

Dec. 22 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas Eve



Our Father Who Art in Heaven

For some Christians today's gospel has a troubling verse, "Call no man on earth your Father." (Mt 23:9) They challenge Catholics for referring to their parish priest as *Father*. That they refer to their male parent as their father is surprisingly not seen as a contradiction. Engaging in sectarian disputes over such a verse is seldom

productive, but searching for the message of today's gospel will profit all Christians.

The root of this dispute is in the method of interpreting Scripture. Those who insist on a fundamentalist literal reading of the Bible will inevitably find this

verse troublesome. Our Catholic tradition, in keeping with the early fathers of the church and centuries of biblical scholars, seeks to understand the words of Scripture in their context, in harmony with other passages of the Bible, and consistent with our Christian heritage. The message of this passage is much deeper than avoiding certain names. It is not about using titles but abusing titles. It is about a wrong sense of authority.

An obvious abuse of authority is exploiting it for personal gain with pride in one's office. Those who relish their titles deceive themselves. Few today have regard for honorary titles. Yet there is always the danger of self-deception. We are easily tempted to think that we are more important than we really are. That is true of being a mother, a father, a grandparent, a teacher, a doctor, etc. Such titles are challenges more than honors. The determining factor is not that one has received such responsibility, but how one has fulfilled it in service to others.

The greatest abuse of any office is assuming to replace the unique authority of God with a human

> authority. When the gospel says to call no man father it means father as "Our Father who art in Heaven." God is our Father, Teacher, and Master in a unique way which no one else can or should pretend to replace. All other fathers, teachers, and masters are but God's agents doing His work

on earth, and are to be respected as such.

Respect for authority is a further aspect of this gospel. The Bible teaches, "Honor your father and your mother." This is much more than obeying our parents. Honoring them in their advanced age is a duty we assume as independent adults, in grateful respect for their service. Scripture calls us to live wisely the dynamic tension of these two challenging verses: "Call no man on earth father." "Honor your father and your mother."

.... and mirth

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Jim Moster, OFM, Cap. email: james.moster@capuchins.org Secretary/Bookkeeper: Andrea Schmidtberger email: fidelis@ruraltel.net Catholic Faith Education Office: Jeanette Brungardt, R.E. Coordinator/ Youth Minister email: fidelisyouth@ruraltel.net Shirley Brungardt, RCIA Director/ Sacramental Records email: sfreled@ruraltel.net Housekeeping/Sacristan: Darlene Dreiling Cemetery Groundskeeper: Wilmer Dinkel Maintenance: Ken Pfeifer Organists: Kathy Dreiling-Amrein Lou Ann Hammersmith Choir Director: Kathy Dreiling-Amrein Technology Coordinator: Connie Windholz email: sftech@ruraltel.net

Council Members

<u>St. Fidelis Pastoral Council</u> John R. Braun 735-2622 (Chair) Rose Ann Dreiling (Vice-Chair) Angie Roth 735-8035 (Sec) Bertha R. Brungardt 735-4106 Patty Dreiling 735-4479 Curt Kuhn 735-8820 Rosie Kreutzer 656-3298 Michael Younger Jeff Kisner

St. Fidelis Finance Council Harland Rupp 735-2206 Frank Dreiling 735-8385 David Ottley 735-8434

St. Boniface Pastoral Council Fred Tholen 735-4801 Curt Wellbrock 259-6564 Kathy Huser 735-4193

St. Ann Pastoral Council Bill Robben 806-669-5264 Patrick Zwenger 402-452-6253 Bob Brungardt 735-4410

Contributions October 28-29, 2023

ST. FIDELIS:

Envelopes 3420.00 Loose 779.00 Mission Sunday 25.00 Repair Fund 350.00

ST. ANN:

Envelopes 1540.00 Loose 240.00 Mission Sunday 210.00 All Saints Day 100.00 Coffee & Rolls 406.75

ST. BONIFACE: Envelopes 1145.00 Loose 145.00

<u>Candles</u> 61.00 <u>Mission Sunday</u> 100.00 <u>All Saints Day</u> 50.00

~ MONEY COUNTERS ~

November 6 — Patty Dreiling, Anne Schmidtberger November 13 — Brenda Dreiling, Sandra Dreiling



Who Art in Heaven

In Need of Eucharistic Ministers

St. Fidelis Parish is in need of more Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist (Eucharistic Ministers) and Homebound Eucharistic Ministers.

