



PEACETIMES

Prince of Peace Stewardship Newsletter
Spring 2022

Celebrating Prince of Peace, Our History and Our Future



Prince of Peace on Avenue M

Our parish was founded in 1986 after Bishop McNamara announced a second Catholic parish in Kearney. Parishioners embraced a new mission statement: United in the sacraments as the Body of Christ, we, the members of Prince of Peace parish, extend the welcoming arms of Jesus, opening the world to God's presence through works of love, hospitality, mercy, and prayer. The first Masses were celebrated on February 1 and 2, 1986 in a rented office building on the corner of 11th Street and Avenue M. In 1994, a rectory was purchased to house our parish priest. As Kearney grew, the decision was made to build a new church and our current property was purchased in 2007. A master plan was developed for the future Prince of Peace site. Ground breaking and

a blessing on the first phase of this plan took place on November 22, 2009. The new church building was dedicated on August 5, 2011, and the first weekend liturgies were held on August 6 and 7, 2011. Through many generous contributions, the construction debt was paid off in June of 2020.

A committee was formed in 2017 to embark on a long-range planning process for Prince of Peace. They considered the needs of our growing parish and the next possible phase of our facilities. After completion, an all parish survey determined that the priorities of members were: Marriage and Family Life, Faith Formation and Education, Discipleship and Stewardship, and Evangelization. These became the basis for planning and preliminary plans for the next phase.

In June of 2021, the plans were presented to Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt who gave approval for a feasibility study to be conducted. Church Development group launched a study in September of 2021 from which priorities were determined from member input in the following order: 1) New gathering space; 2) Renovate lower level for more early childhood activities, classrooms and meeting spaces; 3) New parish hall with a large kitchen and exterior door for fish fries; 4) Finished space under the new parish hall to serve as youth and adult meeting space; 5) New offices.

Based on the feasibility study, Church development moved forward with a capital campaign; commitment weekend was on December 11th and 12th, 2021. Since that time, 268 families have returned pledge cards with a total of \$2,165,658 pledged. The church also received a bequeathment of \$148,395.15 from an estate that is dedicated to the next phase.

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SpringFest is in the Air



Dear Parish Family -

We want to invite everyone to this year's Prince of Peace **SpringFest**. This year our parish festival will be "live and in person" at Kearney Catholic High School on **Sunday, April 3, 2022 from 10:30 AM until 1:30 PM**.

Please join us for a day of food, fun, and fellowship.

Connect with your parish family over our traditional **SpringFest meal!** Once again Gene & Donna Westebuhr will prepare Traeger smoked pork loin, which will be served with baked potatoes, beans, salads, relishes, and numerous desserts! The meal will be served from **11 AM until 1 PM** and the cost of tickets is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children (6-12), and free for children 5 and under. If you would like to avoid the ticket line at Kearney Catholic, be sure and pick up "fast pass" tickets which can be purchased in the church office, or at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries on Fridays during Lent.

Don't leave without browsing the **Silent Auction!** Found in the gym, there will be dozens of items to consider. Bidding ends at 1 PM, so be sure to get your offer in on time.

Stop by the **Bake Sale** and see all the delicious items! Along with a variety of baked goods and snacks, you will find other kitchen-related items. In the past, this has included aprons, tea towels, and potholders.


God's Garden will spring up in the school lobby. We will have plants and garden-themed items for sale there.

The school activity room will once again host **Carnival Games** and a **Cake Walk!** Tickets are 50 cents each, and there is much fun to be had here for young and old alike!

If **Bingo** is more your game, head to the school library where Bingo cards can be purchased for 50 cents each, or three for \$1.00! Blackout Bingo games will begin at noon with the grand prize rounds starting at 1:10 pm. Blackout prize packages vary in value from \$50 to over \$90! Most prizes are gift certificates to area restaurants.

Donations for the **Bake Sale** and **God's Garden** are still being sought and accepted. Please let us know if you are interested in donating items! There is a Sign Up Genius link on the parish website under the Volunteer section of the SpringFest area. You can also sign up at the back of the church, or indicate your intentions on the form in your SpringFest mailing.

Activities will run from **10:30 am until 1:30** (important times for each activity are noted above.)



One of the highlights of SpringFest is our **Prize Drawings**. We have some really great prizes again this year, as well as a beautiful quilt! (List of prizes can be seen on page 3.) Tickets for you to purchase or sell were included in your SpringFest mailing, but if you would like more tickets, they can be found on the Prince of Peace website, in the church office, or at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door. All tickets must be returned to the church by Thursday, March 31, or brought to the high school, to be included in the drawing. Recommended donations for tickets are \$1/ticket, or 11 for \$10. **The drawings will be held at 1 PM.**



In a parish our size, it is sometimes hard to meet your fellow parishioners. Events like SpringFest are excellent opportunities to meet your parish family by working with them side by side. Volunteers are needed to make all of this happen! Opportunities to pitch in include set-up on Saturday, clean-up following the event, assistance preparing or serving the meal, selling tickets, working the Bake Sale and God's Garden, or helping with the carnival. The success of our parish's largest fundraiser and community sharing event is dependent upon volunteers. If you haven't already, please consider giving your time to make this year's SpringFest a huge success! You can find available opportunities on the Sign Up Genius link on the parish website under the Volunteer section of the SpringFest area. You can also sign up at the back of the church, or indicate your intentions on the form in your SpringFest mailing.

