

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/10c0b49aea82balfa7-stjohn7>

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*



ST JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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.

“HELL CAN’T BE MADE ATTRACTIVE,
SO THE DEVIL MAKES ATTRACTIVE
THE ROAD THAT LEADS THERE.”
~ST. BASIL THE GREAT

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
Middle School Youth Director.....TBA
RCIA.....Michael Podrebarac
Business Manager..... Cris Denning
Stewardship Director.....Samantha Romero
Assistant Administrator.....Meg Milburn
Parish Coordinator.....Ellen Sickinger
Database.....Patty Guadian
Multimedia Communication Coordinator.....Jacinta Hoyt
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke

St. John Catholic School.....Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal
1208 Kentucky St. 785-843-9511
www.sjevangelist.com/school

Catholic Charities.....Abigail Chikanda
1525 W. 6th, Suite A 785-856-2694
achikanda@catholiccharitiesks.org

Rummage House.....Linda Brey
13th & Kentucky 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

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/10c0b49aea82ba1fa7-stjohn7>

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

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

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



16:1
AVERAGE STUDENT
-FACULTY RATIO



29
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELECTIVES



CYO
3RD-MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS
THROUGH
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION



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



©LPi

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/facultyinfo>



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!**

VOTING A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Friends,

In a democratic society, an essential part of Christian discipleship is to exercise our right to participate in choosing those who represent us in government. We have a responsibility to be engaged citizens who work actively for the common good. For the Catholic, voting is not just a good thing to do, but a moral responsibility. Many people have made heroic sacrifices to give us the freedoms we enjoy. We have a duty as Americans, Kansans and Catholics to take advantage of our right to vote.

Moreover, we are called not simply to vote, but to be well informed voters who in casting our ballots apply the moral principles and priorities of our Faith. Since the beginning of our nation, the Catholic Bishops have chosen not to endorse political candidates or parties. The Catholic Church does not tell its members how to vote. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the Church to help form the consciences of her members to understand the principles and priorities that should guide their decisions as voters.

There are many important moral issues facing our society. For the sake of brevity, I wish to reflect upon three that are particularly timely. Racism is an intrinsic moral evil that results in grave injustice to its victims, but also is an offense against God who has created every human being in the divine image. We must choose leaders who not only oppose racism but are committed to healing its festering wounds.

Peaceful protests are constitutional rights that need to be respected and protected. However, violent riots resulting in the deaths of innocent victims and the destruction of public monuments and private property are also grave evils. Our leaders have a responsibility to protect citizens and preserve civil order.

This past November, the Catholic Bishops of the United States again identified the protection of unborn children as the pre-eminent moral priority because: 1) abortion attacks the most vulnerable and innocent, 2) abortion occurs within the family destroying the most precious human bonds thus harming parents, and 3) the sheer number of human lives destroyed, nearly 1 million annually, adds to abortion's societal importance.

Tragically, the Kansas Supreme Court has claimed to have discovered a right to abortion in our State Constitution. To correct this grave injustice imposed by the Court, the Value Them Both Constitutional Amendment needs to be adopted by the citizens of Kansas. We need elected officials who will take action to defend the innocent life of the unborn and their mothers.

The Value Them Both Constitutional Amendment, while not prohibiting abortion, returns to our State Legislature the ability to enact laws that place restrictions on the abortion industry, protecting both mother and child. Passage of the Value Them Both Amendment requires affirmative votes by 2/3 of both the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives.

On August 4, primary elections will be held in Kansas. The first step to exercise your right to vote is being registered. The Kansas Catholic Conference has organized a voter registration drive. You can access an on-line voter registration form at kansascatholic.org. To vote in the August primary you must be registered by July 14. In this COVID19 environment, you may wish to take advantage of the opportunity to vote by mail.

Become knowledgeable about candidate positions and voting records on issues with important moral implications. Let your voice be heard. Vote in the upcoming August Primary and in the November General elections. Thank you and God bless.



Archbishop Naumann urges Catholics to vote their values



By Susan Tabor

*Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee
-Offers this reflection for our consideration*

An Open Letter to My White Sisters and Brothers Who are Roman Catholic

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

I am writing this open letter to you as a fellow Roman Catholic since I am assuming that because of our faith tradition we hold certain truths in common, that we are all deeply loved unconditionally by God, that we all have a complete dignity that recognizes we are made in the image and likeness of God, that all of us are truly brothers and sisters to each other. We seek the common good. This letter, while addressed to those of my faith tradition, is also offered to believers in other traditions and to nonbelievers in the hope that we may all be in dialogue.

These past few days in our country have been simply incredible.