Eucharistic Ministers are scheduled for weekend and Holy Day Masses. Homebound ministers are scheduled for Sunday and/or Wednesday mornings.

If you are willing to help with these ministries, please contact the Parish Office at 785-735-2777. We will arrange for training before you start ministering.

| | Rosary Schedul e * | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 st - Christian Mothers | 2 nd - Knights of Columbus | |
| 3 rd - Daughters of Isabella | 4 th - Family Life | |

MINISTER SCHEDULE

The Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Homebound, and Cantor schedules can be found on the Mass Schedule page of the church website at StFidelisChurch.com.

Please contact Diane Gross (785-735-4804) with any guestions about the schedule for the Eucharistic or Lector ministries or if you are willing to volunteer for those ministries.

CANTORS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 5:00 PM — Sheila Stone **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12** 10:00 AM — Brinley Lichter

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 5:00 PM — Mary Brungardt, Kathy Kuhn, Tom Tholen **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12** 10:00 AM — Bertha R. and Kenny Brungardt, Michelle Geist, Leroy Schmidtberger, Jacquelyn Stoffel (Jubilee Choir)

LECTORS\COMMENTATORS

SATURDAY. NOVEMBER 11 5:00 PM — Teresa Shepherd **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12** 10:00 AM — LeeAnn Schmidtberger

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 — Diane Gross **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12** 10:00 AM — Bertha and Kenny Brungardt

MASS SERVERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 5:00 PM — Mya and Grace Y. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 10:00 AM — Averi W., Ethan and Alice S.

Committee Meeting Dates

Finance Council 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Pastoral Council 1st Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Liturgy Committee 2nd Thursday @ 5:30 pm

With Sympathy

The sympathy of the parishes is extended to the family of Daryel Yanda of Gorham, who passed away on Saturday, August 26, 2023. Memorial services were held at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria, on Saturday, October 28, 2023, with burial in the cemetery in Gorham.

All Souls Day Cemetery Blessings

A brief prayer service will be held immediately after each of the Tri-Parish Masses THIS WEEKEND—Saturday and Sunday, November 4-5. Parishioners are encouraged to visit the cemeteries at times that are convenient for them.

Opportunity to View "The Chosen"

Family Life Committee is once again sponsoring an opportunity to view and discuss the series entitled "The Chosen". Season 3 will continue to be shown Tuesday mornings starting at 7:30 a.m. in the north sacristy of the church and will continue at that time on Tuesdays into December.

If not attending Mass, please enter by the northeast door. If interested in watching Seasons 1 and 2, please contact Stephanie Broyles (785-735-4747) or Jane Wagner (785-735-2587).

ST. ANN



Saturday, November 4

after 6:30 p.m. Mass

St. Ann Parish Hall Celebrating the change in Mass times! EVERYONE WELCOME.



TRI-PARISH MEMORIAL CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

Sunday, November 12, 2023, during the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis

This memorial is for all those whose funeral Mass and/or burial was celebrated at St. Fidelis, St. Ann, or St. Boniface parishes, Holy Cross Church, or Sacred Heart Cemetery this past year.

All family members, relatives, and friends of the deceased are invited to attend this Mass and ceremony.