We hope to see you at SpringFest 2022 for a day of food, fun, and fellowship. **PLEASE COME!**

Blessing on your day,

The 2022 SpringFest Committee



2022 Drawing Prizes

\$750 Cash

Donated by Richard & Kathleen Hranac and an anonymous donor

\$600 Cash

Donated by Town & Country Bank and Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl

\$500 Cash

Donated by Dr. David Weir, Dr. Bill Vosik, Dr. David Cantral, and an anonymous donor

\$400 Cash

Donated by Nore Electric and Phil & Margie Landon

\$300 Cash

Donated by Jim & Kathleen McKenzie

"Staycation" Basket

Donated by Paul & Linda Younes

Basket includes 1 night/room Holiday Inn in Kearney, \$50 gift card to Cunningham's, 6 movie passes to Cinema 8, and more. This basket is valued at over \$300.

Night Out

Includes \$100 from Methe Insurance, \$40 Whiskey Creek, 2 Golden Cinema tickets.

Night Out

Includes \$100 from O'Brien-Straatmann-Redinger, \$40 Old Chicago, 2 Golden Cinema tickets.

Quilt

The quilt pattern is called "Heartmade" and can be seen at the northwest entrance of the church.

The quilt was made for us by: Ann Jeanette Gould, Elaine Sluti, June Nelson and Rita Johnson and is valued at over \$1,000.

This is separate from the other drawings, & uses the pink tickets (\$1 each or 6/\$5)



Knights of Columbus Membership Opens Door to Stewardship Opportunities

Prince of Peace has an active Knights of Columbus Council. It is experiencing renewed post-pandemic vitality, and all male parishioners are invited to put their own faith into action by becoming a Knight!

The Knights of Columbus is an organization of Catholic men that was founded in 1882 by a humble parish priest to help overcome the serious threats to the faith of families in his parish.

The organization has blossomed and today over 1.9 million Catholic men are Knights, mostly in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, but also in Guatemala, Lithuania, the Philippines, Poland, South Korea, and Ukraine. Over 25,000 of these men belong to parishes in Nebraska. The annual Nebraska State Convention is held in Kearney each April, and is one of the largest events of the year hosted by the Younes family. The annual Supreme Convention, which was last held in Baltimore, has featured personal visits and keynote speeches from Popes and U.S. Presidents, including President John F. Kennedy, who was a 4th Degree Knight.



Most members don't need to attend conferences or conventions. In fact, even the monthly council meetings are optional, as are the dozen or so occasions at which our council participates each year. Each year our local Knights participate in events from cooking breakfast for first communicants, to the Friday Lenten fish fries, the parish picnic in September, the Life Chain in October, and praying the Rosary after Mass on the last Sunday of each month, among others. Becoming a knight simply opens the door to a range of opportunities for men to more fully live out their faith by serving others.

If all of this sounds like a meaningful way to spend a few hours a year, join the Knights and expand your impact! The cost is low – only \$42 per year. The time commitment is whatever you want it to be. In addition, there is an opportunity – but not an obligation – to participate in the Knights' values-aligned insurance and investment programs. The opportunity to grow in your faith, and to put your faith into action in a very real and profound way, is... unlimited.

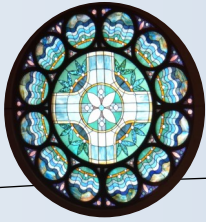
Times may change, but the challenges facing people remain the same. A need for food, shelter, warm clothing, financial security and aid for widows and orphans – these were all challenges that faced the parishioners of the Knights' founder, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, nearly 150 years ago. To help meet these challenges, Father McGivney brought together a group of Catholic men and formed the first Knights of Columbus council.

Today our society faces many of the same challenges that confronted people back then. Knights of Columbus councils, including the Prince of Peace Council, never waver in the commitment to continue a humble parish priest's vision of service to people in need in our parishes and communities! (<https://www.kofc15447.org/council-editorial>)



The next initiation ceremony in Kearney is scheduled to take place on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24th. Start to finish, the ceremony takes less than an hour. Wives and children – and even non-Catholics – are welcome to attend as spectators. If you're a Catholic gentleman 18 years old or older you are encouraged to join the 150+ members of our Prince of Peace parish who are already Knights, including our own Father Paul and Deacon Thomas. If April 24th doesn't work with your schedule, there will be additional initiation ceremonies later in the year; keep a watch in the bulletin for dates. To express interest in learning more, simply put your name and email address on one of the cards found near the east (lower) and west (upper) entrance doors.

