



St. Michael's Newsletter

July 2011

Volume 3, Issue 2

Special Points of Interest:

- Fr. Ryan's Ordination - p.3
- Pictures from Holy Week - p.5
- Info about NFP - p.4
- Check out the latest bulletin anytime on our website!
<http://stmichael.rcdok.org>

Inside this issue:

Patti's Article	1&4
News from the Spring & Summer	2-3, 5
Invitation to be on Liturgy Committee	5
Gracia's Celebration	5
Financial Report	6-7

Slowly Learning to Trust in God By Patti Gutiérrez

Growing up, like most Catholics, I never really heard about Natural Family Planning (NFP). When I was 10 years old my dad moved from Maine to Colorado so I stopped spending the weekends with him going to the Baptist church and started going to the Catholic Church with my mom. I can't remember it coming up in either church. It probably wasn't until going to a Catholic college that I started to hear about NFP and the Church's teaching against contraception. But even then I got mixed messages of people believing it was too high of a standard for marriage or that it wasn't very effective and meant that the Church wanted all families to have at least 8 kids. It didn't surprise me that most couples I knew disregarded the teaching.

That mentality melted away when I was exposed to Pope John Paul II's revolutionary teaching the *Theology of the Body*. The more I delved into this teaching the more I realized that most of the pain around me, especially in the area of relationships and sex was a result of us chasing after counterfeits of God's truth. I came to understand the language of the body and God's design that has been stamped into our very beings as men and

women. I felt John Paul II was speaking to the deepest part of me as a person and all of the Church teachings regarding marriage and contraception flowed naturally from this newfound perspective.

I come from a family of broken marriages and young single moms. Although one thing that gave me great hope is that my mother was blessed with a second chance and now has a loving, respectful, committed marriage. But I still didn't feel certain that I was cut out for marriage. Through surprising twists and turns God brought the perfect man for me into my life and together we continued to grow in our understanding of life and love with the guidance of John Paul II's teachings. Through God's grace I experienced healing of my past reservations and whole heartedly entered into the lifelong commitment of a sacramental marriage. During our engagement we learned the Billings Ovulation Method of NFP and found out it was actually based on a lot of scientific research and highly effective at avoiding a pregnancy. We decided we would use it to postpone a pregnancy for a while. Something that surprised me were my reservations about being a

(Continued on page 4)

Cornhole Tournament—this Saturday the 16th!

The parish council is hosting a cornhole tournament as a fundraiser for the parish starting at **9am** this Saturday, July 16th. It will take place in **Sebree Springs Park**. There will be a bracket for teams from different churches to compete for a traveling trophy and a

cash donation to their church. There will also be a bracket for teams to win cash prizes. (Teams can play in both brackets).

Please consider coming at 9am to register your team for **\$20**, have some fun, buy some refreshments and support the parish!

News from the Spring & Summer

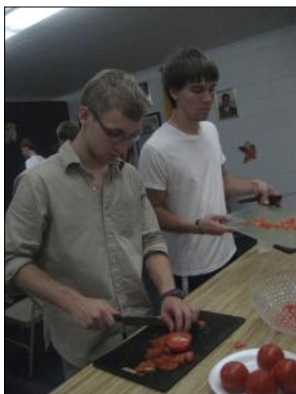


Vacation Bible School (Left)

The youth group from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Owensboro came to Sebree for the week of June 5th-9th. During the day they did work projects in people's homes and during the evening they hosted Vacation Bible School for the kids in the area with the help of St. Michael's Confirmation Class. Thanks to all those who helped make the week a success!

Sebree Summer Fest (Below)

Thanks to those that helped raise money for St. Michael's at this year's Summer Fest at our kid's booth. Thanks also to those who covered the city's food booths Friday night.



