



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

April 2014

"I Love Our Traditions and Celebrations" Michele McKee Reflects on the Faith and 40 Years With Sacred Heart

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Sometimes, we have an experience that affirms an appreciation of the faith in which we were raised. One such experience for Michele McKee occurred while visiting her maternal grandparents in Erie, Pa.

"As a teen, I took part in a church procession for the Assumption of Mary into Heaven," Michele says. "They carried a statue of Mary through the neighborhood. We sang glorious hymns and prayed the Rosary as we walked. It was interesting to see my Italian heritage that was celebrated in this festival. I love our Catholic traditions and celebrations."

Michele was baptized in 1967 at St. Ambrose, the parish where her other grandparents attended. In 1973, the Wilson family moved to Moline, where Michele was brought up in the Sacred Heart community — the community where she now raises her own children.

Michele attended Sacred Heart School from first through seventh grade. She remembers her Catholic school teachers, experiences and life lessons, particularly the ones from First Communion preparation with Sister Betty Jean. Another experience came in sixth grade when she sang "Hail Mary Gentle Woman" at a school Mass and at the 1979 Graduation Mass for the newly-formed Seton Catholic School.



*Michele and Shane McKee's wedding
at Sacred Heart, June 1990.*

Michele also participated in the May Crowning ceremony every year and was honored to serve as May Queen in 1980. In eighth grade, she began to attend public school and CCD classes. She sang in the senior choir and participated in CYM — Catholic Youth Ministries — during her high school years.

"Through my first 18 years, I was an involved Catholic," Michele says. She attributes that dedication and participation to her mother, Rosemary Wilson. While

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Michele McKee Reflects *continued from front cover*

away at college, Michele became lax in her attendance. By her junior year, she didn't go to church at all.

"Coming back home from college, I found it hard to attend Mass regularly," she says. "My mom and I talked about expectations and appearances, challenges and disappointment, courage and persistence. That is what brought me back."

Michele and her husband, Shane, met during her final semester of college. She worked as a student teacher during the day and a supervisor in the evenings at the Hardee's where Shane worked.

"He pokes fun when we discuss how we met," Michele says. "I will say, 'I was his boss.' He responds, 'She still is.' We do complement each other rather well."

The couple was married at Sacred Heart in June 1990. Michele and Shane, a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Coal Valley, agreed that they would raise their children in the Catholic Church.

"I couldn't imagine it any other way," Michele commented. She believed it was time to put more effort into her faith.

Her daughter, Cassandra, was born in 1997. Cassandra began kindergarten in the fall of 2002 and also enrolled in CCD at Sacred Heart. Michele volunteered to help keep attendance and serve as a substitute for the CCD catechists when needed.

"With my busy and stressful life, I have found it important to do one thing at a time," says Michele, a math and computer teacher at Woodrow Wilson Middle School for the past 25



Michele McKee's daughter, Cassandra.



Andrew, Michele McKee's son, recently began serving at Mass.

years. "My experience in the classroom allows me to contribute where I can."

Michele has volunteered for the past 12 years and plans to continue for at least four more when her son, Andrew, is confirmed.

Both of Michele's children also give to the church. Cassandra has served at 7 a.m. Mass most every Sunday for the past eight years. She was a teen helper with Vacation Bible School and worked with Michele as a training team during the Confirmation retreat last year. Andrew recently began serving and is excited to one day ring the bells at Mass.

As Michele watches her children become more involved, she reflects on the dedicated example of her own mother who passed away five years ago.

"I still 'listen' as she guides me during many of my troubled times," she says. "I miss her the most at family events like my son's First Communion or my daughter's Confirmation."

Next year, Michele and Shane will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Michele is also celebrating more than 40 years as a member of Sacred Heart, where her faith and the faith of her children continue to grow.

"On behalf of my kids, I would like to thank the members of the parish — especially the regulars at the 7 a.m. Mass — who have watched my children grow

up, taken the time to say an encouraging word or thank them for their service, offered up a prayer for me or my family, or acknowledged that I am all grown up now, the spiritual head of my household trying to keep it all together," Michele says.

A Letter From Our Pastor

Finding Holiness Through Stewardship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I prepare and look forward to this Easter, it has occurred to me that last Easter was the first for our Holy Father Francis as our Pope. You may recall that he was elected on March 13 and inaugurated on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. Traditionally the Pope, after he has celebrated Mass on Easter Sunday, goes to the balcony in St. Peter overlooking the plaza below, and delivers what is known as his “*Urbi et Orbi*” message followed by a blessing of all. Thus, only 12 days after officially becoming pope, Francis stood on the balcony to speak to us.



