St John the Evangelist Catholic Church

$25,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

If we can raise $25,000 **this week** as a community we will receive this generous matching gift toward our Preserving Our Past Building Our Future Campaign!

Exciting News!

We are nearing the end of the Preserving Our Past Building Our Future Campaign. We have only $200,000 left to raise!

Two more generous donors have stepped up to give a matching gift of up to $25,000. If we can raise $25,000 this week as a community we will receive this generous matching gift!

Have you received a generous year-end bonus, would like to take advantage of a tax deductible gift, or have not had a chance to pledge to this project? Please consider an additional gift to the campaign, extending your pledge, or pledging for the first time!

There is still excitement and momentum to complete raising the funds for this project. Thank you to all for your generosity!

You can email sromero@saint-johns.net with your pledge or call the parish office at 785.843.0109. It will take all of us to reach this goal!

Blessings!
Samantha Romero, Director of Development

Holy Day of Obligation: Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 7 at 5:15 pm

Friday, December 8 at 7:00 am, 12:10 pm, and 7:00 pm

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, and the sacraments. Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion.

St. John Parish offices in transition

Due to the ongoing construction of the renovated St. John Parish office, some staff members have moved to a temporary location. Office times are 8:30 am until 4:00 pm daily. Email is the best way to reach staff if you need to contact the office. The main office, including Father Jeff, Father Barnabas, and Meg Milburn, is located in the Atrium House at 200 West 13th. If you have questions, please call the main number at 785-843-0109. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Parish Staff

Pastor.....Fr. Jeff Ernst
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Barnabas Eichor
In Residence.....Fr. Mike Scully
Principal, St. John School.....Mrs. Pat Newton
Director of Liturgy & Music.....Lisa Roush
Religious Education Director.....Lois Mersmann
Catecísmo en español.....María Mota
High School Youth Directors.....Amy Hill & Jeff Cramer
Middle School Youth Director.....Kirsten Baska
RCIA.....Michael Podrebarac
Business Manager.....Cris Denning
Stewardship Director.....Samantha Romero
Administrative Assistant.....Meg Milburn
Pastoral Assistant/Events Calendar.....Ellen Sickinger
Database.....Patty Guadian
Multimedia.....Jacinta Hoyt
Technology.....Karen Dixon
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke

St. John Catholic School.....Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal
1208 Kentucky St. 785-843-9511
www.sjevangelist.com/school

Catholic Charities.....Namaste Manney
1525 W. 6th, Suite A 785-856-2694
Rummage House.....Linda Brey
13th & Kentucky **lbrey525@gmail.com**
Shopping Hours: Wednesday — 11:00am-3:00 pm Thursday (first and last of month only) — 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Saturday — 8:30 am-12:30 pm
Centro Hispano.....Lydia Diebolt
204 W. 13th St. 785-843-2039

Simon Parish Center

Mailing Address .....1229 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone.....785-843-0109

Office Hours
.....Monday—Friday: 8:30 am—4:00 pm

Weekend Masses
Saturday.....4:30 pm
Sunday7:00 am, 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm (Spanish) 5:00 pm

Weekday Masses
Monday-Friday.....7:30 am
Saturday.....8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the north church entrance)
Wednesday.....11:00 am-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm
Saturday.....3:00-4:00 pm
(and by appointment)

Adoration.....Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 6:00 am—9:00 pm in the Padre Pio Chapel

Bulletin Deadline. Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to **bulletin@saint-johns.net** ten (10) days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear. Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.
Advertise in the Bulletin. Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call Greg Proske:

800-950-9952 x2551
GProske@4LPI.com
www.SeekAndFind.com

Pastoral Council
Mary Menendez, Lily Romero, Brian Walter, Chris Wenger, Bob Trepinski, Luis Gonzalez, Connie Erhlich, Jason Tanking

Finance Council
Brad Finkeldei, Chair, Teresa Kempf, Brian Green, Vince Romero, Meredith Lang, Chris Wenger

School Council
Fr. Jeff Ernst, Mrs. Pat Newton, Caroline Bennett, President, Mike McDonald, Vice President, Jimmy McDonald, Secretary, LeMarie Gilbert, Stacy Mulder, Mary Menendez

BREAD TO OFFER

By Fr. Jeffrey A. Ernst, OFM, Cap.