Gerard "Jerry" Brungardt, Karlos "Karl" VonFeldt, Thomas F. "Tom" Schippers, Robert Eugene Goetz, Josepha M. Dome, Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Pfeifer, Thomas Ray Hammersmith, Troy Joseph Dreiling, Ivan R. Edsall, Otto Francis Windholz Jr., Gerald J. "Jerry" VonFeldt, Martha Sue VonFeldt, Theresa (Weigel) Klaus, Catherine Ann "Katy" Windholz, Joseph Edward Scarry, Eva Dorothy Evans, Allen A. Windholz, Ida Montgomery Redmond, Darlene A. Leiker, Flora Mae Weigel, William Dean Jacobs, Marjorie Ann "Marge" Rome, Arlene D. Pfeifer, Arlene M. Brungardt Jones, Jesse Lee Hockersmith, Kathleen A. Suppes, Elsie Jane Suppes, Nadine B. Pedersen, Valery N. "Val" Schumacher, Daryel Yanda

Mass Intention Scheduling

We are changing the scheduling time for Mass intentions. Currently, the 2024 Mass Intention book is open and a number of Masses are already scheduled but there are plenty of dates still available.

We will open the 2025 Mass Intention book next year around October or November 2024. The exact date will be announced in the bulletin in 2024.

At this time, the stipend for Masses is still \$10.

MASS TIMES CHANGE FOR ST. BONIFACE AND ST. ANN Starting THIS weekend—November 4-5 ST. ANN— Saturdays 6:30 p.m. ST. BONIFACE — Sundays 8:30 a.m.

ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!





DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDED TODAY. Did you remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour?

Homebound Services

St. Fidelis offers homebound Eucharistic ministry to all three parishes every Wednesday morning and every Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. If you would like to receive Communion in your home, contact the Parish Office.

Fr. Jim will also come to your home and offer the anointing of the sick or confessions.

Christmas Food Boxes

The Family Life Committee is preparing for the Tri-Parish Christmas Food Boxes for families in need.

If you wish to donate, we are asking for cash donations only. That way we can purchase the same food items for all the boxes.

You may drop your monetary donation in the collection basket at Mass or bring it to the Parish Office. Please mark it as "Christmas Food Boxes".

More information will be provided in future bulletins.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT!



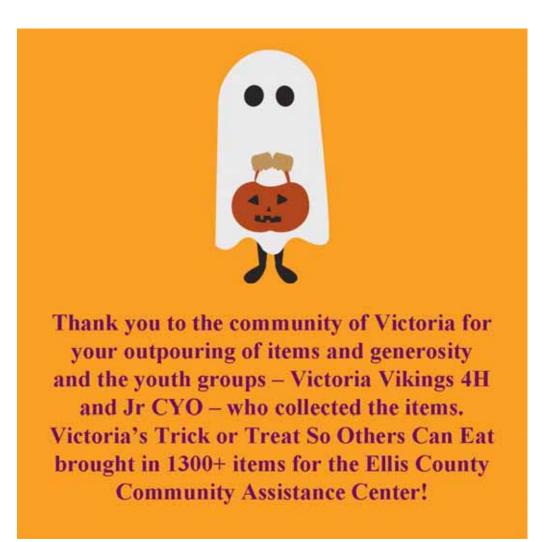


The picture taking by Universal Church Directories for the tri-parishes pictorial is complete and now there are some people who need to be thanked for all their help:

• John Braun for spearheading the project and making sure the Parish Office and the church were back to order at the end of each session.

- Bertha R. Brungardt for arranging for the refreshments served each session and for scheduling parishioners to help with the sign-ins.
- All those who supplied cookies which were well enjoyed by those who had their pictures taken.

 All those who helped with the sign-ins for the seven picture-taking sessions: Linda Robben, Teri Vonfeldt, Diane Gross, Kathy Huser, Wanda Klaus, Jane Wagner, Carol Freitag, Teresa Shepherd, Sheila Page, Yvonne Braun, Connie Windholz, Kenny Brungardt, Kathy Kuhn, Mary Pfeifer, Marcie Pray, Wanda Tabor, Bertha Brungardt, and Rosie Kreutzer.



