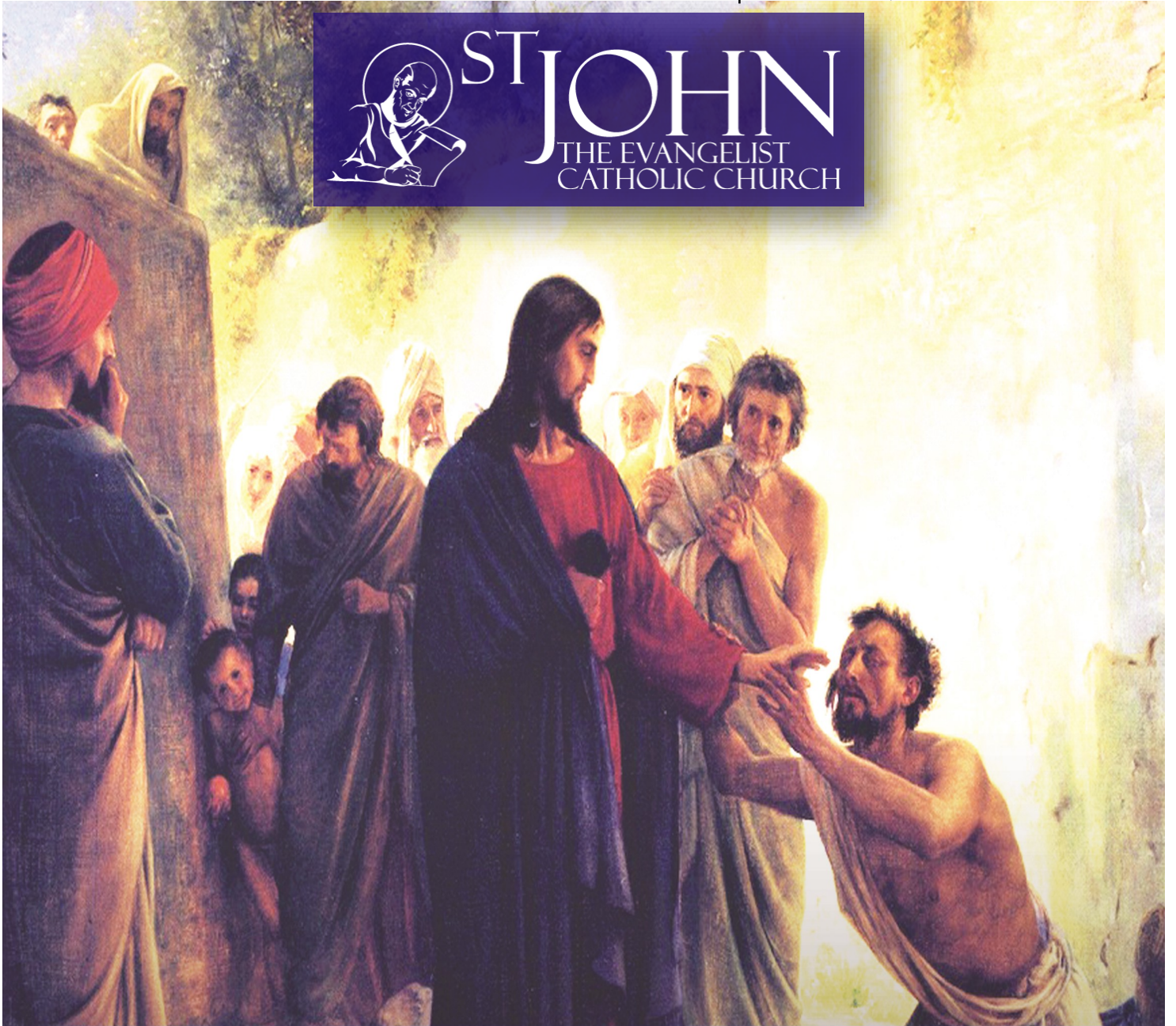




ST JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus said, “We must do the work of the one who sent me.”

John 9:4

Often we choose our stewardship work, but sometimes it comes to us unexpectedly, as if from God. In either case, we are called to rise to the occasion in spite of the challenge and hardship of the task.