A Season of Hope

This Sunday begins a new liturgical year with the Season of Advent. The word "Advent" is from the Latin "adventus," which means "to the coming" or "the coming." This "coming" of course refers to the Lord's coming among us as one of us, in his humanity like ours in all things but sin, and in his divinity as God's Son. This "coming" also refers to the Lord's return to us in glory, as we believe and profess every Sunday with the Creed. These two understandings of the coming of the Lord are what we reflect upon liturgically throughout the Season of Advent. Looking forward to, and reflecting on, the two comings of the Lord is a prayerful and liturgical action of hope. It is interesting that the church ritualizes something as subjective as hope.

Hope is one of the three virtues listed by St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians: "There are in the end three things that last, faith, hope, and love . . ." (13:13). Hope is a staple of the Christian life, as are faith and love. Hope is a virtue because it is acquired through its practice in cooperation with God's grace. As we grow in the virtue of hope, it becomes an "anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:18-19). When we view ourselves as living constantly in the love and mercy of God, we are practicing the virtue of hope.

Christian hope is based on the resurrection of Jesus. When he rose from the dead, Jesus destroyed the power of death. Death still happens, but it no longer has power over us because it is no longer final. Through death, we pass from this life to the next. Christian hope is based upon this aspect of our faith. And so, we live our earthly life in anticipation of the life to come, which precisely is the meaning of Advent. We are living in the hope of Jesus' return in glory and/or our own encounter with him as we pass from this life to the next. Our present life here on earth is good – it is a gift from God and we are called to be good stewards of this blessed life while here on earth. Moreover, God created our world and blessed it – he looked at all that he made and saw that it was good (Genesis 1:31). So, Christian hope is not having a pessimistic view of this world. Hope is living in wonder and gratitude for this earthly life, but in anticipation and preparation for the life to come. In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul says, "If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied" (15:19). The next life gives meaning to this life. However, this life provides the context and circumstances where we might encounter Christ. It is while living here in this world that we learn about Jesus, his suffering, death, and resurrection, and how everything in this world was created through him. God looked at everything and saw that it was good – that includes us. We were, after all, made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27) – what a reason to have hope!

Come Lord Jesus!

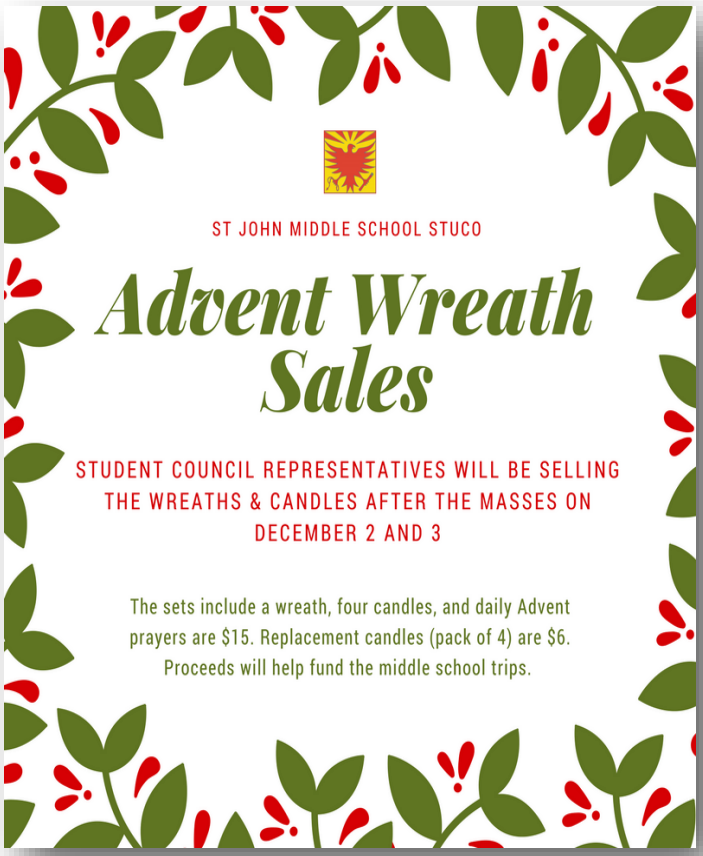
ST. JOHN SCHOOL

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT

Visit online at **sjevangelist.com/school**, call **785- 843-9511** or email Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal, at **newton@saint-johns.net** for more information and to schedule a tour for you and your student! St. John Catholic School has classes from pre-school through eighth grade.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Our Lady Of Guadalupe Mass