YOUTH MINISTRY / CATHOLIC FAITH EDUCATION

Stewardship for Children Week 5

"...You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for in deed I am." Jn 13:13

Jesus is our Teacher

<u>Stewardship is</u>: our belief that all we have and all we are comes from God. These are called gifts.

How does Jesus teach me?

Jesus is our supreme or best teacher to show us how to be his steward! Jesus teaches us to think, to act, and to love others the way He did.

Jesus' call is to be His stewards by *the way we live our lives* and He calls us to live our lives in a personal relationship with Him.

A personal relationship means we can get to know Him and talk to Him. He is our best friend and He will speak to us. We do this when we pray to Him.

When we follow his example it means we are willing to follow Him and to learn from Him, to be connected and *to trust Him*.

As a young person how beautiful it is that you want to follow Jesus' example!

How can I follow Jesus' example?

You can become his example to others. You can do this by sharing with others your blessings and gifts. You share your faith (what you believe) so others can learn about Jesus.

Jesus has a purpose and plan for each one of us. This is our personal vocation.

It is a call to know, love, and serve God. This means Jesus trusts us!

He gives us special gifts to be able to do His work. Gifts are also called talents or blessings. You will be responsible for using your gifts of Time, Talents, and Treasure to answer God's call.

Being God's steward is found in the bible over and over again. He gave the Apostles the talents/gifts they needed to do his work. They had much work to do on his behalf.

YOUTH MINISTRY / CATHOLIC FAITH EDUCATION



Give Christmas Joy. See Smiles Like This!

Box of Joy

Ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach

Be a part of Box of Joy! Grab a shoe box and package your own OR donate items to fill one shoebox for a child in need! Your Box of Joy may be the only Christmas gift a child receives.

How can you help support this worthwhile cause?

Get a "Box of Joy" shoebox from the Religious Ed Office + a list of suggested items. Go shopping and personally fill your own shoebox for a young boy or girl between the ages of 2 - 14 years old.

Drop the shoebox back off in the Religious Ed Office by Wednesday, November 8th.

Donate items needed to fill the shoe boxes. Please contact Jeanette at 785-639-5067 for a list of suggested items or to find out what's needed most. If you have a child in religion: please see the list below of suggested items for each grade level.

Deadline for items is Wednesday, November 8th.

Monetary donation. Each box costs \$9 to ship. Please make checks payable to St. Fidelis Church, memo: Box of Joy

SUGGESTED ITEMS

For children and families, grades K – 12, in St. Fidelis' Religious Education program:

So that we receive a balance of donated items, suggested items for students in specific grades follows:

Grades K-2 – small toys, craft kits, coloring books, pencils, pens, markers,

pencil sharpeners, writing pads, balloons, deflated balls (plus a hand held pump), dolls, small musical instruments

Grades 3-6 – stuffed animals, yoyo's, decks of cards, hot wheels cars, notepads, stickers, hard candy and gum (NO chocolates & NO Jolly Ranchers)

Grades 7-8 – wash cloths, tooth brushes, tooth paste, bar soap individually wrapped, flip flops, sewing kits, LED flashlights, drawstring bags

Grades 9-12 – sunglasses, solar calculators, combs, hats, socks, hair accessories, cross or rosary, jewelry, watch, fidget spinners

Please do *not* include war-related items such as toy guns or knives, military figures, medications or vitamins, and breakable items.

Learn more about Box of Joy through their website at https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/

Please contact Jeanette Brungardt with questions: Cell: 785-639-5067 e-mail: Fidelisyouth@ruraltel.net Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity. May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

Please keep the freshman and sophomore Confirmation candidates in your prayers. Our freshman class participated in their Entrance Rites today and the sophomores are attending their Confirmation Retreat today at St. Isidore's in Manhattan. Our sophomore class is entering the final months of prayerful and thoughtful preparation prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming April.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Memorial Mass for Deceased Knights

The Knights of Columbus 3rd and 4th Degrees will have a Memorial Mass at **4:00 p.m. on Sunday**, **November 12**, at the VFW Hall followed by a meal and program. All 3rd and 4th Degree members and families and widows are invited. The cost is \$10 per person. Please RSVP by calling 785-623-0680 or 785-639-3570 by Monday, November 6.

