

# *For August of the Year of the Pandemic 2020*

## Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,  
1:00 pm Spanish, 5:00 pm

Mass sign up required for each weekend:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a82da0fdce9-mass2>

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday: 11:00-noon, 7:00-8:00 pm

*Stay tuned for September of the Year  
of the Pandemic 2020*



**ST JOHN**  
THE EVANGELIST  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN

Saint 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.

“START BEING BRAVE ABOUT EVERYTHING.  
DRIVE OUT DARKNESS AND SPREAD LIGHT.  
DON’T LOOK AT YOUR WEAKNESSES.  
REALIZE INSTEAD THAT IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING.”  
-ST. CATHERIN OF SIENA

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor .....Fr. John Cousins  
Associate Pastor .....Fr. Barnabas Eichor  
Principal, St. John School..... Mr. Chris Reffett  
Director of Liturgy & Music ..... Lisa Roush  
Director of Faith Formation .....Shelly Bole  
Catecismo en español.....Maria Mota  
High School Youth Director..... Anastasia Pine  
RCIA.....Michael Podrebarac  
Business Manager..... Cris Denning  
Assistant Administrator.....Meg Milburn  
Parish Coordinator ..... Ellen Sickinger  
Database .....Patty Guadian  
Multimedia Communication Coordinator .....Jacinta Hoyt  
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke

**Saint John Catholic School** .....Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal  
1208 Kentucky St. 785-843-9511  
[www.sjevangelist.com/school](http://www.sjevangelist.com/school)

**Catholic Charities** .....Abigail Chikanda  
1525 W. 6th, Suite A 785-856-2694  
[achikanda@catholiccharitiesks.org](mailto:achikanda@catholiccharitiesks.org)

**Rummage House**..... Linda Brey  
13th & Kentucky [lbrey525@gmail.com](mailto:lbrey525@gmail.com)

**Shopping Hours:**.....**Open (if staff is available)**  
Wednesday - 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Saturday - 8:30am-12:30 pm

**Centro Hispano**.....Lydia Diebolt  
204 W. 13th St. 785-843-2039  
[centrohispano.lydia@gmail.com](mailto:centrohispano.lydia@gmail.com)

## SIMON PARISH CENTER

**Mailing Address** ..... 1229 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044

**Phone**.....785-843-0109

**Summer Office Hours**.....**CLOSED TO PUBLIC, please call**

Monday—Thursday ..... 8:30 am—3:00 pm

Friday ..... 8:30 am—Noon

### Weekend Masses

Saturday..... 4:30 pm

Sunday ..... 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,

.....1:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm

**Mass sign up required for each weekend:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a82da0fdce9-mass2>

**Masses to be livestreamed at:** ..... <https://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM>

Sunday ..... 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)

### Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday .....7:30 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 pm-4:00 pm

.....(and by appointment)

### Bulletin Deadline

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to [bulletin@sjevangelist.com](mailto:bulletin@sjevangelist.com)

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 Doug Wolfe:

**800-950-9952 x5833**

[dwolfe@4LPI.com](mailto:dwolfe@4LPI.com)

### Pastoral Council

[parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com](mailto:parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com)

Christine Wenger - Chair,

Susan Tabor - Vice Chair,

Lisa Leroux-Smith - Secretary,

Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock,

Connie Ehrlich, Luis Gonzalez,

Larry Koster, Jason Tanking

### Finance Council

Brian Green, David Ehrlich,

Brent Crandon, Jeannette Mercier,

Terry Gunselman, Michael Burrichter

### School Council

Mr. Chris Reffett,

Mike McDonald—President

Caroline Bennett—Vice President

Jim McDonald—Secretary

Hanon Misko, Emily Malin

Larry Koster

# ONE OF A KIND



**D**id you have a question? Yes, teacher, what about those things called angels? Are they real? How do they operate? Do they really have wings? Why do we need angels? What is their significance? These and other questions – just ask Father Barnabas and he will let you know the answers.