On **Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 am** St. John will have a Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe (with Mariachi Girasol). Come as you are, or dress in traditional attire! Please bring non-perishable food items to place in the basket during the opening procession. The celebration will continue after Mass with a reception in the parish hall which will include Mexican hot chocolate, bread and cookies, a bazaar table, raffles and a piñata for the children.
For information contact Connie Garcia at **785-842-3003.**

Donations Welcome for OLG Mass

Calling all bakers, crafters and those with new or gently used "treasures". We will now be accepting items for the bazaar table at the celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe to be held on **Saturday, December 9.** You may bring items to the church basement on at **7:00 pm, Friday, December 8.** (We will be decorating and setting up for Saturday). You may also bring items to the church basement before the mass on Saturday.
For those with large items who need pick up information or information in general, please contact Lori Wickliffe at **785-764-1500**, or Jennifer Marshall **785-218-4244**.
No donation is too small and all are greatly appreciated! Thank You!

Advent Communal Penance Service

Hosted by Sacred Heart Parish, 1100 West St., Tonganoxie, Kansas, on **Wednesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm.** Additional priests will be on hand to hear individual confessions and provide absolution. Questions? Call Kathleen at **913-369-2851.**

My Path…Our Journey…December Tool for the Journey : Hope

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1817) Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The Advent season in the church is all about hope. The hope of a Messiah that will come to set us all free from sin so that we can live forever in heaven! The question is how do we share that hope with others in a world that feels hopeless sometimes?

The best news is scripture tells us exactly how!

1. **Be prepared to explain why you have hope.**-"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason of the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15)
2. **Be respectful of others.**-"But do this in a gentle and respectful way." (1 Peter 3:16)

Our job is to show people how valuable they are to God – how very much He loves them! Our job is to share our hope!
Looking for some concrete ways to share hope this Advent season?

- Try smiling at everyone you see.
- Write a note or call someone you know who is struggling, lonely or ill.
- Volunteer for an organization or a person.
- Bring goodies to the homebound or those in nursing homes.
- Go caroling!

St. Nick CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
3PM-5PM
CHURCH BASEMENT

COME FOR COOKIES, COCOA, PICTURES,
AND FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!
KIDS CAN BRING A WRAPPED GIFT FOR
TOYS FOR TOTS

Sponsored by Marriage & Family Life Committee

Aaron's Hope Story: Brightened Optimism

Hi, my name is Aaron and this is my hope story…
One afternoon I decided to meet with a case manager through the Kansas Loan Pool Program (KLPP). I'd had a stroke and was literally in the hospital four months and then in a rehabilitation facility three more. During this time, a trusted family member who had power of attorney squandered all of my finances.

catholic charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

When I had recovered sufficiently to again take control of my life, I discovered my savings wiped out, along with unpaid mortgage payments, and no utilities. I had little alternative and took out payday and title loans to survive and then just took it one day at a time, trusting that God would take care of me.
While I was in this situation I did not want to express any more negativity. My Catholic Charities' case manager even said that I was one of the most joyful people she had ever met. I praise God for leading me to
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and to the Kansas Loan Pool Program. This month they replaced my 2 payday loans and 1 title loan with a manageable 6 percent loan.
The future feels bright.
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas's mission is to provide help, hospitality and hope to our neighbors in need.
Thank you for being a part of this mission by considering a generous gift to the Christmas collection to help the less fortunate.