©LPi

All weekend, weekday Masses, Adoration, Fish Fries and Stations of the Cross are **CANCELLED until further notice.**

Office hours: **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**, please call 785-843-0109. Website: www.sjevangelist.com

Reconciliation: Wednesday 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 6:00-8:00 pm; Saturday 3:00-4:00 pm

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN

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

“BE STRONG AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE.”
~PSALM 31:24

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Fr. John Cousins
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Barnabas Eichor
Principal, St. John School.....Mr. Chris Reffett
Director of Liturgy & Music.....Lisa Roush
Religious Education Director.....Lois Mersmann
Catecismo en español.....María Mota
High School Youth Director.....Anastasia Pine
Middle School Youth Director.....Abby Wagner
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
Technology.....Karen Dixon
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: (CLOSED until further noted)

Wednesday — 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Thursday (first and last of month only) — 1:00pm-4:00 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

Office Hours (CLOSED TO PUBLIC) Please call.

Monday—Friday 8:30 am—4:00 pm

Weekend Masses (CANCELLED until further notice)

Saturday.....4:30 pm

Sunday.....7:00 am, 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm

Weekday Masses (CANCELLED until further notice)

Monday-Friday.....7:30 am

Saturday.....8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the north church entrance)

Wednesday.....11:00 am-12:00 pm, 6:00-8:00 pm

Saturday.....3:00-4:00 pm

.....(and by appointment)

Adoration**CANCELLED until further notice.**

.....Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 7:00 am—9:00 pm

.....in the Padre Pio Chapel

Bulletin Deadline

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to bulletin@saint-johns.net

ten (10) days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear.

Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Advertise in the Bulletin

Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call 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,
Meredith Lang, Brent Crandon,
Jeannette Mercier

School Council

Mr. Chris Reffett,
Mike McDonald—President
Caroline Bennett—Vice President
Jim McDonald—Secretary
Hanon Misko, Emily Malin
Lisa Leroux-Smith

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falcioni.

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS

FOCUS ON THE WORD

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man "sees" as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.



Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God's kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God's children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Gracious

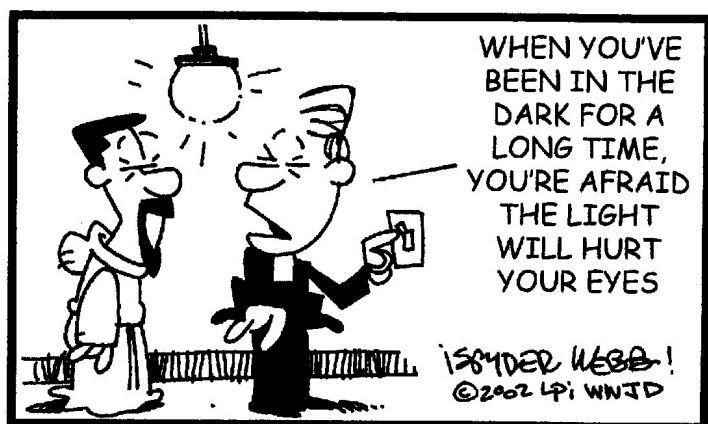
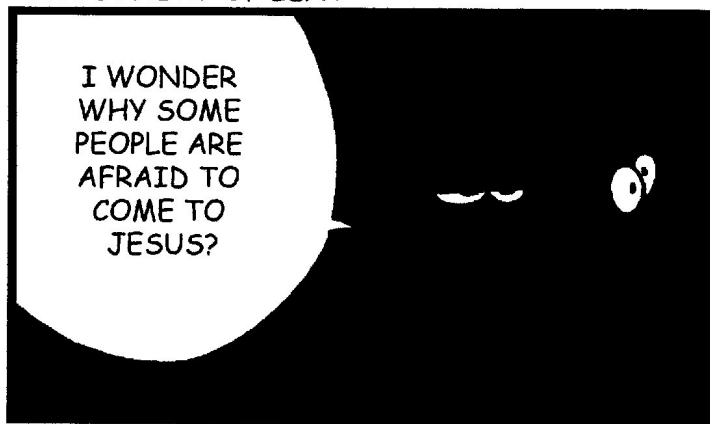
Vacations can be great times for refueling the body and renewing bonds within a family and between friends. No matter how good the vacation was, it is almost always good to get home when it is over. Sleeping in our own bed, taking a shower in our own bathroom, and resting on our own couch are some of the aspects of home we can miss while on the road. That's why encountering truly gracious and hospitable people while we are away is so important. These people are not family, but they sure can provide for us a glimpse of home. They can be waiters at a restaurant, desk hosts at a hotel, or even Uber drivers. They enrich our lives if for only a moment, yet that moment can make all the difference.

