

ST. BRIDGET DAY - MAY 24

Come and Join Us

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Announcing! The 1998 Annual Meeting of the St. Bridget Historical Society will be held on Sunday, May 24, 1998 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Bridget Church. The proposed agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- ◆ Opening Prayer
- ◆ Minutes of 1997 Meeting
- ◆ Treasurer's Report
- ◆ Old Business:
- ◆ New Business: Workday 1998
- ◆ Other Business:
- ◆ Election of Vice President
- ◆ 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 on **May 24 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.

HERITAGE FUND GRANT

On June 15, 1998, the St. Bridget Historical Society will be submitting a grant request again to the Heritage Trust fund, operating through the Kansas State Historical Society. Last year's request was not approved, although the comments from the KSHS were that it well written, well documented with photograph, but it was needing additional information in several areas.

Cheri Johnson-Reynolds, our original grantwriter, is still overseeing grant funding. The Marshall County Commissioners, realizing our project was worthwhile, offered the services of J. Everett Mitchell, Big Lakes Regional Development Council. Mr. Mitchell said, his role, in regard to our application, is to "take what was already good and make it better" using their experiences of over 20 years of writing grants. On June 15th, they will be resubmitting our revised grant application to the Heritage Trust Fund.

J. Everett Mitchell has met with the officers of the St. Bridget Historical Society and visited the church several times in preparation for rewriting our grant.

The new grant request to be submitted on June 15th, will be asking the Heritage Trust Fund to accept a total grant bid of **\$90,200.00** for tuckpointing and other necessary exterior work. Of that \$90,200, the St. Bridget Historical Society will be asked to commit **\$25,000** while the Heritage Trust Fund will commit \$65,200.

According to Leo Glynn, our Society's Treasurer, the Tuckpointing Fund contains **\$19,640**. We will need to raise an additional **\$5,360** to meet our commitment to **save St. Bridget Church.** **Will you help us?** A commitment card is enclosed with this mailing. If we get this grant, we need to be ready to start as soon as possible.

90th Anniversary Approaching *of Dedication of St. Bridget Church*



Make plans **NOW** to join us Sunday, **August 30, 1998 at 2:00 pm** for a special anniversary Mass with Archbishop James P. Keleher at 2:00 pm. The Knights of Columbus, Council #1163, will prepare and serve a Chicken Bar-B-Que dinner. Tickets for the dinner will be available. A special newsletter will be sent in July regarding this very special day.

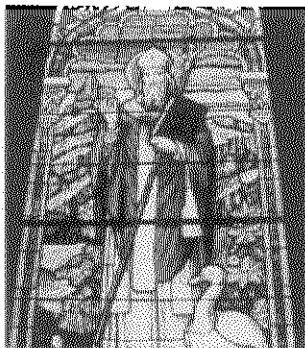
St. Bridget News

Rural Axtell, Kansas

SPRING 1998 NEWSLETTER

Did You Know?

What is the meaning of the goose in the stained-glass window at St. Bridget?



The window you are referring to is one that depicts St. Martin of Tours. He lived from approximately 316 AD to November 8, 397. He is the patron saint of France, soldiers, horses and horse-riders, beggars, geese and winegrowers.

Martin was the son of a Roman army officer in Hungary. His parents were not Christians.

When Martin was a boy, his family moved to Italy. There he met some priests who told him about Jesus. He listened eagerly to the stories about Christ's love for the poor, the sick, and the sorrowful. He heard Jesus' words calling us to love God and one another. When Martin was ten years old, he told his parents he wanted to be baptized and live as a Christian. They refused to let him have his wish.

When Martin was fifteen, his father enrolled him in the Roman army. Martin soon became an officer, but in his heart he longed to become a follower of Jesus. As a soldier, Martin tried to treat others with love. **A famous story is told about St. Martin when he was eighteen and stationed in France. One very cold winter day, Martin saw a beggar huddled by the city gates, shivering with cold. Martin took off the cloak he was wearing, cut it in two with his sword, and gave one half to the beggar. That night, Martin had a dream. In the dream he saw Jesus wearing the part of his cloak that he had given to the poor man. Martin knew then the meaning of Jesus' words, "Whatever you do to the least of mine, you do to me."**

When Martin was old enough to be baptized without his parents' consent, he became a Christian. Shortly after, Martin asked permission to resign from the army, for he could not bring himself to hurt another. The emperor called him a coward, but Martin said he was not afraid of death and would willingly go into battle without a weapon or a shield. He would go with a cross as his only protection. The emperor ordered him to do this, but a few days before the battle the enemy surrendered.

Martin was permitted to resign as a soldier of the emperor, and he became a soldier of Christ. He fought for Christ with words rather than with a sword.