Catholic Charities has moved

Come see us at our new location in west Lawrence at 1525 West Sixth Street, Suite A. We can be reached at **785-856-2694.**

Traveling Taize service coming to St. John's

This year, the weekly Advent Taizé services will be **December 1**, at Eudora Methodist Church; **December 8**, at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, and **December 15** at our very own St. John the Evangelist Church. All services start at **6:00 pm**, and all are welcome to these ecumenical moments of simple song, scripture, seasonal readings, candlelight, and brief moments of silence.
Be sure to mention this Advent schedule to friends and family who might wish to experience a Taizé service this Advent. Or pick up a Taizé bookmark with the dates and locations for all of the 2017-2018 services. The bookmarks can be found in the church's information area.
To receive information about every upcoming Taizé service, email Judith Galas, judithcgalas@gmail.com.

Church Steps Project Update

Many heartfelt thanks to all the parishioners who baked delicious treats for the Church Steps bake sale, and to all the parishioners who came to purchase our lovely treats. The bake sale netted over $2,100.

On **Monday, December 18th between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm**, you can help the Church Steps again by purchasing dinner at the Chipotle restaurant on 23rd Street. Just remember to tell the cashier that you are with St. John's Catholic Church, and **50 percent** (yes! **50 PERCENT**) of your purchase will come back to St. Johns for the Church Steps. Remember this works only at the 23rd Street restaurant (1420 W 23rd St), and only on that one date, **December 18, between the hours of 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm.** Any questions? Call **785-331-0421**, or email nora7@sbcglobal.net.

LivinginLove

Dates 2018

A mini retreat workshop for married couples designed to energize the romance and renew the excitement of being in love

information &

Online Reservations

www.archkck.org/livinginlove

(913)-647-0345

The Faith Community of
St John the Evangelist
is pleased to offer

Living in Love

January 20 - 21, 2018

Please treat yourselves to this extraordinary experience for the sake of your community, yourselves, and your children

If you are considering working with the engaged couples of the parish, this is the initial training for "Preparing to Live in Love," a new parish pre-cana mentoring program.

Please phone for other dates and venues

Time Table: Sat 8 am - 9 pm; Sun 7 am - 2:30 pm

A Mission to Love... Couples who stay successfully and happily married have made marriage their mission. They choose not to 'settle down' but instead adopt a proactive approach to put the fun and delight into being a man and a woman in love. This day and a half parish-based event provides the inspiration and insight that enables each couple to create the lifestyle and marriage they have always dreamed of. Clearly there is a difference between loving and being "in love". **Living in Love** offers liberating insight into how differently men and women prefer to achieve intimacy and helps couples get in touch with the resources that draw them to each other and fuel their passion.

Facilitated by parish couples, the weekend is a series of presentations followed by questions for reflection and discussion so that couples can explore the topics together in complete privacy. There is no group discussion or counseling. Topics include: Dreams and Memories • Formation in the Family • Cultural Barriers • Trust • Reconciliation • Affirmation • Signs and Wonders• Living in Love • and Vision.

Cost: $70.00 per couple. Includes all materials, refreshments, and a romantic Saturday evening meal.

Accommodations: Parish facilities are used. Couples sleep at home. The retreat will take place in the church basement and Bosco Room at the school.

Child Care: Breast fed babies can be cared for at the retreat. Please phone to discuss other situations.

Living in Love is a program of the Pastoral and Matrimonial Renewal

Registration Form

Wife's Name .....

Religion .....

Husband's Name .....

Religion .....

Address .....

.....

Parish .....

Phone (Home/Cell) .....

E-mail .....

Wedding Date .....

Dietary Restrictions .....

Details

Host Parish: St John the Evangelist
1234 Kentucky
Lawrence,KS 66044

Date: 20-21 January 2018

Payment Details ($70.00 per couple)

Payment can be made at time of registration or at the time of the retreat. Full and partial scholarships are available in special circumstances.