When disciples of Jesus Christ act in a gracious manner to all those they meet, they provide a glimpse of home. This home is not in a house in a particular location, but it is a home prepared for all of us for eternity. No matter how comfortable we may be in our earthly homes, it truly pales in comparison to eternity with God. In that heavenly home, there is no darkness, only light. There are no tears, only joy. There is no hate, only love.

We are ambassadors for heaven by how we offer ourselves to others. Our stewardship of hospitality allows others to see a glimpse of what God promises to us. Unless we truly step up and act in a gracious manner, will those we encounter ever know the truth? I hate it when I am on the road and fail to meet people full of joy and welcome. At least I can look forward to coming home. What do those along the way look forward to in the next life that you can't show them a glimpse of in this one?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



SAINT JOHN SCHOOL



STUDENT RESOURCES WITH SCHOOL CLOSED

Because of the ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, St. John School is closed until further notice. Teachers and staff have placed resources on student Google Classroom pages so that students may stay current with their studies. Additional staff links are posted below for other subject areas. Our plan is to provide educational resources as a way to keep the learning going. We don't want to overwhelm everyone but wanted to make sure we stay connected to our students. Teachers are available by email, so feel free to ask questions if needed.



Karen Dixon is going to be coordinating technology needs. Here is a note from her: "In order to provide educational activities for your student(s) during the school closure, the St. John staff is posting suggested activities on their websites. Many of these activities require devices with internet access. If you need a laptop for your child(ren), and have internet at home, please contact Ms. Dixon kdixon@sjeagles.com or Chris Reffett reffett@saint-johns.net. We will arrange a pickup time at school. By signing out a laptop, you will be accepting financial responsibility for any damages. Please only check one out if you absolutely need it but we want to make sure it is accessible if needed. All teacher websites are located here: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/facultyinfo>." Paper packets of materials can be made available if needed.

Jessica Dunn, Art: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Jessica+Dunn&Salutation=>
Chelsea Solomon, Music: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Chelsea+Solomon&Salutation=>
Michael Kennedy, Physical Education: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Michael+Kennedy&Salutation=>
Karen Dixon, Technology: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Karen+Dixon&Salutation=>
Karen Rinke, Library: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Karen+Rinke&Salutation=>

VACANT POSITIONS AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL

3rd grade positions

Interested applicants should complete the teacher application process at: www.archkckcs.org.

4th/5th Grade Science/ Social Studies

Seeking a 4th/5th grade teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. Duties will include the development of classroom plans for the development of science and social studies. Interested applicants should complete the teacher application process at: www.archkckcs.org.



A R T C L A S S



Kindergarteners learn how to wash their hands.

ST. JOHN MEXICAN FIESTA SCHOLARSHIP

These scholarships are offered to qualifying students of Mexican descent from the Lawrence Catholic community who wish to pursue or continue a higher education either at a college, technical or trade school. Applicants must complete the financial assistance application form that is available at the **St. John Parish office** or by contacting Michael Ramirez at **785-766-5723** or ramirezmarj@hotmail.com. Please **complete and return to St. John Parish office by April 13.**

OBSERVING LENT AT ST. JOHN'S PARISH

Stewardship Spotlight

Did you know the three traditional Lenten practices have a special connection with stewardship?

Temperance (or fasting) means doing with less and connecting with those who always have less.

Generosity (or almsgiving) means sharing with the poor.

Prayer means opening our mind and heart to the God who loves all of God's creation.

We wish you a very fruitful Lent, and as always, we are grateful for your generosity to St. John!