“*Urbi et Orbi*” means “for the city and the world.” The significance of that is for us to realize this message is for the people of Rome, but also for the entire Catholic world, including each of us. The impact of Pope Francis is obvious to many of us, but we need to remember this happy and holy man standing on that balcony last year and beginning his discourse proclaiming, “Happy Easter! Happy Easter! I would like Easter to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen; there is hope for you; you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil. Love has triumphed; mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs.”

Pope Francis has shown us through the love he has spread and the holiness he has represented what it means to be a good steward. For many years, the Easter Sunday Mass was done inside St. Peter Basilica and then the pope processed to the balcony for the *Urbi et Orbi* proclamation. Pope Francis

opted for an open-air Easter Mass; however, so rather than the few thousand who might attend inside, it would be possible for literally one hundred thousand or more outside. He wore simple plain white, unadorned vestments. He celebrated alone, without the scores of Cardinals normally with him. And, after the Mass, he moved through the crowd in an open Popemobile without protection or bullet-proof glass, pausing frequently to shake hands, embrace people, and make direct contact with them.

Are we not called to that same kind of simplicity and that same

loving approach to those around us through stewardship? Stewardship, sharing and using our gifts to glorify God, is an act of love. We often state that we are all called to holiness. The truth is that Jesus did not just call us to holiness; He commanded us. Stewardship and holiness are not an ideal; they are not impossible for us; they are within our reach, but we must make that effort to act. As we complete our Easter foundations, and as we rejoice together on this holiest of days, Easter, let us model our lives after Christ. Let us be stewards with love and thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Msgr. Dale L. Wellman in blue ink.

Rev. Msgr. Dale L. Wellman, Pastor

Vacation Bible School 2014 *A Vacation With God*



Summer is a time of vacation for most kids — but that doesn't mean they need a vacation from God. Instead, they can take a vacation *with* God at Vacation Bible School.

“Programs like Vacation Bible School are important because it breathes life into the young Church,” says Mary-ellen Pfeiffer, director of Religious Education. “We pray, yes, we celebrate Mass, yes, we learn together, we grow together, we play together, we sing, we dance, we craft and we do it together, as community, in a way that is meaningful and appropriate to children. It’s a positive experience that they never forget.”

This year, Sacred Heart Parish is teaming up with St. Mary’s Parish in Moline and St. Ambrose Parish in Milan to offer Vacation Bible School for the children in our community.

Vacation Bible School will be held in the afternoons from Monday, June 9 through Friday, June 13 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. This program is for children from 4 years old through those entering the sixth grade.

This year’s Vacation Bible School theme, “Where Kids Discover God’s Love,” is based on 1 Corinthians 13: “If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal” (1 Cor 13:1).

Each day of the camp begins with an opening prayer at noon, followed by a skit, song or dance focusing on the Bible story of the day. Our parish is blessed to have the Sisters of

St. Francis of the Martyr St. George joining us to lead Bible stories again this year. The rest of the activities will include a craft station, a snack station, a game station, a music and dance station, and, of course, prayer in St. Francis Chapel.

Vacation Bible School allows the children to be enthusiastic as they learn about our Catholic faith.

The children also learn the importance of stewardship through spending time with the adults and teens in the parish who volunteer with the program, thus providing a wonderful witness to the ways that we can use our time and talents in the community. No matter what age the participants may be, Vacation Bible School can greatly affect their understanding of our faith and enhance their spiritual lives.

“Vacation Bible School affords us the time and opportunity to make the Bible and *Catechism* come alive to our children,” Mary-ellen says. “It is intensely focused so that each station reinforces what they learned at the last station so that the children really get the most out of their week. Additionally, it gives everyone, young and old, a chance to play and have fun with a purpose.”

For more information on Vacation Bible School, to register or to volunteer, please call Mary-ellen Pfeiffer at 309-762-2362. The cost is \$30 per child, with a \$100 maximum per family. This cost includes a t-shirt, all program materials and snacks each day.

2014 VBS Registration Form
June 9—13. 12—3:30 PM
SonTreasure Island—Sacred Heart, Moline

1. Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Grade as of 8/2014: ____ Shirt Size (check one): S M L XL Gender: (Check One): F M
 Special Needs? _____

1. Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Grade as of 8/2014: ____ Shirt Size (check one): S M L XL Gender: (Check One): F M
 Special Needs? _____

1. Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Grade as of 8/2014: ____ Shirt Size (check one): S M L XL Gender: (Check One): F M
 Special Needs? _____

1. Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Grade as of 8/2014: ____ Shirt Size (check one): S M L XL Gender: (Check One): F M
 Special Needs? _____

Shirt Sizes: S (4-6), M (8-10), L (10-12), XL (14—16)

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

E-MAIL:

Mother's Name:	Home Phone:
Mother's Address:	Work/Cell #:
Father's Name:	Home Phone:
Father's Address:	Work/Cell #:

Other Information

Yes! I'd like to volunteer!

