For July 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/10C0B49AEA82BA1FA7-stjohn6

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm Wednesday: 11:00-noon, 7:00-8:00 pm

Stay tuned for August of the Year of the Pandemic 2020



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.

"TODAY'S SOCIETY DOES NOT PRAY. THAT IS WHY IT IS FALLING APART." ~St. Padre Pio

PARISH STAFF

Pastor	Fr. John Cousins
Associate Pastor	
Principal, St. John School	Mr. Chris Reffett
Director of Liturgy & Music	Lisa Roush
Religious Education Director	Lois Mersmann
Catecísmo en español	
High School Youth Director	Anastasia Pine
Middle School Youth Director	TBA
RCIA	Michael Podrebarac
Business Manager	Cris Denning
Stewardship Director	Samantha Romero
Assistant Administrator	
Parish Coordinator	Ellen Sickinger
Database	
Multimedia Communication Coord	linatorJacinta Hoyt
Maintenance	Jeff Jenicke
St. John Catholic School 1208 Kentucky St.	. Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511
St. John Catholic School 1208 Kentucky St. www.sjevangelis	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/school
St. John Catholic School 1208 Kentucky St. www.sjevangelis Catholic Charities	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/school Abigail Chikanda
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/school Abigail Chikanda 785-856-2694 ccharitiesks.org
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St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/schoolAbigail Chikanda 785-856-2694 ccharitiesks.orgLinda Brey
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/schoolAbigail Chikanda 785-856-2694 ccharitiesks.orgLinda Brey
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/schoolAbigail Chikanda 785-856-2694 ccharitiesks.orgLinda Brey lbrey525@gmail.com Open (if staff is available)
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/schoolAbigail Chikanda 785-856-2694 ccharitiesks.orgLinda Brey lbrey525@gmail.com Open (if staff is available) aturday - 8:30 am-12:30 pm
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/schoolAbigail Chikanda 785-856-2694 ccharitiesks.orgLinda Brey lbrey525@gmail.com Open (if staff is available) aturday - 8:30 am-12:30 pm
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/school
St. John Catholic School	.Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 785-843-9511 t.com/school

SIMON PARISH CENTER

Mailing Address 1229 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044

Phone	785-843-0109
Summer Office HoursCL	OSED 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 ea	ach weekend:
https://www.signupgenius.com	<u>/go/10C0B49AEA82BA1FA7-stjohn</u>
Masses to be livestreamed at:	
Sunday	11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)
Weekday Masses	
Monday-Friday	7:30 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation	ı

Bulletin Deadline

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to <u>bulletin@sjevangelist.com</u> 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.

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)

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

Pastoral Council

parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com

Connie Ehrlich-Chair, Christine Wenger-Vice Chair, Susan Tabor-Secretary, Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock, Luis Gonzalez, Larry Koster, Lisa Leroux-Smith, 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
Lisa Leroux-Smith

SAINT JOHN SCHOOL





PARAPROFESSIONAL OPENING

St. John Catholic Parish School is looking for a full-time paraprofessional for our Kindergarten classroom for the 2020-2021 classroom. If interested please send a cover letter and resume to Chris Reffett at: creffett@sjeagles.com.







WHAT PARENTS & TEACHERS LOVE ABOUT ST. JOHN SCHOOL

- Community and culture of St. John
- Great and caring teachers and staff
- Students develop spiritually
- Students excel academically
- Students receive more attention in St. John's small class sizes
- Teaching students to be good citizens
- Arts program
- Spirit of diversity and inclusion
- Engaged families
- Spanish language program from preschool to 8th grade

"When I would get kids at South Junior High, and they had been from St. John, I could always tell. They were completely courteous, without question. They were kind, generous to each other, and just so secure."

> CLENECE HILLS KLWN'S "TIMELINE RADIO" HOST FORMER SOUTH JUNIOR HIGH TEACHER





29
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELECTIVES



CYO
3RD-MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS
THROUGH
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION



STATE OF THE ART
TOP-NOTCH
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AND GYMNASIUM



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

ST. JOHN PARISH AND SCHOOL HAVE NEW EMAILS

Parish staff emails: https://sjevangelist.com/staff/

School staff emails: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/

<u>facultyinfo</u>

COVID-19 MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

If you do not have a primary care provider and feel you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you can call the Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Coronavirus hotline, **785-856-4343**. We have nurses online to provide initial screening and if needed, directions on how to get tested.

Always call first before showing up at a provider.



Monday—Thursday: 8:30 am—3:00 pm Friday: 8:30 am—Noon

*Please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer when you enter the parish office. Thank you!