Martin studied under St. Hilary, a bishop. He returned home and converted his mother. He fought false teachings and

Continued in next column

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 \$1.00 (per publication) for postage.

St. Martin of Tours (continued)

was beaten and driven out of towns for it.

Eventually he returned to France and founded a monastery. He lived there for ten years. When the bishop of Tours died, the people asked for Martin to be their bishop. **There is a legend that Martin hid because he didn't want to be bishop, but his pet goose kept honking and gave away his hiding place.** As a bishop, Martin traveled to help people. He also founded another monastery where he trained priests to take the Gospel to the poor.

When Martin died, he was immediately honored as a saint. His feast day is November 11th.

Now You Know!

(Information taken from: *Saint's Kit* by Sr. Mary Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D.; Loyola University Press, 1994)

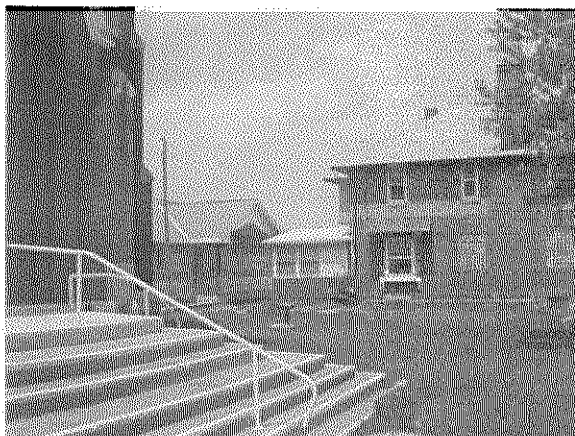
ATTENTION WEB SURFERS

In October last year, the St. Bridget Historical Society launched its Web page for St. Bridget Church. We are grateful to our local telephone company, *Blue Valley Telephone*, for giving us free space on their Marshall County Website. The St. Bridget Website was developed by Father Tom Dolezal. If anyone wants to visit the website, the internet address is:

<http://www.marshallco.net/axtell/stbridget/sbhome.htm>

The Web site contains a location map, a history of St. Bridget parish, back issues of the recent newsletters, news about our projects, a listing of historical society officers, a listing of former pastors and dates of death for those who have died. Another feature of our website is our tour of the church and our "links" section. For those interested in genealogical information, Crystal Shulte has established a database section of the sacramental records. You can look up baptism, death and eventually marriage records. Other links on that same page connect you to the Axtell, Beattie and Summerfield Web Sites. These, and other features, can be found on the St. Bridget Web Site - we hope you will stop by and visit.

The Times They Are A' CHANGING



As the book of Ecclesiastes says: "... a time to tear down, and a time to build." (3:3). The next time you come out to visit us at St. Bridget (*hopefully for our Memorial Day Mass this May 24th*), you will notice things are a little bit different. Terry and Norma Stallbaumer are constructing a new home to replace their old home and former St. Bridget Rectory. Over the past few years, it was not hard to notice that the old house (*built in 1920 to replace the rectory that burned in 1919*) had its difficulties. They finally reached a point where pouring new money into an old house was not cost effective. If someone is interested in moving the house out or obtaining some or all the bricks, they would need to contact Terry and Norma Stallbaumer (785-736-2910).

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.

Help Keep St. Bridget Alive -
Send In Your \$5.00 Membership
Dues Today

NINETY YEARS AGO

I can imagine the beehive of activity surrounding St. Bridget Parish ninety years ago. Their new church, six years in construction, was nearing completion. Arrangements were being made to have the Bishop of Leavenworth travel by train to Axtell and then by buggy to St. Bridget to dedicate their new structure. The date they picked was September 2, 1908.

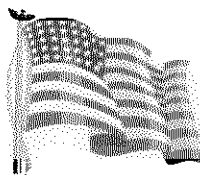
We are fortunate to have Archbishop James P. Keleher, of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, join us on August 30th to celebrate this important anniversary. This will be Archbishop Keleher's second visit to St. Bridget. Join us for an old fashioned chicken dinner served by the Knights of Columbus of Axtell 1163. Proceeds to help with tuckpointing project. We need to raise \$5,000 for our part of the grant.

Membership Dues For 1998 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

NEED YOUR HELP



The St. Bridget cemetery board would like to update its records on veterans. We are asking families, who have men or women veterans buried in our cemetery, to please send us information, such as:

- a) Dates of service;
- b) Where they served;
- c) Branch of service they were in.

We would like to properly mark their graves and honor them with flags on Memorial Day. The American Legion will furnish the flags and markers. **The past year, we are grateful to Mr. Dallas Bowhay** of Summerfield, who marked the graves of those we had listed. If you would like your deceased veteran so honored, please let us know as soon as possible for this Memorial Day Weekend..

St. Bridget News

St. Michael Church
P.O. Box K
Axtell, KS 66403

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