The continuing economic free fall of our economy with over 40 million unemployed, the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the horrendous death of so many and the latest incidents of systemic racism is on everyone's mind. We know that both in the economy and in the reality of the pandemic African-Americans, Native people and others of color are disproportionately affected. This is clear. We who are white simply do not experience this systemic racism directly nor do we experience our cultural reality the same way as our brothers and sisters of color.

In our country there is a very long history of violence and oppression against all people of color, especially African-Americans that is a direct result of slavery. The killing of George Floyd is simply the latest act of violence against African-Americans in a very long history. Why have we as a country not made much progress in eradicating the evil of racism? Why is it systemic?

And this is where I begin to have difficulty with this letter because I know there is a part of me that does not want to offend or make others feel uncomfortable, especially other people who are white like me. The truth is that racism continues in our country because it benefits those of us who are white. Period.

Full stop. I think we owe it to George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and all those who have died by violence to admit this truth. As a white man I do not like this uncomfortable feeling when I admit this, but the reality is that until I am able to sit with this uncomfortableness, live with it, and ask God to help change my heart, all will continue as it has in the past. To admit to white privilege and realize that I continue to benefit from it is a hard pill to swallow. But if I truly wish to live my faith fully, I need to embrace justice completely, realizing that God's grace will help me. I need to pray for His help realizing that racism is a spiritual wound. We white people need to be outraged at the racism in our culture and only when enough of us are truly outraged will systemic change take place.

How did I end up in the place I am? I am not an autonomous individual floating in space. I grew up in a particular place, at a particular time in a particular family. I was 13 years old, living in Northcentral Florida, when Martin Luther King Jr., was

assassinated. At that time, my school was still segregated. My mother did not lie awake at night fearing I would be killed by the police when I was a teenager going out at night with my friends. I lived in a completely white world and knew absolutely no African-Americans and no other person of color. I would like to think my family was "good." I never got a lesson in whiteness, I just picked it up as the way things are and was socialized into a certain view of the world that I would later understand as racist, very racist. All of us have been scared by the social sin around us. If all that I have written above is true, and I do believe it to be true, then what should I do? What concrete actions may I do? Is there something I could offer to my Catholic sisters and brothers in ways of suggestions? I pledge myself to do the following. I would like to suggest that you and the communities or families you live in develop your own, realizing that what we are attempting might be considered little but we must begin somewhere.

I need to just sit with being uncomfortable and also realize that is ok if I make other white people uncomfortable. The truth is that I have benefited and continue to benefit from white privilege. This is really hard for me to admit.

My commitment to justice needs to clearly take priority. I need to stop worrying about offending others when in conversation about racism.

I need to study and reflect more on racism. I am rather ignorant of the history and realize that the history I learned as a youngest is not complete.

I need to reflect on my life as friar and a friar-priest in relationship to racial issues. Have I ever given a workshop or lecture on racism? Have I preached on it? I am so embarrassed to say I cannot come up with a concrete example.

I need the courage to speak out or confront my family, friends, and fellow Franciscans when I see or hear bigotry.

I need to be more pro-life. Pope Francis said on June 3rd "we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life." I agree totally.

I need to support those protestors in the streets who are peaceful. The right to peaceful protest is guaranteed by our constitution and is a patriotic act. Please be careful and mindful of the pandemic and if I cannot protest myself because of my age and health, I can certainly cheer those on who are out. Any violence is morally wrong.

I need to donate to funds that help protestors who have been out on the streets by giving to bail funds, or legal aid, or other organizations who are struggling against racism and its victims. I can also give some money from my monthly allowance.

I need to be sure to vote and also encourage others to vote. Fr. Bryan Massingale in the conclusion of his book Racial Justice and the Catholic Church writes the following: "Social life is made by human beings. The society we live in is the outcome of human choices and decisions. This means that human beings can change things.

What humans break, divide, and separate, we can- with God's help- also heal, unite, and restore. What is now does not have to be. Therein lies the hope. And the challenge."

See Social Justice page 9

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
IN MEMORIAM- SEAN REED

MASS INTENTIONS

JULY 20- JULY 26

Mon.: 7:30 am Czeslawa Namyslowska†
Tues.: 7:30 am..... Curtis Burns
Wed.: 7:30 am..... Jon Rossillon
Thurs.: 7:30 am End To The Pandemic
Fri.: 7:30 am..... Jesús Salgado y Familia
Sat.: 4:30 pm Czeslaw Raczek†
Sun.: 7:00 am Mike Reilly
9:00am..... Ramon Romero†
11:00 am..... Parishioners of St. Johns
1:00 pm (Sp.) Intentions of Pope Francis
5:00 pm..... Ryan Walkert



STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

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

Information below reflects donations received July 1, 2020 through July 12, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$30,254.80
Average weekly collection amount.....	\$23,262.09
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD.....	\$60,509.60
Actual collection fiscal YTD.....	\$46,524.18
Net Shortage.....	\$13,985.42

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 tithes in the mail.