WHY DO CATHOLICS BAPTIZE BABIES

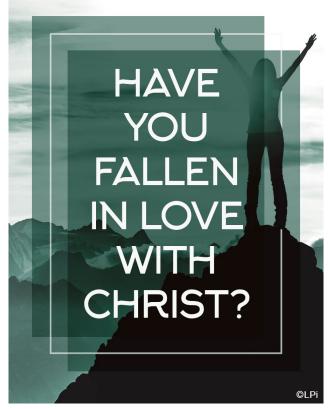
For adults who want to be baptized, the celebration only takes place after a long, guided, and thoughtful process through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is also true for many Protestant Christians, who are baptized later in life, often after a personal, transforming religious experience. So, it seems fair to ask why our Catholic tradition includes infant baptism. After all, if we make adults who want to become Catholic wait months and even years as they grow in their understanding of Christ and his teachings, why should babies — who "do nothing" — be baptized?

Our custom of infant baptism dates back to the earliest days of the Church, when St. Paul baptized entire households, including, we presume, children (see Acts 16:15, 33; 18:8). That had become common practice by the second century. When Christianity was legalized 200 years later, infant baptism became the normal practice throughout the Church.

We recognize that in Baptism, we are given the grace to overcome original sin — the human tendency to choose ourselves and our own wills over God — and to become members of the Church. This is the gift we give to infants in Baptism.

In its essence, the baptism of infants also reminds us adult Christians that the gift of salvation and membership in the Church (i.e., the Body of Christ) is God's initiative. It is freely offered to us, regardless of where we might be in life's journey. Salvation isn't something we earn. Instead, we see that Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong process of growing into the kind of disciples that Jesus wants us to be.

To learn more, see the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" (no. 1250-1252 and 1262-1270). ©LPi



SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee

hrough his life, teachings and example, Jesus Christ calls us to love each other; not just certain people, but everyone. Often when I think about this principle, which feeds right into valuing the life and dignity of every human person (right from Catholic social teaching), I think of the story of Saint Francis of Assisi and the leper.

St. Francis, it seems, was very frightened of lepers. The sight of one could make him feel physically ill. He would go to great lengths to avoid them, and even when they were barely in his view or if he anticipated coming upon the houses where they lived, he would cover his face with his hands as he anticipated the smell of decaying flesh.

One day as he was riding his horse, he saw a leper along the road he was traveling. Francis felt a call from the Lord that he could not resist. He dismounted his horse, went to the man, warmly embraced him, kissed him on the mouth and recognized him as his brother in Christ. Francis dismounted his horse, and warmly embraced and kissed the leper tenderly on his lips. In his Testament, Francis writes, "When I was in sin, the sight of lepers nauseated me beyond measure; but then God himself led me into their company, and I had pity on them. When I had once become acquainted with them, what had previously nauseated me became a source of physical consolation for me." Francis eventually came to realize that he had actually embraced none other than his Lord, Jesus Christ. This was a major moment of conversion for Francis and played a major part in moving him toward his founding of the Franciscan Order.



I have always found that story to be a powerful source of spiritual material in my times of prayer and selfexamination. That story takes me straight to the heart of whom I have not loved and whom I need to love; right to my identifying who the lepers are in my life.

It's not an easy thing to think about. It can be very painful. But the pain and the disappointment in myself that I feel moves me to remember that with Jesus, there is hope for changing that part of myself, that resistance to that love, into a more perfect and inclusive love.

Who are the lepers in your life? To what action is our Lord calling you upon your recognition of this information? My prayer is that we are all called toward a more fully inclusive love.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 [Lk 8:8]/Rom 8:18-23/ Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34—11:1 **Tuesday:** Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24 Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21

[20b]/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt

12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21 **Next Sunday:** Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/Rom

8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Henry

Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1545 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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 Hank Desch Garrett Dreiling Linda Erp Joanne Feist **Colette Fisher Linda Flyer Janet Fox Rudy Fritz Ed Garza Bonnie Griggs Tony Guadian Buddy Hadl** Michael Hamer Lonna Hamm **Peggy Harders Newt Hasson Lori Haynes Christian Heady Luke Henry Charles Hermann Kathy Higley Bob Holek Tina Jinkens Michele Johnson** Allen Kehde **Becky Kuhn** Diana Matthews **Leo Mauler**

Russ McDonald

Jim McMurray

Ed Medrano

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 Trent Wallace Jeanette Walker

Ted Walker Susan Williams Nancy Wright Jeannine Wyatt Jon Yarnell

MASS INTENTIONS JULY 13- JULY 19

Mon.: 7:30 am	Agripina Mendoza†
Tues.: 7:30 am	Jake Larson†
Wed.: 7:30 am	End To The Pandemic
Thurs.: 7:30 am	Andrew Bouchard
Fri.: 7:30 am	Estere Busse†
Sat.: 4:30 pm	Joe Zettel†
Sun.: 7:00 am	Andy Garcia, Jr.†
9:00am	Rita Roush†
11:00 am	Susan Guenther Brown
1:00 pm (Sp.)	God's Mercy & Healing
5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Johns



STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 Information below reflects donations received July 1, 2019 through June 28, 2020.