-Todd Herges



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Architect's rendering of future church entrance.

The priorities from the feasibility study, as ordered, present a challenge. In order to renovate the lower level into more classrooms, it is necessary to move the offices. It makes sense and would be more cost effective to build new office space next to our new gathering space since they will share electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems. This means we need to build our least popular section (new offices) at the same time as the most popular section (the gathering space) in order to make way for the renovation of the lower level. In pursuance of avoiding long-term debt, the decision has been made to wait on further plans for a new social hall and youth space at this time.

A gathering space will better serve our church by allowing our ministries to grow and engage our current members. It will provide space for parishioners to visit with each other after Mass, and for visitors to connect with our members. When we renovate the lower level and add new classrooms, we will be making space for a larger group of children so we can better provide for the next generation.

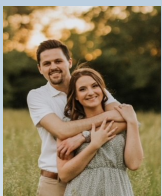
Outside of the capital campaign, other improvements to our church include a new hearing loop that was recently installed and a new sign on 56th Street will go up as soon as details are finalized.



Architect's rendering of gathering space.

Our Parish Continues to Grow!

Hospitality is one of the four pillars of Stewardship and so we extend a warm welcome to the following families who have recently joined our parish. Please extend a welcoming hand to them when you see them during liturgies and parish activities.



Tristan Cook &
Courtney Dreifurst



Bernard Revelo-Martinez & Kaizelle Damitog

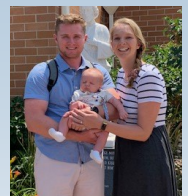
Not Pictured

Derek & Carrie Barnes
Brent & Nicole Downey
Sarah Habe
Jesse Maravilla
Joshua Roh

Bob Buettner
Trevor Washburn

Brady Harrison & Hannah Anderson
Isaac McPhillips & Camryn Rasmussen
Anthony Sellers & Cassandra Stahl
Robert & Betty Farquhar

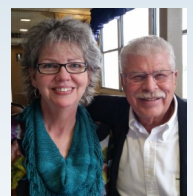
Timothy & Kassandra Davis
Carol Furniss
Leroy & Elane Korus
Donald & Barbara Oberg
Thomas & Channing Thies



Matt & Maria
Jarecki



Stan & Claudine Neben



Allen & Catherine
Petersen

Stewardship Saint: St. Fidelis Sigmaringen



Given the name Mark Rey at his birth in 1577, Saint Fidelis grew up in Sigmaringen, a town located in present-day Germany. He was the son of the town's affluent burgomeister (mayor) and studied law and philosophy at the renowned University of Freiburg. As a student, Mark made prayer a priority in his daily life. He also spent time visiting the sick. He embraced a humble, chaste, and simple lifestyle.

He earned a doctorate in canon and civil law, became a prominent lawyer and soon gained a reputation for representing those who had no money to pay. Mark was affectionately nicknamed "the poor man's lawyer." He was known to be extraordinarily generous, and committed himself to working with the poor.

Dismayed by the greed and corruption he found among his counterparts in the legal profession and in the courts, Mark abandoned his law practice and entered the Capuchin religious community. He took the name Fidelis, which is Latin meaning "faithful." He studied for the priesthood and after ordination, celebrated his first Mass in 1612 on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi (October 4th).

After his ordination, Father Fidelis was assigned to preaching and hearing confessions. It was reported that a large number of converts were accepted into the Church because of his zealous evangelizing efforts. He was devoted to Saint Frances of Assisi and revealed that devotion in the pastoral care of the poor and sick. During a severe epidemic in a city in which his friary was located, he cared for and cured many.

In 1621 Father Fidelis was sent to begin missionary work in Switzerland, a territory that had experienced much bloodshed as a result of growing tensions among a number of religious movements of the expanding Reformed traditions. All of these movements were violently opposed to the Catholic faith at the time. His writings, reaching and pastoral ministry converted many in Switzerland to Catholicism. But many others, enraged by his missionary work, threatened his life. On April 24, 1622, while traveling on the road between preaching missions, Father Fidelis was attacked by a group of armed men, beaten and hacked to death. He was 44 years old. Fidelis once wrote: "It is because of faith that we exchange the present for the future."

<https://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:

See bulletin for times

Reconciliation:

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

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

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Lenten Calendar

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00-4:30 and by appointment
Additional times will be announced in the bulletin.

Stations of the Cross:

Fridays 5:15 (except Good Friday)

Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper April 14 7:00 pm

Good Friday

(Liturgy of the Passion with communion, led by Confirmation class)

April 15 12:05 pm

(Liturgy of the Passion with communion)

April 15 6:30 pm

Easter Vigil

(No Saturday 4 pm Confessions or 5 pm mass)

April 16 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday

April 17 6:30 am, 8:00 am, 10:30 am