Or you may sign up for **PushPay** for auto bank withdraws at:

sjevangelist.com

KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL

In flower or vegetable gardens weeds may take root beside the good plants. If you spray poison on all the plants, you will get rid of the weeds, but you will also get rid of the good seed, too. Since Jesus has died, weeds have grown among the good seeds. He says not to do away with those who have sinned. He will separate the good seeds from the weeds when he comes again.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for gardens of vegetables and fruit orchards.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a garden filled with good vegetables and an orchard of good fruit trees.

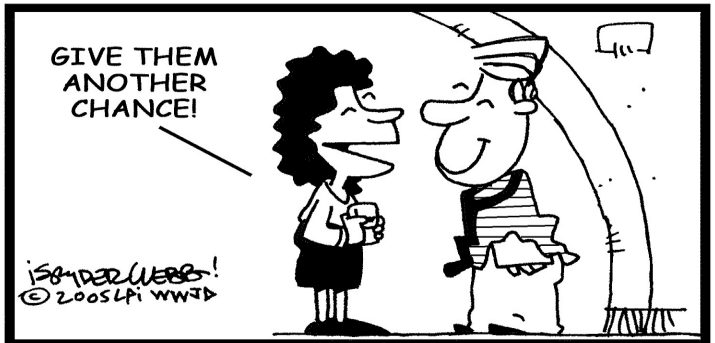
MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will water the plants at home and drink a cup of water myself.



©LPI

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



DAILY READINGS

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

Monday: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8a]/Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2]/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11 [10a]/Mt 13:10-17

Friday: Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Mt 13:18-23

Saturday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [5]/Mt 20:20-28

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-4

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

La escena tiene lugar en un campo donde el propietario siembra el grano, pero una noche llega el enemigo y siembra la cizaña, término que en hebreo deriva de la misma raíz que el nombre "Satanás" y reclama el concepto de división. Todos sabemos que el demonio es un cizañero, siempre intenta separar a las personas, las familias, las naciones y los pueblos. Los siervos querían quitar en seguida la hierba mala, pero el amo lo impide con esta motivación: "no, que, al arrancar la cizaña, podríais arrancar también el trigo". Porque todos sabemos que cuando la cizaña crece se parece mucho al grano bueno, y está el peligro de confundirlos. La enseñanza de la parábola es doble. En primer lugar, dice que el mal que hay en el mundo no proviene de Dios, sino de su enemigo, el Maligno. Es curioso, este va de noche a sembrar la cizaña, en la oscuridad, en la confusión, donde no hay luz, pero va él y siembra la cizaña. Este enemigo es astuto: ha sembrado el mal en medio del bien, así es imposible separar claramente a los hombres; pero Dios, al final, podrá hacerlo. (Papa Francisco, Rezo del Angelus 20/07/14).

Jesús, da a escoger entre trigo o cizaña, entre ser de su equipo o no ser. La enseñanza también lleva a reflexionar que buenos y malos crecen juntos. La oportunidad de salvación es para todos, los ejemplos de vida son motivo de cambios de corazón. Es por eso muy importante ser modelo para las generaciones futuras. Cada minuto de la vida se puede hacer el bien. ¡Aprovecha! ©LPi



“El Hijo del hombre enviará a sus ángeles para que arranquen de su Reino a todos los que inducen a otros al pecado y a todos los malvados, y los arrojen en el horno encendido. Allí será el llanto y la desesperación. Entonces los justos brillarán como el sol en el Reino de su Padre”. — Mt 13, 41-43

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 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 19 DE JULIO

Domingo: 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

Lunes: Mi 6, 1-4. 6-8/Sal 50, 5-6. 8-9. 16-17. 21 y 23 [23]/Mt 12, 38-42

Martes: Mi 7, 14-15. 18-20/Sal 85, 2-4. 5-6. 7-8 [8]/Mt 12, 46-50

Miércoles: Cant 3, 1-4 o 2 Cor 5, 14-17/Sal 63, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9 [2]/Jn 20, 1-2. 11-18

Jueves: Jr 2, 1-3. 7-8. 12-13/Sal 36, 6-7. 8-9. 10-11 [10]/Mt 13, 10-17

Viernes: Jr 3, 14-17/Jr 31, 10. 11-12. 13 [cfr. 10]/Mt 13, 18-23

Sábado: 2 Cor 4, 7-15/Sal 126, 1-2. 2-3. 4-5. 6 [5]/Mt 20, 20-28

Domingo siguiente: 1 Re 3, 5. 7-12/Sal 119, 57. 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130 [97]/Rom 8, 28-30/Mt 13, 44-52 o 13, 44-4

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

Continued from page 5

Let us continue to walk forward together as we struggle for total racial equality. I am under no illusion that this journey will be easy, but we simply must begin once again, building on the struggle of others before us.