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

Contact Cris Denning at:

cdenning@sjevangelist.com or by
phone at 785-843-0109 if you have
any questions.

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

or you may sign up
for PushPay for
auto bank
withdraws at:
sjevangelist.com

KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL

The farmer is God. The seed is God's Word. That makes the soil your heart. If your heart is angry or stubborn, God's Word can't sink in. If your heart is shallow, God's Word can't take root. Instead, you will worry about getting power or riches. If your heart is discouraged by people who hate God, your faith will choke. If your heart is soft, God's Word will change your life, and it will show.

PRAYER

God, help my heart to be soft. Help your Word to change my life.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of a seed growing in good soil.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Visit a garden center. Learn why plants need good soil to grow.



၌နှီ Puzzle

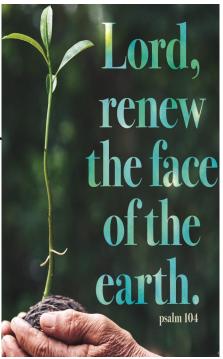
Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

rockv farmer birds soil choked thorns root path seed <u>farmer</u> frarme sede ptah brisd rkyoc tohrsn rtoo cohekd

©LPi



silo



MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

Las palabras de Isaías en la lectura de este domingo anticipan la bondad y abundancia de Dios en la parábola del sembrador pronunciada en los labios de Jesús. "Como baja la lluvia y la nieve de los cielos y no vuelven allá sin haber empapado la tierra, sin haberla fecundado y haberla hecho germinar, para que dé la si-

miente para el sembrador el pan para comer, así será la palabra que salga de mi boca. No volverá a mí con las manos vacías, sino después de haber hecho lo que yo quería, y haber llevado a



cabo lo que le encarque. (Isaías 55:10-11).

Cada vez que asistimos a Misa y cada vez que leemos la palabra de Dios en casa y en familia Dios abre el corazón de quien la escucha, y si está preparado, el terreno germina y los frutos brotan en abundancia de justicia y amor. Dios espera corazones con esperanza y llenos de fe y gratitud. El Evangelio nos narra que mucha gente estuvo alrededor de Jesús cuando él explicó esta parábola. ¿Qué fue lo que ellos escucharon? Escucharon hablar de un sembrador, de la semilla, de cómo cae la semilla en la tierra, y del cuidado que se debe tener para que dé fruto. ¿Cómo cuido a mi familia para que crezca en compasión y amor de unos para con los otros? ¿Qué tipo de abono y cuidado le doy a mi esposa, esposo e hijos? Este es un reto, el saber trabajar la tierra de cada corazón. En resumen, lo que Dios desea de nosotros es que demos fruto en abundancia.

Lo sembrado entre los espinos representa a aquel que oye la palabra, pero las preocupaciones de la vida y la seducción de las riquezas la sofocan y queda sin fruto. En cambio, lo sembrado en tierra buena representa a quienes oyen la palabra, la entienden y dan fruto: unos, el ciento por uno; otros, el sesenta; y otros, el treinta". — Mt 13. 22-23

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 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 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 Catolica, solo para parejas que viven juntos y tienen niños.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

CATECISMO EN ESPANOL

Las Inscripciones son en agosto. Por favor para mas información llamar a Maria 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 12 DE JULI

Domingo: Is 55, 10-11/Sal 65, 10. 11. 12-13. 14 [Lc 8, 8]/Rom 8, 18-23/Mt 13, 1-23 o 13, 1-9

Lunes: Is 1, 10-17/Sal 50, 8-9. 16-17. 21 y 23 [23]/Mt 10, 34—11, 1

Martes: Is 7, 1-9/Sal 48, 2-3. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8 [cfr. 9]/Mt 11, 20-24 **Miércoles:** Is 10, 5-7. 13-16/Sal 94, 5-6. 7-8. 9-10. 14-15 [14]/ Mt 11. 25-27

Jueves: Is 26, 7-9. 12. 16-19/Sal 102, 13-14 y 15. 16-18. 19-21 [20]/Mt 11, 28-30

