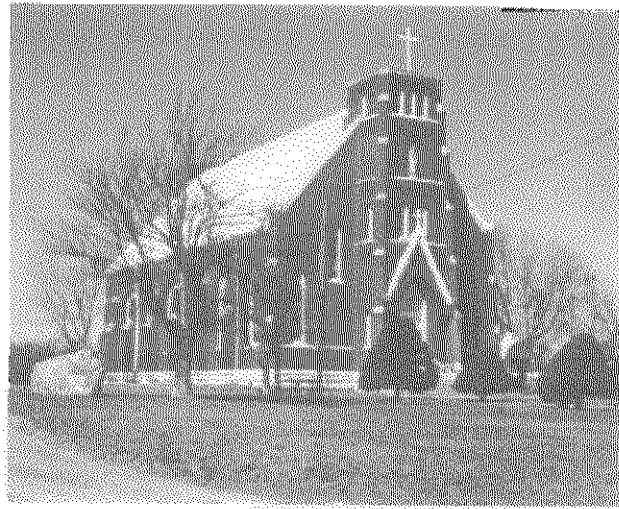


# ST. BRIDGET DAY - MAY 25

Come and Join Us

## St. Bridget Church National Landmark



On September 12, 1996, in Washington, D.C., the nomination of St. Bridget Church to the *National Registry of Historic Sites* was accepted. This news reached the officers of the St. Bridget Historical Society about October 22, one week after the publication of our last newsletter. We were waiting till the last moment to mail the fall newsletter, hoping we would be able to include this momentous announcement. But it did not come in time for the last newsletter - so we officially announce it now! The society wishes to thank all those who worked so diligently in helping us attain our national recognition, especially Chari Johnson-Reynolds.

Our church building is the 14th Marshall County site to be listed on the National Register. It is said to be the oldest Gothic structure remaining in Northeast Kansas. Visit us in person or now you can visit us on the Internet. At the time of this newsletter, you can find us at the following Web Site Address:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/8501/>

Crystal Schulte, a granddaughter of Bing Loob, is responsible for setting up a St. Bridget Home Page. She has transcribed portions of the St. Bridget History book into different sections. She is also working on making

*(Continued on page 4)*

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

**Announcing!** The 1997 Annual Meeting of the St. Bridget Historical Society will be held on Sunday, May 25, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Bridget Church. The proposed agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- ◆ Opening Prayer
- ◆ Minutes of 1996 Meeting
- ◆ Treasurer's Report
- ◆ Old Business: Rock cemetery road
- ◆ New Business: Workday 1997
- ◆ Other Business:
- ◆ Election of Secretary - Treasurer
- ◆ Closing Prayer

*We reserve the right to make last minute changes to our agenda.*

### The Day's Activities

This year's St. Bridget Day celebration will follow the traditional pattern: the annual Business Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the church, followed by Sunday Mass at 3:00 p.m. Father Tom Dolezal will be the celebrant as well as any other visiting priests who may be present.

Following the Mass will be our traditional potluck dinner in the church basement. **Drinks and table service will be provided by the St. Bridget Historical Society.** Families are asked to bring *one meat dish* and *one other dish* for the potluck.

As in past years, the **Mass will be offered for deceased members** of both the St. Bridget Historical Society and old St. Bridget parish.

# St. Bridget News

Rural Axtell, Kansas

SPRING 1997 NEWSLETTER

# Did You Know?

*What is that "thing" coming out of the forehead on that one statue?*

The statue in question is the statue of **St. Jude**, the Apostle. Of all the statues in St. Bridget Church, that statue draws the most attention. At first glance, it looks like a horn emerging from the saint's head. But why would a saint have an image of a horn, something used to designate members of Satan's company? Did St. Jude have a dark side to his person that we don't ordinarily talk about? The answer is **NO**, and it is not a horn at all.

St. Jude was one of the apostles. The season of Pentecost is upon us - when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and filled them with new life and a new spirit. The Scriptures say that something like "tongues of fire" hovered over their heads. The sculptor of this statue of St. Jude wanted to depict that important moment in the saint's life, so in casting this statue, he placed toward the top of his head, a "**tongue of fire.**" After this incident in the lives of the apostles, they were changed men - there was a new vitality and purpose in their lives. The artist, who designed this statue, wants us to open our lives to the spirit - to put a "fire" in our hearts burning for an openness to God's spirit.

**Now you know about that "thing" coming from the head on the Statue of St. Jude.**

## Your Dues Help Us Keep St. Bridget Going

### St. Bridget Cemetery News



You can help us maintain the cemetery if, when you plant new flowers, etc., you would place them *between the stones* instead of in front of the stones. Planting flowers in front eventually covers the names on the stones and makes it much harder to mow and maintain our cemetery. We are thankful to the Stallbaumer family for the excellent job they do in mowing and trimming around the cemetery.

## FUTURE CHURCH REPAIRS!



Over the past several years, the St. Bridget Historical Society has been looking for someone who can help us tuckpoint some places on the church. The reason we are doing this became very evident this past winter. Some bricks at the top of the church came loose and fell to the ground. Terry Stallbaumer grabbed a bucket of mortar and with the help of the other officers repaired the damage. In preparation for any grants we may be applying for, it was necessary to have a qualified estimate of the cost of tuckpointing the church. The officers concur that tuckpointing the church must be a primary concern. Mid-Continental Restoration Company, from Ft. Scott, Kansas, a nationally recognized company that specializes in tuckpointing and building restoration, gave us a bid of \$ 82,000 to tuckpoint the church building. We are investigating some federal grants (80% / 20%) that we are now qualified to receive that could assist us in this completing this task.