Lastly and most importantly I need to pray. We all need to pray. A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Let us all pray that the Spirit will guide us forward and give us the courage to do the right thing. Let us pray for the intersection of the Saints and the Blessed Mother. The US Catholic Bishops recently offered a prayer to overcome racism.

PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son, the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.

I am convinced that if we give ourselves more completely to the Lord he will come to our aid and help us do what we do not have the strength to do. We are all in this together.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Fr. David David Gaa, OFM

Minister Provincial of the Province of St. Barbara

President of the Trustees of the Ministries of the Province

June 8, 2020

Oakland, California

JUSTICE MATTERS

Justice Matters – an interfaith network working for justice

Justice Matters continues to be a vital component of seeking justice in our Lawrence and Douglas County Community. We are still in the midst of our investment drive to sustain our many efforts in the areas of criminal justice reform, mental health facilities and services, restorative justice practices in schools and justice system, affordable housing and racial disparity. Our St. John's parish network members are about \$2,000 short of reaching our individual network member goal. Not every member is able to invest the same amount that they did last year – so here's where parishioners who don't have time or energy to participate as a member can help. Invest in the work we are doing as a part of the interfaith network of faith groups. Monthly investments are the most sustainable for our organization's cash flow. Please make checks payable to Justice Matters at: PO Box 442221, Lawrence, KS 66044. or visit our website at www.justicemattersinkansas.org and click the invest

button. We know if a good number of people each give a little we can meet our goal. Please help if you are able and want to be a part of the solution to some problems in our community.



AUGUST 29, 2020 - LISTENING PROCESS KICK-OFF - 6:30-8:00pm - Join us to kick off our listening process and go over this year's house meeting process! All team leaders should attend. A Zoom link will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 12 - HOUSE MEETINGS - Attend a house meeting hosted by one of your congregation's team leaders. Each team leader will decide individually how they want to host their house meeting this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some house meetings will be virtual, and others may be in person. Talk to your team leader if you have questions.

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>

FOCUS ON THE WORD

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Grace and sin, belief and unbelief, good and evil all exist together. While we wrestle with these two dimensions of reality inwardly, they are also witnessed in the actions and words of others. Many, all too often, beat themselves up because of their sin. We are also all too quick to pass judgment on others whom we perceive to be in error and walking down a wrong path. God does not make rash judgments, nor should we. Patience is the order of the day as is an understanding that God is ultimately the caller of the shots.

Our faith tells us that while God allows the wheat and the weeds to coexist, the wheat will always triumph. As long as we can cultivate even a little faith and a small measure of desire for God, He can produce abundant blessings and good things. Even when the weeds seem to have triumphed, there still may be a small measure of faith remaining that can be cultivated and grown. It doesn't take much! Unless a person totally allows the weeds to reign, there is always to be found at least a small measure of faith, good, light, and love. With even this small portion, God can produce abundant growth.

Admittedly, it is easy to give into the weeds, and they grow very quickly. Any



gardener knows this to be true. Sometimes, the weeds even seem more attractive and vibrant. Dealing with weeds can quickly become a losing battle, and they can look healthier and grow faster than the very plants we are trying to protect. It's easy to give into them and let them win. While God will deal with all things in due time, we are responsible for keeping things in check in the short term. It is our task to keep our eyes fixed on God's presence and mercy. We are asked to avoid judgment. And, it is not our responsibility to deal with the weeds in

someone else's garden, only our own. One garden is enough responsibility for anyone.

Weeds have power. We have to realize this. While they can appear attractive and healthy, they can quickly choke us off from God's presence. Our task is one of maintenance and cultivating a desire for God. Even the smallest kernel of faith can grow into something wonderful. In God's time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer have to worry about the weeds. ©LPi

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Do What Needs to Be Done

A friend recently confided in me that although he prayed frequently each day and was involved heavily in his parish, he did not sense much fruit coming from it all and was left feeling unsatisfied. I assured him he was not alone. I told him of a deceased pastor of mine who had spoken frequently about being in this type of situation. Even as a priest, he knew all too well of how we can feel like we are simply going through the motions. It is precisely at those times that continuing to pray and practicing good stewardship is most

important, because it would be easier to simply take a break and risk never coming back. He liked to say, "Do the drill," meaning just do what needs to be done.

We are all called to be mature disciples who answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We cannot choose when and where the call will come. We cannot schedule our stewardship in a way that is always most convenient for us. Even when the fruits of our faithful efforts seem hidden from us, we hold to the promise that we are never called to give of ourselves for nothing. God is working through us and in us. No matter how dry the land may seem, seeds are being planted to yield a



harvest greater than we can ever realize. Stay strong and do the drill!
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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