Many times over the last six years I would hear about the teaching of Fr. Barnabas and how good at it he was. Many have heard him and many have learned from him. He is going to be missed: “And I know his adult classes will be missed.” Another observation was: “He is a great teacher of the Bible. I have learned so much from his classes.” Fr. Barnabas was always ready to teach, whether about ancient history or modern trends.

Fr. Barnabas has his own style of doing things. Some would use the word quirky: “He has a quirky sense of humor” or “He would say something quirky that would hit my funny bone and make me laugh.” Whether this was in the context of teaching or counseling, his unique sense of humor did the trick.

He always had time for conversation, with those in prison, with those who happened to be near, with those who were hurting. One person observed: “I admired his dedication to his prison ministry.” Another said: “Fr. Barnabas will always put aside his work to listen and give guidance.” He made his conversations very consoling: “...he listened without judging, gave advice without being condescending, and always made me feel like my glass was more full than it was empty.” Quite a testament!

There are many other stories – handball, wedding rehearsals, truck driving, etc., etc. All of which adds up to this summary which says: “Fr. Barnabas is one of a kind!” Thank you for being that one of a kind that has served St. John’s over the last six years. May you be blessed in your new ministry!



# SAINT JOHN Faith Formation



## SAINT JOHN FAITH FORMATION SURVEY

"As we look at the possible scenarios for Faith Formation for our children (grades PreK -12) we would like to create a current list of all the children (include those at Saint John's school). We would greatly appreciate it if parents/guardians would take 3-5 minutes to complete this survey. Please pass the link on to other families as well! **The survey will close on Tuesday, September 1.**"  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BZSW9RH>



# PARISH SUPPORT

## THE GIVING OF TREASURE

### WHY ARE CATHOLICS REQUIRED TO GIVE MONEY TO THE CHURCH?

Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.



Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).

# STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

## WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Below reflects donations received July 1, 2020 through August 23, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount .....	\$30,254.80
Average weekly collection amount .....	\$23,978.96
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD .....	\$211,513.60
Actual collection fiscal YTD .....	\$167,852.75
<b>Net Shortage .....</b>	<b>\$43,660.85</b>

Visit: [www.sjevangelist.com/giving](http://www.sjevangelist.com/giving) for information or to set up and manage your account today!

Contact Cris Denning at: [cdenning@sjevangelist.com](mailto:cdenning@sjevangelist.com) or by phone at 785-843-0109 if you have any questions.

~Thank you for your continued generosity to St. John Parish!



Photo by: Jay Soldner/The Leaven

Until weekend Masses resume and the parish office reopens, parishioners may send their tithe in the mail.

Or you may sign up for **PushPay** for auto bank withdrawals at: [sjevangelist.com](http://sjevangelist.com)

# STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

## 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 Center to request someone for the "Prayer List."

Thank you on behalf of the families of those individuals for whom we pray.

Andrew Bouchard  
Susan Guenther Brown  
Curtis Burns  
Donna Callaghan  
Ricky Dalton  
Hank Desch  
Garrett Dreiling  
Linda Erp  
Joanne Feist  
Colette Fisher  
Linda Flyer  
Janet Fox  
Rudy Fritz  
Ed Garza  
Bonnie Griggs  
Tony Guadian  
Buddy Hadl  
Lonna Hamm  
Peggy Harders  
Newt Hasson  
Christian Heady  
Luke Henry  
Charles Hermann  
Kathy Higley  
Tina Jinkens  
Michele Johnson  
Allen Kehde  
Becky Kuhn  
Patty Lyon  
Diana Matthews  
Leo Mauler  
Russ McDonald  
Jim McMurray  
Ed Medrano  
Jim Mercier  
Zackary Messerly