Mass Intentions: Are you ever looking for a simple, but meaningful gift for someone or just not sure how to assure someone of your prayers? Why not offer a mass for their intentions? These special intentions could be as intercession for the deceased, the ill or those facing a challenge, or they could be in thanksgiving for a special occasion or blessing received. The *suggested* donation for each mass is \$5 but you may give as little or as much as you want. All you have to do is send the church the following information or drop it in the collection basket:

- The intention and whether the person is living or deceased and their address (the parish will send a card letting them know a mass will be said for their intentions unless you ask us not to)
- Your name and number (in case we need to ask more information or change the date)
- The number of masses you would like and the preferred dates

Feeling left out?

Want to save paper?

Do you ever miss mass at St. Michael's and feel out of the loop? We'd be glad to send you the bulletin via e-mail.

We want to send as much as possible electronically! Send us an e-mail or drop your address in the collection basket and we will start sending you the newsletter and periodic updates via e-mail if you'd like.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Teachers and helpers are needed for our CCD classes! If you are willing to help this year, please give Patti a call or send her an e-mail to let her know.

Faith Formation Classes will begin August 24th on Wednesdays at 5:45pm. All children from Kindergarten to 6th grade should be attending these classes in order to learn about our faith and prepare for receiving the Sacraments.

Ryan Harpole's Priestly Ordination—May 21st



That weekend Fr. Ryan also baptized his new niece and nephew.



Fr. Ryan Harpole, son of Keith & Sandy Harpole, was ordained to the priesthood on May 21st at 10am at Blessed Mother Church in Owensboro, KY.

The next day, Sunday, May 22nd, Ryan celebrated his mass of thanksgiving here at the parish (10:30am Mass) followed by a light reception. We are so proud of you Fr. Ryan!



First Communion: This year eight boys and girls received the Eucharist for the first time during the masses on Sunday, May 1st. Congratulations! Please pray that their devotion to the Blessed Sacrament will continue to grow as they mature in their faith.

Slowly Learning to Trust in God (Continued from p.1)

mother. I think it was mostly because growing up it had been pounded into me by the wounded women in my life that no matter what I did, I just better not get pregnant too young. Even though by the time I was married I was 26 and had a good job, I couldn't shake the feeling that children were a burden I wanted to put off carrying, if at all. After so many years of fearing pregnancy, it didn't just go away because I was married.

It was only through living out the one flesh union that is so beautifully described in the *Theology of the Body* and the loving support of my husband, Chris, that I began to get a glimpse at the wonder of becoming co-creators with God. I began to experience a oneness with Chris, not only physically, but in every sense of the word to the point that I began to understand as never before the oneness of the Father and Son and their fruitful love that brings forth the Holy Spirit. After only a few months I could feel a deep longing for that same fruitful oneness and the miracle of bringing forth a new life from our love. It felt natural. Although I still had plenty of reservations about motherhood, I knew I was called to be a mother and soon after that we used our knowledge of our fertility to achieve a pregnancy.

Then the real tests began. Because of my familiarity with my cycle and I paid so close attention to my body I knew even the day the baby must have implanted and I was certain I was pregnant before I even saw the test. Our joy at being pregnant couldn't be contained. The next weekend we had a dinner with all of our closest friends and my parents and we shared the exciting news. Two days later I woke up bleeding and my entire world came crashing down. I had lost this beautiful baby that I know wanted with my whole being. I was inconsolable and broken. I couldn't believe God would bring me along this path and then do this to me.

Through this trial and into the fear and complications of a subsequent pregnancy I came to experience in a whole new way the trust and surrender that God was asking of me and Chris. In my second pregnancy I started bleeding the exact same day in my pregnancy as my miscarriage. I was devastated again and already mourning my little one. Chris supported me and reassured me and that day we prayed harder than ever and I feel for the first time truly surrendered our fertility and ability to be co-creators with God. We trusted that no matter what happened God had us in His hand. Through his grace we were blessed to not lose that baby and Gabriel is now an adorable, active, intelligent toddler who we love more than we ever knew we could.