Viernes: Is 38, 1-6. 21-22. 7-8/Is 38, 10. 11. 12. 16 [cfr. 17]/Mt 12, 1-8

Sábado: Mi 2, 1-5/Sal 10, 1-2. 3-4. 7-8. 14 [12]/Mt 12, 14-21 **Domingo siguiente:** Sab 12, 13. 16-19/Sal 86, 5-6. 9-10. 15-

16 [5]/Rom 8, 26-27/Mt 13, 24-43 o 13, 24-30

AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR SOUGHT FOR ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Parish, Leawood, is seeking applicants for our Preschool Director position. Applicants must have 3 to 5 years of teaching and/or director-level experience and a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent. We are looking for a caring, team-focused leader with a passion for teaching God's Children. The successful candidate will be self-directed, possesses strong organizational and interpersonal skills, and embrace and practice the Catholic faith. Job description, application, and benefits information are available at: www.stmichaelcp.org/employment-opportunities.

ARCHBISHOP NAUMANN'S JULY PRAYER INTENTIONS

For an end to the Pandemic and for the Catholic community to comfort those who have lost a loved one to COVID 19 as well as to assist all those who are economic victims of the response to the health crisis. For the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide those working on an ethically developed COVID 19 vaccine.

For renewed efforts to end racism in our society and a renewed respect for the dignity of the human person.

For God's blessing on our police and all those in law enforcement, the vast majority of whom serve our community with dedication and heroism.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are excited to welcome volunteers back to our ministries – as they feel comfortable.

They are vital to the success of Catholic Charities. We continue to have openings in our Family Support Centers and at TurnStyles. If you want to sign on as a recurring volunteer – contact Cari Olberding at: colberding@catholiccharitiesks.org.

ARCHDIOCESAN 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The Archdiocesan 50th Wedding Anniversary
Celebration has been rescheduled to **Sunday, August 23, 2:00 pm, Church of the Nativity in Leawood**. If
you would like to receive an invitation from
Archbishop Naumann and have not yet submitted
your information, please call Mary Anne Kierl at the
Archdiocese **913-647-0345** or **flifesec@archkck.org**

MONTHLY LIVESTREAM ROSARY FOR HEALING AND PROTECTION

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas invites you to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been wounded by sexual abuse in the Church by praying, in solidarity, for their healing and for the protection of all who are vulnerable. This rosary lifts up our collective prayers to God through Mary's loving intercession. The Healing Rosary began in June and will be **at 7:45 am and on the 3rd Wednesday of each month** thereafter. Rosaries are also recorded for access anytime throughout the month. Please join us at: https://livestream.com/archkck/healingrosary

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

June 2020 - July 2020 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, **July 31 - August 2**, at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas. The weekend is a perfect way to renew your love and commitment to each other and to learn the tools that will carry you forward to live more intimately and responsibly together, no matter the circumstances of the life. For more information, or to apply for a weekend, visit:

www.wwme4youandme.org, or call/email Tony & Barb Zimmerman at 816-741-4066, tonybarbz@prodigy.net

For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter and how our ministry can support the couples in your parish you can contact us at the following: Local Area Leadership Couple: Rich & Wendy Lorenz, 815-761-6591, wendyteach3@yahoo.com Local Area Leadership Priest: Fr. Ron Will, 816-390-7950, rlwill2@juno.com Weekend Application Couple: Tony & Barb Zimmerman, 816-741-4066, tonybarbz@prodigy.net Inviting Resource Couple: Ralph & Jan Lewis, 913-909-1028, encounteredcouple@gmail.com

FERTILITY CARE CENTER CLASS

Fertility Care Center is planning to hold their next Creighton Model Education Class in August (EPI) & March (EPII). They will provide the class over two extended weekends

Fertility*Care* Center Of Kansas City



to help accommodate every-one's busy schedules.

THE DATES ARE:

Education Phase One: August 21-24 &

August 28-31, 2020

Education Phase Two: March 6-8 & March

13-15, 2021

The link to their website with all the information needed to apply is: http://www.fertilitycarekc.com/
fertilitycare-practitioner-training.html
Questions can be referred to: admin@fertilitycarekc.com or pwhite@fertilitycarekc.com.

FOCUS ON THE WORD

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?



If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and egochecking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time

again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in us!

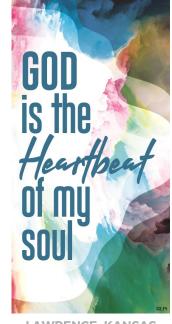
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Focus on the Good

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil." I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.

As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who lives their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they "see no good, hear no good, and speak no good." Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





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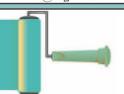
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