Knights of Columbus
Friday Fish Fry
has been **CANCELED**
due to health concerns.

"The Leaven" is on Audio Reader

If you or someone you know would benefit from an audio version of "The Leaven", the Archdiocesan newspaper, one is available! It is available through Audio-Reader here in Lawrence. All you need is to be able to have someone certify that you have an impairment that impairs your ability to hold or to read printed material. To receive the service, please call Audio-Reader at 785-864-4600.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

formed.org/lent
free access to **FORMED** videos



Fourth Week of Lent

Imagine you are traveling to school with one of the girls. What time do you get up in the morning? How do you get to school? What do you see on the way?

People followed Jesus because they wanted to learn from him. His own disciples called him "teacher." What did you learn from Jesus in the Gospel story of the loaves and the fishes? Visit crricebowl.org for more information. Get a rice bowl at the back of the church.

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.

<p>Nicole Allensworth Andrew Bouchard, son of Steve & Patti Fisher Susan Guenther Brown, friend of Craig Fincham Curtis Burns, friend of Joe & Bev Mater Roger Caldwell, brother of Leila Soper Garrett Dreiling Linda Erp, mother of Emily Vigne Joanne Feist, friend of Ginny Short Colette Fisher Linda Flyer, friend of Le Marie Gilbert Janet Fox, family of Norb & Jeanette Otter Rudy Fritz Ed Garza Marianne Gowen Bonnie Griggs Tony Guadian Buddy Hadl, brother of Shirley Steffen Michael Hamer Lonna Hamm, daughter of Larry & Martha Hamm Mary Hane Peggy Harders, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter Newt Hasson</p>	<p>Dustin Harper-Head, great-nephew of Mary Head Lori Haynes, friend of Fleda Umscheid Luke Henry, nephew of Galen & Beth Urich Kathy Higley Dianne Hofmann Bob Holek Tina Jinkens Michele Johnson Allen Kehde Diana Matthews Leo Mauler, son of Al & Marcy Mauler Russ McDonald Jim McMurray Ed Medrano Zackary Messerly, nephew of Debra Bradley Linden Morgan Lisa Morrow-Welsh, daughter of Linda Brey Augustus Nelson Danny Nguyen Diane Nichols, sister of Phyllis Stone Theophilus Obiefule Josephine Ramirez Eva Ricketts, mother of Ingrid Hartman Joel Rivera</p>	<p>Virginia Romero Jon Rossillon James Sandy Alexander Ramirez Salazar Jerry Scherer Greg Schurer, brother of Mick Schurer Mary Kay Seidl, sister of Loretta Seidl Pete Sethatut, father of Paula Higbie Christine Shipley Gerald Simon Brett Smith Meyer Sneed, son of Taylor & Melissa Sneed Linda Snyder, aunt of Dan Taylor Cameron Stupansky, friend of Kathy Colson Jack Taylor, brother of Daniel Taylor Deloris Tharp Amelia Tinio Enriqueta Valverde Mary Vannicola Cindy Vasquez, sister of Gina Hodges Trent Wallace Jeanette Walker Ted Walker Susan Williams Nancy Wright Jon Yarnell</p> <p>IN MEMORIAM-JULIA SCOTT</p>
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22

- Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-5



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 March 15, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$29,807.69
Average weekly collection amount	\$29,367.99
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD	\$1,102,884.53
Actual collection fiscal YTD	\$1,086,615.72
Net Shortage.....	\$16,268.81

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

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

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 withdraws at: sjevangelist.com

Papá Adán y mamá Eva (Génesis 2,7. 21-23)

Nos cuentan las viejas historias, cuando todavía no se había inventado el papel ni la imprenta, que Dios, después de haber hecho la luz y las estrellas, los peces de todo tamaño, la tierra, las rocas, las montañas y los precipicios con todos los animales que los habitan, vio todo, se dio cuenta de que no le había salido tan mal la cosa, y decidió coronar la creación con algo "súper". Pensó: - ¿Qué haré? ¿Algún ángel con diez motores y cuatro alas? ¿Un mundo nuevo en el cual se apriete un botón y salgan las ideas y las buenas acciones, como quien presiona un botón de una máquina expendedora, y se llena un vaso con gaseosa? ¿O, por qué no, un paraíso en serio, donde gocemos de una eterna primavera: sin inundaciones, sin terremotos, sin sarampión, ni sarna, ni conjuntivitis, ni cáncer, sin inflación, ni recesión, ni desempleo, ni contaminación ambiental; con "el agujero de Ozono" zurcido a nuevo; sin corrupción, sin villas miserias, ni miserables en las villas, sin dolor, sin estrés, ¿sin... sin...? Y siguió pensando, mientras se rascaba la cabeza y jugaba con su barba...