MONTHLY MEETING

The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting on **Tuesday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m.** at the St. Fidelis Thrift Shop.

Christian Mothers/Altar Society

Memorial Mass and Meeting

The St. Fidelis Christian Mothers/Altar Society will celebrate a Memorial Mass for their deceased members on **November 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Those being remembered from this past year are Arlene Pfeifer and Marge Rome. Family members of the deceased are invited to join us, and all members are encouraged to attend.

A short meeting will be held in the north Sacristy following Mass, and refreshments will be served. Updates on the hands-on project and the Christmas Potluck will be discussed. Any woman interested in being a part of this organization is welcome to attend this meeting or call Jane Wagner at 785-735-2587 for more information. Members do not have to be mothers.

A Stitch and a Prayer Meeting

St. Fidelis Christian Mothers/Altar Society is sponsoring a project putting their faith into action entitled "A Stitch and a Prayer." If you crochet, sew, cut out patterns, or press, your talents are needed to help those less fortunate.

The first meeting will be **Monday**, **November 6**, **2023**, at **2:00 p.m.** at the PAC Meal Site room. We will then decide how to best make this project work and the most convenient times to meet. Bring your scissors — we may jump right in and start this project.

You need not be a member of Christian Mothers to participate. Everyone is welcome. We are so excited to get this project started!

For more information, please call Jane Wagner at 785-735-2587.

St. Fidel is Food Bank

The St. Fidelis Food Bank is available during Parish Office hours to those in need of food. Please call the office at 785-735-2777 in advance so you won't have to wait while we prepare a box of food for you. Boxes can be picked up at the northwest door of the Parish Office. Donations of food or money are always welcome to help supply the Food Bank.

DIOCESE

Google "Coffee and Forced Labor"

Billions of cups of coffee are consumed each day, yet how many of us think about the child labor and human trafficking that goes into our brew? Google coffee and forced labor to learn about the slavery component of the coffee business. **U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**, 7575 Grand River Rd., Suite 109, Brighton, MI 48114.

Catholic Charities 2023 Annual Appeal

"I could not recommend Catholic Charities higher. They have changed our life for the better in such a profound way. It is powerful to know they were not only working with us but praying with us."

This quote comes from Kelton, a husband, and father of now *two* from Hays. In the fall of 2022, Kelton and Jill adopted their daughter, Gianna, through Catholic Charities' Adoption Program. The Steckleins had been waiting prayerfully for three years when they finally received the call from Catholic Charities' pregnancy and adoption specialist, giving them the opportunity to expand their family and support a baby in need. The transition was one of their favorite parts: feeling the connection and prayer come full circle in welcoming baby Gianna into their life.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2023 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal – Together, We Can! With your contribution, you doubled your impact, ensuring that married couples, like Kelton and Jill, who have always dreamed of having another baby, can receive the gift of parenthood through adoption. It is not too late to donate! If you have not yet contributed, you can mail a check or donate online at **ccnks.org/ annualappeal**.

Your faithful generosity brings hope to our neighbors in need. You are changing lives. Thank you! With questions, please contact our Donor and Parish Relations Coordinator, Megan Spilker, at **785-825-0208** or **mspilker@ccnks.org**.

DIOCESE

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK is November 5-11.