Register on line:
www.archkck.org/livinginlove

Local Contact: Don and Angela Zysk
Phone: 785-760-0297
Email: angela@zhomesllc.com

STEWARDSHIP OF **PRAYER**

MINISTERS **Dec. 9-10**

Lectors

Contact: Sean Smith
seanj@ku.edu

Altar Servers

Saturday
4:30pm ..... A Mattes, G Sellet
Sunday
7:00am ..... VOLUNTEER
8:30am ..... R Dvorske, S Liu
11:00am ..... G Sabatini, M Green
5:00pm ..... B Diers, R Diers

Cantors

Saturday
4:30pm ..... A Mauler
Sunday
7:00am ..... M Conn
8:30am ..... K Gibb

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday
4:30pm ..... A Hewitt, B Johnson, J McGraw, M A Roesner, L Seidl, D Weigel
Sunday
7:00am ..... J & M Hannah, B Harmon
8:30am ..... K Ostrander, Y Ruder, L Scott, M Steichen, B Volz, N Albrecht, J Dvorske
11:00am ..... C Bial, D Bradley, A Brill, C Buchheister, B DeWitt, C & D Ehrlich
5:00pm ..... M LeGresley, A McCabe, S Murray, D & E Schmidt, J Weeks

Our Hope Foundation
A St. John Legacy Society

Would you like more information on Planned Giving? Please contact Samantha Romero at **somero@saint-johns.net** or **785-843-0109**

Mass Intentions: Dec. 4 - Dec. 10

Monday: 7:30am ..... Jaunita Bailey†
Tuesday: 7:30am ..... Colin Rowell†
Wednesday: 7:30am ..... Edna Zillner†
Thursday: 7:30am ..... Osborne-O'Connor Family
5:15pm ..... Marvin Simon†
Friday: 7:00am ..... Marian Namyslowski†
12:10pm ..... Dr. Ken Wulfekuhle D.V.M†
7:00pm ..... Mary K. Strickland†
Saturday: 9:00am ..... Our Lady of Guadalupe
4:30pm ..... Robert Fluker†
Sunday: 7:00am ..... Susan Gelvin†
8:30am ..... Joseph & Maxine Dultmeier†
11:00am ..... Theophilus Obiefule
2:00pm (Sp.) ..... St. John Parish
5:00pm ..... Frank Romero†

Parish Prayer List

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Frank Acinger, brother of Bernadette West
Gayla Barnes, friend of Jackie Monroe
Mariele Berthold
Mike Born, brother of Phillis Stone
Patrick Bownes, nephew of Catherine Pawlicki
Remi Brown
Curtis Burns, friend of Joe & Bev Mater
Christine Crandon, sister-in-law of Brent Crandon
Diane Darwin
Cyril Foote, Sr.
Gloria Garcia
Ed Garza
Betty Hanna
Judy Hannah
Dianne Hofmann
Bob Holek
Connie Jensen, friend of Steve & Tammy Buckner
Diana Matthews
Christian McGraw, Grandson of Coriene McGraw
Zackary Messerly, nephew of Debra Bradley
Leonard Monroe
Leo Nau
Theophilus Obiefule
Kathryn Olden
Allan Otter, brother of Norb Otter
Alison Quin
Kathy Rennells
Eva Ricketts, mother of Ingrid Hartman
Darlene Rodgers
Julie Scott, friend of Monica Cordova
Mary Kay Seidl, sister of Loretta Seidl
Gerald Simon
Meyer Sneed, son of Taylor & Melissa Sneed
Tony Soper
Jack Taylor, brother of Daniel Taylor
Chuck Umscheid
Cindy Vasquez, sister of Gina Hodges
Theresa Wells
Jon Yarnell

FAITH FORMATION

Fall Class with Fr. Barnabas

Father Barnabas has begun his series of classes on the life and times of the earliest Christians. The class discusses the perils faced by Christians. Other questions to be discussed include: Who founded the Church in Rome, Peter or Paul? How large was the Church in Rome and how quickly did it grow? Why did Christians bury themselves in the catacombs? How did the Church respond to the persecutions? What did the Romans think of Christians themselves? Finally, how did this small, often despised, "Jewish sect" rise to be the dominate religion in the Empire at the Time of Constantine?

The main text we will be using is CHRISTIANITY IN ANCIENT ROME: THE FIRST THREE CENTURIES by Bernard Green. You can purchase the book on Amazon. Upcoming Class dates: **December 5, 12.** Classes will be in the church basement **7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.**

The Bible and The Virgin Mary

The Men of St. John are presenting "The Bible and the Virgin Mary" series on **Wednesday mornings from 6:00 am to 7:25 am**. Please join us for faith, fellowship, and breakfast. This is a men's ministry. For more information contact Brian Walter at **walterpack@sunflower.com** or **785-766-1569**.