Theology of the Body and Natural Family Planning had brought us to where we were in our faith and our marriage and we knew we wanted to spread the word. While I was pregnant with Gabriel I had the surprising opportunity to become an instructor in another method of NFP called the Creighton Model **FertilityCare** System. That's where the world of fertility was truly opened to me and I was exposed to doctors and practitioners who had taken NFP from simply a method of avoiding and achieving a pregnancy into a whole new reproductive science that cooperates with a woman's natural cycle. It even has a high success rate at helping

subfertile couples or those experiencing recurrent miscarriages to achieve and maintain a pregnancy. I was floored. I couldn't believe this had been available and yet hardly anyone knew about this revolutionary system. While teaching this method for the past two years I have been truly blessed to be part of this very intimate experience of couples learning about their own fertility. It has strengthened my conviction that living out God's plan for marriage and procreation is a blessing for every couple's relationship.

But the trials didn't end with Gabriel's birth and teaching NFP. Despite my own knowledge of fertility and the hope that this system offers to couples unable to achieve or maintain a pregnancy, God has continued to remind me that our ability to be co-creators with him is still a gift. Chris and I have experienced two more devastating miscarriages since Gabriel was born. Although we haven't yet come to understand the physical cause, we have come to realize that only in complete abandonment to God's will can we succeed in being fruitful – in whatever sense God has planned for us. We will continue to work with my body to try to achieve a pregnancy but with an ever greater sense of the blessing our fertility is and the reverence with which we join with God in bringing new life into this world. I offer my physical, spiritual and emotional pain for all the couples that have yet to discover the gift of God's plan for marriage. I pray that each of you reading this will consider learning more about the *Theology of the Body* and the modern methods of Natural Family Planning and share what you learn with others. My children: Rosario, Elías and Teresa Gutiérrez, please pray for us.

Natural Family Planning



“The transmission of human life is a most serious role in which married people collaborate freely and responsibly with God the Creator.”

~ Humanae Vitae
n. 1.

For more information about learning NFP in our Diocese visit: www.rcdok.org/nfp or call the Diocesan Family Life Office at (270) 683-1545.



Holy Week at St. Michael's



4th Annual Soccer Tournament & Fundraiser Sunday, July 24th

For the fourth year the Hispanic Community at St. Michael's is hosting a soccer tournament that usually attracts hundreds of people and raises nearly \$2,000 for the parish. From 2-5pm will probably be the busiest time. If you can come lend a hand it would be greatly appreciated!



Thanks Gracia!! On Sunday, April 17th, The parish celebrated Gracia Alvey after 19 years of unfaltering service as the organist and several years as secretary/bookkeeper. We appreciate all you have done for our parish and hope we still see you around frequently!

Vigil Mass Saturdays, 5pm

If you can't make it to mass on Sundays please come and join us at our vigil mass on Saturday afternoons at 5pm. Please spread the word that all are welcome!

Liturgy Committee

To help our parish prepare for the new translation of the Roman Missal which will be used starting on the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 27, 2011) we are forming a liturgy committee.

The first meeting will be Friday, August 19th at 6pm. This group will help decide how to best implement the changes in our parish and plan a fundraiser to cover the expenses of the new missal.

If you are interested in serving, please join us!

There are still cookbooks!

Anyone who would like to purchase a cookbook may call Rosie at (270) 835-7711 or Gracia at (270) 229-4424 to arrange a pick up.

Cost: \$3 or 4 for \$10
The Altar Society would also greatly appreciate any help you might be able to give in selling them.

Contact Information



Physical Address: 57 Watkins Road, Sebree, KY 42455

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 705, Sebree, KY 42455

Website: <http://stmichael.rcdok.org/>

Phone

Office: (270) 835-2584

Patti's Cell Phone: (270) 302-2782

E-mail:

Sacramental Minister: Fr. Al Bremer - frbremer@bellsouth.net
Parish Life Coordinator: Patti Gutiérrez - StMichaelSebree@gmail.com



St. Michael's Newsletter

July 2011

Volume 3, Issue 2

Inside this issue:	
Patti's Article	1&4
News from the Summer	2-3
Gracia's Celebration	5
Financial Report	6-7

St. Michael Catholic Church

P.O. Box 705

Sebree, KY

42455