Linden Morgan  
Lisa Morrow-Welsh  
Augustus Nelson  
Danny Nguyen  
Theophilus Obiefule  
Mike Owens  
Josephine Ramirez  
Mike Reilly  
Eva Ricketts  
Joel Rivera  
Virginia Romero  
Jon Rossillon  
James Sandy  
Alexander Ramirez Salazar  
Jerry Scherer  
Greg Schurer  
Mary Kay Seidl  
Pete Sethatut  
Christine Shipley  
Gerald Simon  
Brett Smith  
Linda Snyder  
Joseph Soza  
Cameron Stupansky  
Jack Taylor  
Deloris Tharp  
Oscar Tharp, Jr.  
Amelia Tinio  
Enriqueta Valverde  
Mary Vannicola  
Cindy Vasquez  
Leonard Vasquez  
Marianne Vietti  
Trent Wallace  
Jeanette Walker  
Susan Williams

Nancy Wright  
Jon Yarnell

IN MEMORIAM-BOB HOLEK

## MASS INTENTIONS

### AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 6

**Mon.:** 7:30 am .....People of Louisiana  
**Tues.:** 7:30 am.....Bob Holekt  
**Wed.:** 7:30 am.....Stefania Chmielt  
**Thurs.:** 7:30 am .....Osborne-O'Connor Family  
**Fri.:** 7:30 am.....Jim Mercier  
**Sat.:** 4:30 pm .....Mary Hopet  
**Sun.:** 7:00 am ..... Deceased Members of the Murray Family  
9:00am.....Joe Renyert  
11:00 am.... Live/Deceased Mem. Monroe, Sutter & Hamm Families  
1:00 pm (Sp.) Irene Rodriguez Flores & Augustina Galeanar  
5:00 pm.....Parishioners of St. Johns



## MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

Este domingo, Pedro es de nuevo el protagonista para dar respuesta a Jesús. Sin embargo, esta vez su respuesta no es acertada. Es decir, el Padre del cielo no le revela la respuesta. En su amor por el Maestro, Pedro siente que es su deber no dejar que Jesús suba a Jerusalén y sufra. En este diálogo entre ellos debemos observar dos cosas. En la respuesta del domingo pasado se dio revelación divina. Venía de Dios. Cuando las cosas vienen de Dios existe un proceso de discernimiento en la persona. En la segunda respuesta, Pedro se dejó llevar por emociones personales. Querer alejar la cruz, situación inevitable para Jesús.

Jesús anuncia su Pasión y la cruz tiene un papel protagónico. La cruz es el camino seguro hacia el Viernes Santo, para Jesús y para cada uno de nosotros. Este Evangelio nos llama a morir a muchas cruces que cargamos en la vida sin sentido. Usted quizá se pregunta. ¿Cuáles cruces? Pues, nada más y nada menos que al egoísmo, falta de caridad, de fidelidad y flojera para hacer cosas buenas por los demás. Jesús, dice en el Evangelio. "El que quiera seguirme, que renuncie a sí mismo, cargue con su cruz y me siga". (Mateo 16:24). ¿De qué sirve trabajar tanto y acumular cosas materiales si al final perdemos el cielo? Ya sabemos lo que dijo el Papa Francisco: "Nunca vi un camión de mudanza detrás de un cortejo fúnebre". El sufrimiento, nunca es querido por nadie, pero, puede significar caminar en nuestro interior y encontrar su misterio para dar frutos como los santos que gastaron su vida al servicio del Reino.

©LPI



“El que quiera venir conmigo, que renuncie a sí mismo, que tome su cruz y me siga. Pues el que quiera salvar su vida, la perderá; pero el que pierda su vida por mí, la encontrará. ¿De qué le sirve a uno ganar el mundo entero, si pierde su vida? ¿Y qué podrá dar uno a cambio para recobrarla?” -Mt 16, 24-26

Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

## MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **785-304-5509**.

## CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por 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 Parróquia, 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.

