Saturday, 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Submit article ideas for the
PeaceTimes newsletter to
mandy@kearneyprinceofpeace.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL MASSES

ADVENT RETREAT

DECEMBER 3, 2002 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LITURGIES (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

VIGIL DECEMBER 7 6:00 PM
DECEMBER 8 12:00 & 6:00 PM

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

DECEMBER 11 3:00 PM

PLATTE RIVER SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 11 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGIES

DECEMBER 24 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGIES

DECEMBER 25 9:00 AM

MARY MOTHER OF GOD LITURGIES

VIGIL DECEMBER 31 5:30 PM
JANUARY 1 9:00 AM