Catholic Youth Step Up to put faith in action

The first grade students in the Traditional Religious Education class, taught by Michele Johnson and Anna Huelskamp, discussed how even kids can help others in need. The first graders challenged all children (kindergarten – 5th grade), their families and the adults who attend St. John Café to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to a local food pantry. On **November 19**, the first grade children picked up nearly 200 non-perishable food items that had been donated. Thanks to Fred Mersmann, these items were delivered to the Trinity Interfaith food pantry the following Tuesday. **THANK YOU** to all who provided a donation.

Confirmation classes begin

Classes for public school students preparing for Confirmation 2018, begin this **Sunday, December 3** and meet in the St. John school building from **9:45 to 10:45 a.m.** Registration is still possible. Students can register when they come for class.

***

Confirmation instruction for 8th grade students, who attend St. John Catholic School, begins the week of **December 3**.

Confirmation for all students will be held April 12, 2018. More details will be announced in the bulletin and in formation classes.

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

Weekly Parish Giving

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018
Information below reflects donations received
July 1, 2017 through November 26, 2017.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	$28,846.15
Average weekly collection amount	$27,684.70
Budgeted Collection Fiscal YTD	$634,615.30
Actual Collection Fiscal YTD	$609,063.46
Net Shortage	**$25,551.84**
Total Income (FY 2017-2018)	$674,313.35
Total Expenses (FY 2017-2018)	$832,684.93
Net Loss (07/01/17 – 09/30/17)	**$158,371.58**

We are grateful for your support of St. John Parish! Our online giving program allows you to make contributions to St. John eliminating the hassle of checks or cash donations.

You may set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. You may also make pledges, manage your contributions to the pledge amount, and make one-time donations to special causes.

Visit **sjevangelist.com/giving** for more information or to set up and manage your account today!

Contact Cris Denning at **cdenning@saint-johns.net** or by phone at **785-843-0109** if you have any questions.

AVISOS EN ESPAÑOL

Maria J. Mota, Animadora
(785) 218-1511

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **(785) 218-1511**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir pos nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR

Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

Preparacion al matrimonio por la Iglesia Catolica, solo para parejas que viven juntos y tienen ninos.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmacion y primera communion.

CATECISMO EN ESPANOL

Las Inscripciones son en agosto y en mayo. Por favor para mas informacion llamar a Maria Mota.

3 de diciembre 2017

1ER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Hoy iniciamos un nuevo ciclo litúrgico; este año, leemos el Evangelio de Marcos, y encontramos la misma similitud que el año pasado al leer el evangelio de Mateo, la misma recomendación: velar, estar atentos, porque no se sabe cuándo será el momento. Sin embargo, existe un detalle importante - Marcos ubica el retorno del Señor durante la noche: "Así también velen ustedes, pues no saben a qué hora va a regresar el dueño de la casa: si al anochecer, a la medianoche, al canto del gallo o a la madrugada" (Mc 33, 35). ¿Por qué de noche o de madrugada? ¿Por qué no en pleno día? El Evangelio usa la palabra vigilantes, es decir, velar; estas dos palabras se relacionan con estar despiertos, conscientes de lo que acontece alrededor. Más interiormente, su significado espiritual podría ser más dóciles, y flexibles a la palabra de Dios, como nos lo indica la lectura del profeta Isaías. El reto para este Primer Domingo de Adviento es abrir el corazón explícitamente al Salvador. La temporada nos ayuda a descubrir la luz de Dios en nuestra vida. ¡No estar apagados en la oscuridad del pecado! Despiertos, con los ojos abiertos esperando ardientemente, con las lámparas encendidas. Debemos ir más allá de la celebración del Nacimiento de Jesús y ver a nuestro alrededor la presencia viva del mismo, entre los pobres, los enfermos, los marginados. Jesús vive y se hace presente en la compasión que tengamos de los unos para con los otros. Deseo que en este Adviento nos preguntemos lo siguiente: ¿Qué es lo que buscamos? ¿Qué es lo que esperamos encontrar? Al responder a las preguntas descubriremos el gozo de agudizar la espera con alegría y esperanza.