Preparación al matrimonio por la Iglesia Católica, solo para parejas que viven juntos y tienen niños.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

## CATECISMO EN ESPAÑOL

Las Inscripciones son en agosto. Por favor para mas información llamar a María Mota.

## CONFESIONES

De **1:00 pm a 1:45 pm** Habrá confesiones en español para quien lo necesite, y pueda recibir este sacramento.

## LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 30 DE AGOSTO

**Domingo:** Jr 20, 7-9/Sal 63, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9 [2]/Rom 12, 1-2/ Mt 16, 21-27

**Lunes:** 1 Cor 2, 1-5/Sal 119, 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102 [97]/Lc 4, 16-30

**Martes:** 1 Cor 2, 10-16/Sal 145, 8-9. 10-11. 12-13. 13-14 [17]/Lc 4, 31-37

**Miércoles:** 1 Cor 3, 1-9/Sal 33, 12-13. 14-15. 20-21 [12]/Lc 4, 38-44

**Jueves:** 1 Cor 3, 18-23/Sal 24, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 [1]/Lc 5, 1-11

**Viernes:** 1 Cor 4, 1-5/Sal 37, 3-4. 5-6. 27-28. 39-40 [39]/Lc 5, 33-39

**Sábado:** 1 Cor 4, 6-15/Sal 145, 17-18. 19-20. 21 [18]/Lc 6, 1-5

**Domingo siguiente:** Ez 33, 7-9/Sal 95, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9 [8]/Rom 13, 8-10/Mt 18, 15-2

# SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor,  
Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee,

I love tapestries, not only because they are tactile, but also because they are often so rich in color and design. I am fascinated by the myriad of possibilities that abound with the interwovenness (is that a word?) of threads and fabric pieces. And so, I find, it is with ministry. Ministries have touch-points, points of intersection and lines of interweaving with each other. This interweaving, I believe, provides enrichment for the church. And when ministries collaborate, they create power in numbers; there is growth in the life of the church and with that, often growth in numbers. This is one reason why the social concerns for peace and justice ministry is reaching out to help, support and be a catalyst for other ministries with whom we connect. One of those ministries is the Justice Matters ministry, and we are excited about enriching and growing our connection with them to create a more just community in Lawrence in collaboration with a number of other local churches. That is why we have over the last several years supported Family Promise, which, through providing works of mercy and advocacy, have gone to connect with another of other programs in the community to grow justice in the work toward creating affordable housing for all in our community. That is why we support the committee for the inclusion of people with disabilities, a relatively new committee here in our parish who, through creating a more comfortable worship environment, will create justice toward people with disabilities in our parish, which will serve as a help for other parishes to also create more justice

in their parishes and communities for persons with disabilities. Such sharing of parish advocates is already happening on the archdiocesan level, as we all inspire one another with ideas and strategies for action. That is why we support the new Interfaith Mental Health Outreach program which will be starting soon here and in other local churches. In providing mercy for people who need help connecting with appropriate help, we can raise awareness and help support advocacy causes that advocate for the need for increased and improved mental health services and programs. Throughout all this, I'm referring to relationships. In this work in ministerial collaboration within the church and outward into the community, relationships are formed and through the work made possible by those relationships, change and growth are formed. And that's how it's been since the beginning of time. Look again at Exodus; at Nehemiah; at Isaiah. Time after time you will find examples of collaboration through relationship, and examples of how growth and change develop from those relationships. You will also see how when things go wrong, other collaborations and other relationships are built to right the situation. And so it goes throughout our Christian history. Each age brings with it new layer(s) of labels and sophistication and new concepts, some of which are very much like old ones, and some of which are newly packaged and presented in such a way that they may renew our work and how we do that work.

So let's move forward in creating justice. Let us move forward in that work with the anticipation and desire of building new relationships that bring renewal and creativity into our lives and justice into our church, community and world!