There will be a second round of applications for some Heritage Trust Fund Grants this fall. We intend to apply for one of these grants. The date for applying has not been set as yet.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

by the St. Bridget Historical Society

**St. Bridget Cookbook** - Reprint of a 1927 Cookbook published by St. Bridget Parish. Contains many advertisements from local and distant merchants. Indexed - \$10.00 each or two for \$15.00.

**St. Bridget Commemorative Plate** - \$15.00

**History of St. Bridget Parish**, published in 1994, the revised and expanded book - Indexed, 91 pages at \$17.50.

**Who Said That?** A 1995 publication. A Companion book to the history book. Contains reprints from newspapers, County histories, personal accounts, etc. about St. Bridget Parish. Some of these reprints were used in the parish history book, but many were not. - 42 pages at \$10.00.

**St. Bridget Cross** [imported from Ireland] - \$ 8.00

## FOR THE GENEALOGIST:

Reprints of St. Bridget **Baptismal records** (1860 - 1967) - \$15.00 or Reprints of **Marriage records** (1863 - 1965) - \$10.00 or Reprints of **Death / Burial records** (1862 - 1995) - \$10.00 - All three record books are listed alphabetical and chronological.

Make checks payable to **St. Bridget Historical Society**. If ordering through the U.S. Mail, please add \$3.00 to total price for postage.

## Death Anniversaries of St. Bridget Pastors

Rev. Suitbert Demarteau, OSB	January 16, 1901
Rev. Patrick McNamara	January 17, 1952
Rev. Francis Geintiz	May 6, 1956
Rev. Michael McManus	May 11, 1956
Rev. Jerome Twomey	May 11, 1965
Rev. Leo Ahern	June 13, 1952
Rev. John Hurley	June 20, 1909
Rev. William L. Nelligan	July 18, 1973

Rev. Frank Krul	August 26, 1988
Rev. Michael O'Leary	September 2, 1932
Rev. Leonard Moran	September 18, 1991
Rev. Vince Kongs	October 29, 1992
Rev. Dennis Pickert	November 24, 1994
Rev. William FitzGerald	November 30, 1881
Rev. Patrick O'Sullivan	December 22, 1938

*If you know the death anniversaries of other former pastors of St. Bridget, please let us know. Thank-you.*

# St. Bridget Cemetery



**I**t takes a lot of work to maintain a cemetery. More work than people realize. Before a funeral can take place, the cemetery sexton must find the proper gravesite, mark it off so the man with the backhoe can know where to dig, and then be available to answer any questions or solve any last minute complications before the interment takes place, like digging a grave in the rain and having the grave collapse right before the funeral arrives! It happens. And oftentimes, the family is unaware. In many of our rural areas, the unsung heroes are our cemetery sextons - who **VOLUNTEER** their time keeping records and making proper arrangements. St. Bridget Cemetery is deeply appreciative of Terry and Norma Stallbaumer and their family. Over the past eight years, Terry, Norma and the children have been taking care of the cemetery. They supply the lawnmowers

and are meagerly reimbursed for all the time, sweat and toil they faithfully give the cemetery. On an average year, the Cemetery Fund pays between \$1,000 and \$1,300 for mowing (depending on how rainy it is). It often takes most of a day, when you consider all the trimming that goes with the job. Besides the mowing, there are always some graves each year that need attention. Both new and old graves settle. You must bring in new dirt to fill in. Then the new dirt needs to be seeded, so grass will grow. This year the officers plan on bringing in more rock for the roads. *It takes a lot of work to maintain a cemetery.* We are thankful for Terry, Norma and the Stallbaumer children.

## St. Bridget Hosted Marshall County Historical Society

Last July 8th, the Marshall County Historical Society had its regular meeting at St. Bridget Church. We were expecting 15 to 20 people, but had a record attendance of at least double the expected number. Don Ubben, president of the Marshall County Historical Society, opened the meeting. Fr. Tom gave a brief history of the church and Chari Johnson-Reynolds showed pictures of the statue restoration work she completed. Norma Stallbaumer and her two daughters sang several songs to the delight of those in attendance. The old pump organ even got into the act when Lois Cohorst played it for several of the songs. The St. Bridget Historical Society served cookies and drinks after the meeting.

## Membership Dues For 1997 now Due

Annual Dues For Membership In St. Bridget Historical Society is \$5.00 - mail dues to:

*Leo Glynn*  
Rt. 1 - Box 56  
Summerfield, KS 66541

(Continued from page 1)

available, over the Internet, some of the Sacramental records. We are thankful to Crystal for all her work. If you visit her at the St. Bridget Home Page, you can leave a thank-you message at her E-mail comments section. We thank her for bringing St. Bridget Church to the Internet.

Dr. Lynn H. Nelson, with the History Department at Kansas University, is also working on a Web page for St. Bridget Church. It will include the history of St. Bridget and various photographs, past and present. Dr. Nelson helps oversee the *Kansas Heritage Server*, which is attempting to capture much of the history of Kansas. We are most grateful to Dr. Nelson for his assistance in this endeavor.

Finally, JoEllen Vinyard, a professor in the History Department at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, wrote to us recently asking for an old photo of St. Bridget. She wanted to use it to illustrate an article on the Irish in America that will appear in the *Encyclopedia of American Immigrant Cultures* to be published by Macmillan. JoEllen spent time around St. Bridget when she was a child. She came to visit relatives who were parishioners at St. Bridget. We sent JoEllen two photos for her article. We are thankful to her for remembering us and St. Bridget Church.



On March 16, 1997, the wives of the Officers of the St. Bridget Historical Society, put on the concession stand for the Jim Yunghans Farm Sale. They cleared \$319.00 and designated it to be used for church repairs.

St. Bridget News

St. Michael Church  
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