El cuento de Esperanza

Hola, mi nombre es Aaron y esto es mi cuento de esperanza… Una tarde decidí reunir con una coordinadora de servicios por medio del programa de Kansas Loan Pool. Yo había sufrido un derrame cerebral y literalmente estaba en el hospital por cuatro meses y después en una instalación de rehabilitación por tres meses más. Durante este tiempo, un familiar de confianza que tenía poder legal malgastó todas mis finanzas. Cuando me recuperé suficientemente para tomar control de mi vida, descubrí que todo el dinero que yo había ahorrado ya no estaba, también no había pagado la hipoteca de la casa y no habían servicios públicos. Yo no tenía muchas opciones y saqué unos préstamos de día de pago y un préstamo del título de carro para sobrevivir y tomé la vida día por día con la confianza que Dios me cuidará. Mientras yo estaba en esta situación no quise estar negativo. Mi coordinadora de servicios de Catholic Charities me dijo que yo era una de las personas más alegres que había conocido. Yo alabo a Dios por llevarme a Catholic Charities de Northeast Kansas y al programa de Kansas Loan Pool. Este mes reemplazaron mis dos préstamos de día de pago y el préstamo del título de carro con un solo préstamo razonable del 6% de interés. El futuro es brillante.

La misión de Catholic Charities de Northeast Kansas es brindar ayuda, hospitalidad y esperanza a nuestros vecinos necesitados. Gracias por ser parte de esta misión al considerar un regalo generoso para la colecta navideña para ayudar a los menos afortunados.

SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL ACTION

Susan Tabor, Social Concerns Committee

St. John's next provides the evening meal and hosting for guests at Family Promise, a homeless shelter for families here in Lawrence, on the evenings of December 25, December 26 and December 27. Hosting and meal preparation can be a great service activity for families to do in service to the poor of our community.

The Family Promise guests will be staying at Corpus Christi Church during that week.

If you think that you and/or your family might be interested in helping with this ministry during the holidays, please contact the St. John's Family Promise volunteer coordinator Susan Tabor by phone at **785-865-9949** or by email at **souljourner@sbcglobal.net**. Thanks in advance for your consideration of this ministry opportunity!

A Reflection on Peace

I would like to share with you a brief reflection that landed in my inbox recently. It really touched me and I believe that it shows us a path to true peace. Here it is:

"Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is
The act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice;
The act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer;
The act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight;
But the careful, arduous pursuit
Of reconciliation and justice.
It is about a revolution of love."

May this reflection enrich us as we all seek peace in our lives and in our world.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus meet on the second Thursday of each month in the basement of St. John the Evangelist Church. Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 pm. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Darin Denning at **785-760-0788**. On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church starting at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend!

JUSTICE MATTERS

Justice Matters – an interfaith network working for justice

Dear St. John's Parishioners,

My name is Katie Sears, and I am the Justice Matters staff member assigned to the Affordable Housing Committee. I understand that although the sales tax vote passed, there are still some who have concerns about the status of a plan or vision for the use of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This is a valid question, and I would like to assure you that the city's advisory board has a defined process for the use of these funds, which will begin accruing in 2019.

First, the city will request proposals from the community. Second, those proposals will be reviewed by the advisory board, who will recommend approval of projects that meet defined criteria to the City Commission. Lastly, the Commission discusses and votes on the board's recommendations. The city is also conducting a new study of the problem in order to refresh the current data set, which is from 2005. Although the city does not have a list of projects to construct, they are building one based on this process. This model is used in many of the 550+ other cities that have trust funds, and it allows for flexibility and creativity in developing solutions.

Additionally, the Justice Matters Affordable Housing Committee will remain intact, and will be watching the city's movements very closely. We will continue to meet with key stakeholders and speak publically as needed to ensure these funds are used well.

I invite you to contact me at katie@thedartcenter.org with any questions. Thank you for your care and concern, and may God's blessings be upon you.

In Justice,

Katie Sears, Associate Organizer

For additional information about Justice Matters visit our website www.justicemattersinkansas.org or contact Pat Lechtenberg plek10berg@aol.com 785-842-1992.