Entonces, como si se hubiera encendido una luz vieja, descubrió lo que siempre quiso: haría un hombre y una mujer, mejor que la más bella piedra, el más jugoso fruto, la más ágil gacela... Mejor que lo mejor hecho en los primeros cinco días de trabajo. Y una vez que pensó, obro. Y esa obra tuvo dos nombres: Adán y Eva. Hombre y mujer. Miró el fruto de su buena idea y no pudo menos que pegar un fuerte grito: -había sido dura: hacer un pequeño mundo que resumiera y perfeccionara todo, no era pavada...

¿Qué significa todo esto? Que tanto vos como yo, nacimos hace muchísimo tiempo, cuando los ríos daban sus primeros pasos. Que tanto vos como yo nos llamamos Adán y Eva. Que tanto vos como yo tenemos necesidad de reír y de llorar, luchando por la vida, pero no contra la vid. Que tanto vos como yo caminamos hacía un punto final, hacia allí donde nace el arco iris.

— "Cuentos bíblicos cortitos," Héctor Muñoz.



Supo Jesús que lo habían echado fuera, y cuando lo encontró, le dijo: "¿Crees tú en el Hijo del hombre?"

El contestó: "¿Y quién es, Señor, para que yo crea en él?" Jesús le dijo: "Ya lo has visto; el que está hablando contigo, ése es". El dijo: "Creo, Señor".

Y postrándose, lo adoró. — Jn 9, 35-38

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 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 22 DE MARZO

Domingo: 1 Sm 16, 1. 6-7. 10-13/Sal 23, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6 [1]/Ef 5, 8-14/Jn 9, 1-41 o 9, 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

Lunes: Is 65, 17-21/Sal 30, 2y 4. 5-6. 11-12 y 13 [2]/Jn 4, 43-54

Martes: Ez 47, 1-9. 12/Sal 46, 2-3. 5-6. 8-9/Jn 5, 1-16

Miércoles: Is 7, 10-14; 8, 10/Sal 40, 7-8. 8-9. 10. 11 [8 y 9]/Heb 10, 4-10/Lc 1, 26-38

Jueves: Ex 32, 7-14/Sal 106, 19-20. 21-22. 23 [4]/Jn 5, 31-47

Viernes: Sab 2, 1. 12-22/Sal 34, 17-18. 19-20. 21 y 23 [19]/Jn 7, 1-2. 10. 25-30

Sábado: Jr 11, 18-20/Sal 7, 2-3. 9-10. 11-12 [2]/Jn 7, 40-53

Domingo siguiente: Ez 37, 12-14/Sal 130, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8 [7]/Rom 8, 8-11/Jn 11, 1-45 o 11, 3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor

Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee

March 24, is the Feast Day of Saint Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. This man's life is all about conversion and how powerful a force in changing one's life it can be. More about that later.

St. Oscar Romero's life in a nutshell looks something like this: St. Oscar Romero, in full Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez, born August 15, 1917, Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador — died March 24, 1980, San Salvador; beatified May 23, 2015; canonized October 14, 2018; feast day March 24; ordained in 1942.

The powerful conversion in St. Oscar Romero's life took place three years before he was shot to death by assassins as he lifted the host at Consecration during a Mass in a hospital chapel.