This annual event is a special time to actively foster and pray for a culture of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Faith Magazine and The Register

If you have ever laughed at one of Bishop Vincke's stories in his monthly e-news; if you have ever read a story in Faith magazine and been brought to tears; if you have ever clipped out a photo of your grandchild in The Register; if you have ever tuned into The Three Bald Guys while on a drive, if you have ever checked out an event on our website or heart-reacted to a social media post, please consider making a gift to support the annual Communications and Publications Drive. You can do so by using the enclosed envelope in the October issue of The Register or the November issue of Faith. Or you can make a gift online at salinadiocese.org/office/ communications/com-pub-drive/

Job Opportunities with Catholic Charities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COORDINATOR — Hays: Catholic Charities is hiring a Community Engagement & Outreach Coordinator at our Hays location. This role promotes and supports the mission of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas by overseeing Outreach Services operations in the Hays location and building relationships in the rural counties of our diocese. This position also serves as back-up for emergency assistance and stabilization services provided in the local office. We are looking for a competent, detail oriented, and positive individual to fill this role. To learn more and apply, visit www.ccnks.org/careers.

LICENSED THERAPIST, HAYS — **PART TIME** — Catholic Charities is hiring a Licensed Therapist at our Hays location. We are looking for a compassionate, driven, and organized individual to provide affordable mental health care to those in need across Northern Kansas. To learn more and apply, visit www.ccnks.org/careers.

COMMUNITY



V.F.W. Meeting

Victoria V.F.W. members will meet on **Thursday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m.** at the V.F.W. Hall.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Free meals (must be reserved) Kansas National Guard, 200 Main St, Hays <u>All meals must be reserved no later than</u> November 6.

Reserve yours by calling 785-623-2800 or go to https://signup.com/go/eCjbPxP **TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**. Send your tax-deductible donations to: ECMA, PO Box 173, Hays, Kansas 67601. Proceeds to benefit ECMA's Second Mile Fund

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance is currently taking food donations to distribute to families on Thanksgiving Day. Food will be distributed immediately following the Thanksgiving Day Feast.

Collection will take place Saturday, November 11, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Hays Walmart and both Hays Dillons locations.

Items needed are: Dried pastas and canned sauces, macaroni and cheese, instant potatoes, pancake/waffle mix and syrup, canned soups, Ramen noodles, canned meats, canned fruits, canned vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, boxed dinner mixes, and rice.

Questions? Call First Call for Help of Ellis County 785-623-2800.

Childcare Survey

If you are currently using childcare of any kind or will need childcare in the next couple of years,

a survey has been put together by the high school Community Connections class. They can be found at area businesses in Victoria. By completing a survey, data can be collected to determine the need in Victoria



to build a new childcare facility, so your input is greatly appreciated. Each grade school family should have received one. Those completed forms can be returned to the grade school office.

FCCLA Looking for Shoes

Do you have shoes that you can't wear, but are in good shape? If so, you can donated them to the Victoria FCCLA chapter shoe drive for needy individuals of all ages. Gently worn or new shoes can be dropped off at the high school any time or at home games. This drive will run until Thanksgiving. Thank

you for supporting this community service project.

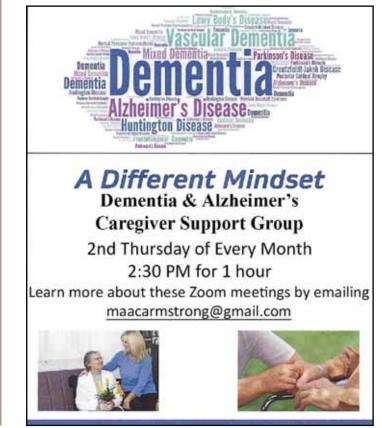
Munjor Knights of Columbus 11492. Stag Tuesday, November 7

Blood Drive Hosted by FCCLA

The Victoria FCCLA chapter is hosting their bi-annual Blood Drive on **Monday**, **November 6**, in the high school gym from **9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Please checkout redcrossblood.org to sign up. Each donation can save three lives. Munjor School Gymnasium Social from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner begins at 7:00 Menu: includes mountain oysters, potatoes, and beans. \$15.00 a ticket. Gun raffle, need not be present to win. Poffle for prizes will be held for these present

Raffle for prizes will be held for those present. Tickets available from David Leiker (785-623--0094) or any Munjor K. of C. member. Tickets will also be available at the door.





Thank you for advertising in our bulletin!



MASS INTENTIONS