## JUSTICE MATTERS

*Justice Matters – an interfaith network doing justice*



This is the time of year when Justice Matters begins a new 'season' – our season/year beginning in August and ending in July of each year. As a grassroots organization we have a four-part process: listening, research, action and celebration. It is now time to be thinking of the listening part of the process. This year the questions may be on issues we are already working on but with the focus of racial inequity or maybe with thoughts of the impact of the pandemic.

St. John Parish now has six team leaders who will host a house meeting and a new associate organizer, Sarah Balzer, who has been assigned to our parish. She will be attempting to get acquainted with a good number of parishioners and hosting four additional meetings with her new acquaintances.

These are the dates of our parish house meetings. If you don't receive an invitation and want to participate on a certain date/time please contact the hostess. Most conversations will be via zoom. Some may have a choice of a combination of in person and online.

Sarah Balzer - 09/17 @ 6:30 pm  
Sarah Balzer - 09/19 @ 10:00 am  
Janet Anderson - 09/23 @ 6:30 pm, [janetinlawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:janetinlawrence@hotmail.com)  
Nora Murphy - 09/24 @ 6:00 pm, [nora7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nora7@sbcglobal.net)  
Jean Drumm - 09/26 @ 3:00 pm, [jdrumm077@gmail.com](mailto:jdrumm077@gmail.com)  
Ruth Entwistle - 09/29 @ 7:00 pm, [raentw@ku.edu](mailto:raentw@ku.edu)  
Sarah Balzer - 10/04 @ 1:00 pm  
Susan Tabor - 10/10 @ 10:00 am, [souljourner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:souljourner@sbcglobal.net)  
Pat Lechtenberg - 10/11 @ 3:00 pm, [plek10berg@aol.com](mailto:plek10berg@aol.com)  
Sarah Balzer - 10/12 @ 6:30 pm

Please give serious, prayerful consideration of participating in one of the listening sessions. The more input we have the better the opportunity to address those things that most concern the members of our Lawrence and Douglas County community, the better our chance of making a difference, the more support this is for our brothers and sisters who need us to be their voice and ears and hearts and energy.

# AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

## THE ABLE ACT --PROVIDING FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR YOUR CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Tom Treacy, the ABLE Account manager for the Kansas State Treasurer's Office will conduct a Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 3 beginning at 7:00 pm. The presentation will take about 30 minutes with a Q & A session following. The session will end at 8:00 pm or before (depending on the number of questions).

ABLE accounts were established by federal legislation. An ABLE account is similar to a college 529 savings account except the

money in the account can be used by/for your child with a disability at any time for anything. The assets in an ABLE account do not impact your child's disability benefits.

You do not have to register for the session but it would be helpful if you would RSVP back to me.

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Topic: The ABLE Act --Providing Financial Security for Your Child with Special Needs  
Time: September 3, 7:00 pm Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83709390413>

## VENERATION OF THE RELICS OF PADRE PIO

Divine Mercy Parish is hosting the relics of St. Padre Pio on **September 1**. Divine Mercy Parish 555 W. Main St., Gardner, KS 66030