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ___ crafts | ___ bible stories |
| ___ guide | ___ assistant guide |
| ___ prayer experiences | ___ games |
| ___ snacks | ___ decorations |
| ___ nursery | ___ anywhere |

No, I am not available to help.

- Cost is **\$30.00** per child with a \$100.00 family max.
- Includes: t-shirt, CD, snacks, crafts, tons of fun!
- Total fee enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1608 13th Street
Moline, IL 61265

Scholarships are available for those who qualify.



Questions? Please call:
Mary-Ellen Pfeiffer
 309-762-2362, ext. 210 or,
mary.ellen.pfeiffer@sacredheartmoline.org



Divine Mercy Sunday and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

“I want the whole world to know my infinite mercy.

I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in my mercy.” (Diary, 687).

In the 1930s, Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a Sister of Our Lady of Mercy, received a message from the Lord that she was to live her life as a model of Christ’s merciful love and spread Christ’s mercy throughout the world. She proceeded to offer up all of her personal sufferings in atonement for the sins of others. She kept a secret diary in which she wrote of God’s mercy, as well as about her special devotion to Mary Immaculate and to the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, which gave her strength. Sr. Faustina’s diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, serves as the handbook for the devotion to the Divine Mercy. In it, we read of the message of mercy that she received from Christ.

On April 30, 2000, Sr. Faustina Kowalska was canonized by Pope John Paul II. Then, on May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship decreed that “throughout the world, the second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that humankind will experience in the years to come.”

On Divine Mercy Sunday — occurring this year on April 27 — all parishioners are encouraged to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, always remembering and practicing the essential “ABCs” of Divine Mercy — ask for mercy, be merciful to others, and completely trust in Jesus.



Format of the Divine Mercy Chaplet

“Chaplet” simply refers to the prayers counted on a rosary. The Lord said to St. Faustina, “You will recite this chaplet on the beads of the Rosary in the following Manner:”

Begin with:

One “Our Father,” one “Hail Mary,” and the “I Believe in God.”

On the “Our Father Beads” say: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the “Hail Mary Beads” say:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

In conclusion, three times recite these words:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Welcoming Newcomers at Sacred Heart's Annual Spring Breakfast and Welcome Sunday

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

Spring always brings us a most welcome change in seasons, and this is especially so after this cold and snowy winter. On Sunday, April 27, please join us for a seasonal celebration to spend time with fellow parishioners and welcome parish newcomers.

The Spring Breakfast and Welcome Sunday has been a favorite tradition here at Sacred Heart for the past nine years. This year's Welcoming event will begin at the 9 a.m. Mass, where new parishioners from the last six months are invited to attend with their families.

"We seat them at the front of the church, and acknowledge and greet them at the Mass," says Judy Sokol. "After the Mass, we bring them over to the Spring Breakfast. We're tired of winter here, and it's always great to say 'hello' to spring!"

In keeping with the tradition of previous years, the Spring Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the breakfast's theme will be "Breakfast in the Garden," with floral and gardening-themed decorations. Don't forget the cost is still only 99 cents for adults. Those 17 and under are still free! At last year's event, about 250 parishioners of all ages were served during the breakfast.



"The food consists of scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, potato triangles, sausage, cinnamon rolls, milk, and hot coffee," says Peggy Bruce. "The food is prepared by the Social Committee and served by volunteers of the parish. Come see what's cooking — you might see someone you know, or meet someone new!"

At the breakfast, new parishioners are once again introduced, and then have their photo taken for a display in the church. They are also presented with a welcome gift or basket. After everyone is seated and the meal has been served, Welcome Committee members go around to personally visit with new parishioners, as well as to give them information about the various activities and ministry opportunities that are available here at the parish.

"We greet them and honor them, and try to make them aware of what's going on here at Sacred Heart," Judy says. "It's a bit of a welcome into parish life."

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend this year's Spring Breakfast and Welcome Sunday. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer your time and talent for the event, please contact Peggy Bruce at 309-762-4262, June Cornillaud at 706-851-6263, or Judy Sokol at 309-797-8155.

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Mass Times

Sundays: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.
Daily Masses (M-F): 6:30, 8:30 a.m.
Saturday Morning: 8:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3 to 4 p.m.
and by appointment, call 762-2362

Eucharistic Adoration (St. Francis Chapel)

Wednesday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
First Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Triduum Schedule

Palm Sunday – April 12
4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Palm Sunday – April 13
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday – April 17
(No Morning Mass)
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
7:00 p.m. Mass
(Towels will be collected for the Battered Women's Shelter)

Good Friday – April 18
(No Morning Mass)
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Noon – Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service

Easter Vigil – April 19
(No Morning Mass)
11:00 a.m. – Blessing of Easter Baskets in St. Francis Chapel
8:00 p.m. Mass with our new Catholics
(There will be no 4:00 p.m. Mass this evening)

Easter Sunday – April 20
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.