Romero was first appointed Bishop in 1970 as the Auxiliary Bishop of El Salvador. He was a quiet, conservative man, not one to make waves. Over time, however, as he saw life in El Salvador becoming more unjust and dangerous for the poor and those who were allies with them, including many priests and nuns, his heart was moved with compassion. Something was very wrong. Where was the love and compassion of Christ in the behavior of the government officials and soldiers as they brought about the killing of thousands of innocent people? Romero mourned the loss of several friends who were killed, including his dear friend Fr. Rutilio Grande, who was brutally murdered by soldiers in 1977 as he provided help to poor El Salvadorans.

It became clear to Romero that he had to speak out for love of his people, of God's people; he could no longer sit by and be

tolerant of violence that was being brutally inflicted on poor and innocent people and was so incongruent with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Romero was impacted by the lack of respect of those in power for the lives and property of the masses while religious practices and institutions were openly scoffed at and vandalized by those in power. Part of the injustice of the power structures in El Salvador was a rigid class system, which Romero sought to liberate and which the governmental power structure fought to uphold because the status quo protected the interests of those in power.

As Romero acknowledged, practices of justice and nonviolence will not happen until we learn to value all of humanity as, in the words of Oscar Romero, "as if they were our family; as if they were ourselves." "Practicing peace requires honest dialogue which takes time and thought and which again calls for courage." Romero tells us, the tendency to focus on outward manifestations of giftedness such as wealth, possessions and power tend to keep people more focused on external strength rather than internal strength and therefore masks the true issue: compassion, discovery of self in others.

Romero's life and teachings had a strong impact on Catholic social teaching, as he developed a strong defense for the preferential option for the poor and marginalized. He also taught his people that they needed to be a part of the change they were seeking. All of this happened as Romero prayed and reflected in the last years of his life. This man, strong and full of gentle compassion, learned and lived in a very personal way, what Christ lived and died for; the love and compassion for all people. Let us ask for his intercession when we need strength; the strength to practice mercy and peace and to do justice. Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us! San Oscar Romero, ruega por nosotros!

JUSTICE MATTERS

Justice Matters – an interfaith network working for justice

JAIL ALTERNATIVES UPDATE

Remember when the Douglas County Citizens voted "No" on a tax to fund a mental health crisis center and a jail expansion? (To jog your memory, that was May 2018.)

Then remember when we voted "Yes" on a tax to fund just a mental health crisis center? (November, 2018)
Our community's values seem clear: We want to invest our money in services to support people, not cells to incarcerate people. Still, Douglas County leadership continues to take steps toward a \$30 million jail expansion project. (That figure does not include increased operating costs for the expanded jail.)
One significant step the County Commissioners need to take is to issue a bond—take out a loan—so that we can pay for the construction project. The Commission plans to issue this bond without placing it on the ballot and without allowing for a 30-day petition period.

Kansas State law, K.S.A 12-195b(e), requires that if local governments want to put their constituents in debt through bond issuance, they must either hold an election or allow for the circulation of a petition that could force an election. But Douglas County insists that they do not need to do either of these things because a ballot measure approved in 1994 gives them authority to issue the bond. Justice Matters is urging the county leadership to follow the law and grant its citizens the basic right to circulate a protest petition. When they do, Justice Matters will be ready with a legal petition and a plan to collect the necessary 2,500 signatures. The Jail Alternatives Research Team of Justice Matters is committed to holding our elected officials accountable to state law and to the values held by our community: values of restoration, compassion, and justice. For more information, contact a Justice Matters organizer: Ben MacConnell: ben@JusticeMattersinKansas.org Katie Hobson: katie@JusticeMattersinKansas.org



Lord, in 1879 the Apparition in Knock gave comfort and hope to your people in a time of distress and worry. In the presence of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist and the Lamb of

God you showed us that we are neither alone nor abandoned in times of great need, personally and as a people. We ask you Lord, to walk with us again as we face the Coronavirus. Help our medical personnel to bring the virus to a swift end and bless them in their work.

We ask healing and recovery to be given to all who are suffering from the virus and their families. May all of us, Lord, be strengthened by the spiritual support of the Christian community at this time through prayer, fasting and concern for one another. May we never abandon hope in the face of adversity and trust in your love for us.

Amen

Our Lady of Knock,
pray for us.

St. Joseph,
pray for us.

St. John the Evangelist,
pray for us.

-Father Brian Grogan SJ

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