*Celebrate the life of St. Padre Pio*

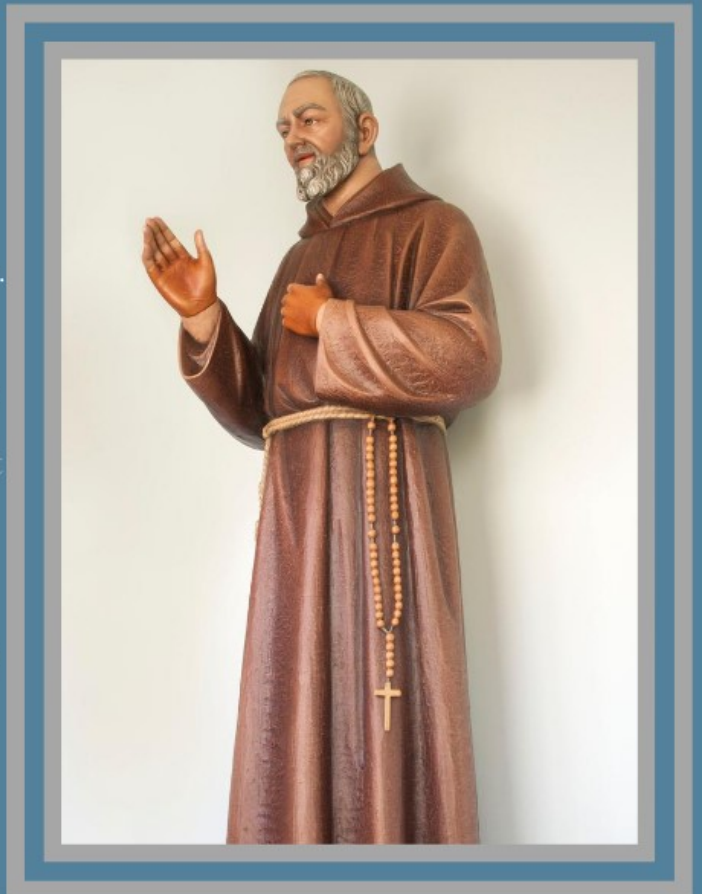
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020

7:00 am-6:00 pm

The Rite of Reception of the relics will begin at 7:00 am and veneration will continue until 6:00 pm.

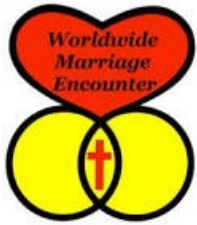
The church will be closed from 3:00-4:00 for a private veneration for priests. There will be a Mass at 6:00 pm in honor of St. Padre Pio. Attendance at the veneration of the relics of Padre Pio and the Mass in honor is open to all.

Please be advised, due to COVID-19, all guests are required to wear masks upon entering the church, disinfect hands with hand sanitizer, and practice proper social distancing at all times.





# AREA NEWS AND EVENTS



## Greater Kansas City Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**SERVING NORTHEAST KANSAS, NORTHWEST MISSOURI, SPRINGFIELD & BRANSON**

Behold, I make all things new! . . . Has all of that "togetherness" from weeks of unplanned stay-at-home orders exposed some rough edges in your relationship? Have you discovered that your communication skills aren't as good as you thought they were? Are the two of you adrift in the uncertainty of the future? Be not afraid, for our Lord has promised to make all things new! Join us on the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, September 18 - 20**. This will be a traditional, in-person, experience at the Savior

Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas. The option for a **Virtual Weekend Experience, November 13 - 15**, will be offered in conjunction with the scheduled traditional, in-person weekend. For more information, or to apply for a weekend, visit

[www.wwme4youandme.org](http://www.wwme4youandme.org), or call/email Deacon Tony & Barb Zimmerman at **816-741-4066**, [tonybarbz@prodigy.net](mailto:tonybarbz@prodigy.net)

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM - ADULT TRAINING (VIRTUS) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY



In light of the current health conditions, one prudent and preventative measure we are taking is to make the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults training available Online as an option. Effective immediately, due to COVID-19, the Archdiocesan requirement for attending a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults workshop live session will be suspended and the option of the online version of the module can be offered in lieu of live training. This is a temporary safety precaution, and

parishes may still offer the live training session available as an option if they prefer as long as the local county and state ordinances in effect at the time of the event are followed. Please note, the training must still be completed prior to participants working around youth, but the requirement may now temporarily be met by completing the online Protecting God's Children module. Individuals needing to attend a session will be offered the option of the online module at the time of registration. They will still need to follow the background screening and policy completion process at the time of registration. Individuals who are already currently registered for an upcoming live session, may log back into their account and change to the online module. These procedures will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed and are in place to protect you, those you work with, and your family. Please stay safe and healthy and continue to pray for all our brothers and sisters in Christ! We are praying for all of you and your families. If you have questions, please contact Sandy Vielhauer at: [svielhauer@archkck.org](mailto:svielhauer@archkck.org) or Jenifer Valenti at: [jvalenti@archkck.org](mailto:jvalenti@archkck.org). May God bless you and keep you safe.

## "COPING WITH LIFE ALONE" PEER-TO-PEER GRIEF SUPPORT

### NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

"Coping with Life Alone" is a Beginning Experience® grief support program that meets each week for eight weeks. The program helps those who have lost a love relationship due to death, divorce or separation, move through the experience of grief and loss into a future with renewed hope.

Upcoming program dates:

**Saturdays, September 12 through  
October 31, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**

**This session will be held online using  
Zoom.**

Contact Donna at **816-305-3760**, for more information and required registration by **September 1**.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE HISTORY

In 2006, a historian from Watkins Museum interviewed several St. John parishioners who had grown up in La Yarda, the Mexican-American community located in East Lawrence during the first half of the 20th century. The interviews were recorded on cassette tape and VHS tape. Recently, St. John's was awarded a generous grant to digitize these tapes and transcribe them. The grant was awarded to us by the Douglas County Natural & Cultural Heritage Grant Program, through the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council. This grant program strives to "secure the benefits of our heritage for present and future generations."

This month, the tapes were professionally digitized, and today a certified transcriptionist has begun making written copies of the interviews. Eventually, the transcriptions will need to be proofread, hopefully by someone who is familiar with the La Yarda families.

Our grant money budgets for proofreaders to read through the transcripts as they become available, and make corrections. This is an excellent opportunity for a parishioner who is familiar with the La Yarda families and who can make corrections on a printed copy while listening to a tape recording.

Please contact Nora Murphy for more information about the project, and to inquire about the proofreading job. Email [noramurphy777@gmail.com](mailto:noramurphy777@gmail.com) or phone **785-331-0421**.

# FOCUS ON THE WORD

## UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Secular pursuits only bring a temporary amount of satisfaction and fulfillment. As much as we may think that achieving worldly success, economic security, personal well-being, and self-fulfillment are worthy goals to obtain, they all are dependent on external variables and can lead to emptiness. We are trained to be very pragmatic and productive. Unless we are able to check off all of the boxes or comply with specific measurable requirements, our value and worth becomes questionable. Corporations, educational institutions, systems, structures, and secular ideology rarely consider deeper, more spiritual, and human contributions a person can and needs to make.

To the secular mind, the wisdom and ideals of the Gospel are making less and less sense. Consider for a moment this question: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" While Jesus is asking this very challenging question to people who are considering his message, many in our world are in a quite different place. Whether we realize it, many folks are asking a much different question. Why would you not want to gain the whole world and secure your life? If you look at where a lot of folks are investing their time, energy, and resources, it becomes



obvious where current priorities rest.

Modern day comforts and possibilities are backing us out of our relationship with God. The fire burning in every human heart is trying to find its satisfaction in the things that humans have created and not God. Being altruistic and offering compassion for those most in need becomes a political responsibility or responsible gesture. We realize that our hearts need to be centered on something and someone who calls us out of ourselves, but we struggle and battle with naming the source of that call. God places the desire to seek, find, and love Him in the core of every soul. We are not abandoned and left to fend for ourselves. But we can easily get

confused. We know that when we extend ourselves to another self-sacrificially, we are doing what is just and right. We know that we can work through suffering and loss and come out better and more whole on the other side.

Our minds need to be renewed so that they can begin to understand that there is much more to who we are, and that faith plays a pivotal role in achieving our true and everlasting goals. It is when we see that it is only faith that can bring us to this heightened awareness of ourselves and God that it will begin to make sense. Then, we can put things in proper perspective and consider being a disciple. ©LPI

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I love the original movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, "He lived happily ever after." As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka's is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in

not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away.

A person can't have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don't be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ.

– Tracy Earl Welliver

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