



ST JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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-mass5>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm

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

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.

“SEEK GOD IN ALL THINGS AND WE SHALL FIND GOD BY OUR SIDE.”
-ST. PETER CLAVER

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Fr. John Cousins
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Donald Rank
Principal, St. John School..... Mr. Chris Reffett
Director of Liturgy & Music..... Lisa Roush
Director of Faith Formation.....Shelly Bole
Catecísimo en español.....María 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

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

Office Hours.....**PLEASE WEAR A MASK**

Monday—Friday 8:30 am—4:00 pm

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-mass5>

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 infor-

mation call Doug Wolfe:

800-950-9952 x5833

dwolfe@4LPI.com

Pastoral Council parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com

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Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock,
Connie Ehrlich, Luis Gonzalez,
Larry Koster, Jason Tanking,
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Finance Council

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School Council

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Cheery Jordan, Jordan Bass,
Kim Green, Laura Mosconi,
Larry Koster-Pastoral Council Liaison

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

MEET FR. DONALD RANK

While I was in the womb, my parents had two names picked out for me: Molly Cathleen Rank (if I turned out to be a girl, of course) and Donald Gregory Rank. If I were to be a boy, they planned on a nickname from my initials: DGR –“Digger.” February 20, 1985, came around in Denver, Colorado, and DGR it was!

I grew up loving the outdoors – the mountains, the snow, and in the non-winter days of Colorado, golfing. Some might say golf was my religion, since that’s what I did so regularly in high school. I played for my high school team and made it onto a college team – the University of Redlands, in southern California. Thankfully, there I realized that golf just wasn’t satisfying my deeper longing. I met a Carmelite friar who helped me to deepen my Catholic faith. I realized that it was God that I was looking for.



After graduating in 2007, I served as a FOCUS missionary at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and Seton Hall University in New Jersey. I reached out to NCAA athletes in a branch of FOCUS called Varsity Catholic. It was then that I started getting interested in religious life.

I met the Capuchin Franciscan friars in a mall, of all places. There at the “Catholic Center,” I was able to go to confession and get set up for a retreat to discern the Capuchin way of life. I fell in LOVE, for God is Love, through the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. I joined the Capuchins in 2009. After two years of postulancy (years to try out the life with the friars), I entered the novitiate in Santa Ynez, California (a year of deep prayer and community living). I professed temporary vows in 2012. Recognizing God calling me to the priesthood, I studied philosophy at St. Jean Vianney Seminary in Denver. Then, moving down to San Antonio, Texas, I completed five years at Oblate School of Theology. Thankfully, I graduated this past May and was assigned to a wonderful parish: St. John the Evangelist in Lawrence, Kansas!!! I give thanks to God for leading me here to serve with Fr. John as your assistant pastor.

GOOD AND EVIL

If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

The problem of evil is perplexing. If God is all-powerful and all-good, why doesn’t He stop bad things from happening? He must either not be all-powerful, or perhaps He’s not very good after all. Human beings have faced the possibility of evil since the very beginning of our existence. In granting us free will, God gives us the ability to make free choices. God does not force us into moral perfection. We are not forced to love Him or to love our neighbor. We must make the decision ourselves. This means, of course, that we have the ability to choose against love.

One small decision of selfishness, jealousy, or pride may not seem so bad. But every decision — good or bad — is like a stone dropped into a still pond. The ripples extend much farther than the original stone. When decisions against love begin to compound, they affect families, neighborhoods, and nations. This is all the more reason for Christians to be faithful to our baptismal call to love one another as Christ has loved us!

©LPi



DAILY READINGS

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 [18a]/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 [35]/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 [105]/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc [1]/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 [1]/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 [1]/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [6a]/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-3



SAINT JOHN SCHOOL



St. John Parish Catholic School Night Custodian

The position will entail nightly cleaning of the school building. Disinfecting, vacuuming, and general cleaning of classrooms and hallways will be done on a normal schedule. The job would also entail summer projects such as shampooing carpets and waxing floors. If interested, please call or email Chris Reffett at **785-843-9511** or creffett@sjeagles.com.

God bless,
Mr. Reffett

2020 School Year Wish List



As we have been working on our plans for this coming year, the staff has been developing safety protocols and a list of needed materials. Some of the materials on this list are part of our daily routines and some are precautions. I have created a Amazon Wish List if parents or extended family members would like to help the school. Any item you purchase will ship directly to the school to help with coordination. Any help that you may be able to provide would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to share the link with friends and family if they would also like to help. Here is the link for the Wish List: <https://a.co/1OK4BEi>.

God bless,
Mr. Reffett

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

We are so excited to get started with Faith Formation for this year.

With COVID, it will look very different and will be home based (at least through November).

Never fear, the parish and Shelly Bole, the Director of Faith Formation will be with you every step of the way, guiding and encouraging you.

The goal is to have Formation for Families, Sacraments and Youth Group begin October 4.

Please use this link to find more information and register!!

<https://form.jotform.com/202524577880158>

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Bole at: sbole@sjevangelist.com or **785-843-0109**



REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

"As the Provincial Minister of the Capuchin Province of St. Conrad, I have the sad task of informing you that Fr. Jeffrey Ernst, OFM Cap, has requested a dispensation from religious vows and the obligations of priesthood. Please be assured that his departure was not the result of any misconduct. His decision to leave was his alone, and as far as the Order and the Archdiocese are concerned, he leaves as a priest and religious in good standing. As a result of requesting a dispensation from the priesthood, Fr. Jeff no longer has faculties to perform the sacraments in the Archdiocese or elsewhere. Please join the friars of the Province in praying for his continued wellbeing.

- Bro. Mark Schen, OFM Cap."

OKTOBERFEST 2020

SPECIAL EDITION BOOT MUG

The Oktoberfest Committee is selling a Special Edition Commemorative Oktoberfest 2020 Boot Mug...yes, a

BOOT mug...that portrays our desire to "Kick COVID Aside" and invites you to "Drink, Eat, Pray!! Mugs are \$10 each (sorry, no beer this year) and will be available on Saturday, September 26. Also that day, don't forget that instead of the Oktoberfest, there will be **Bierock**

Sales on Saturday, September 26, from 1:00-5:00 pm at the Church.

The bierocks will be sold in quantities of three...3 for \$15, 6 for \$30, 12 for \$60.

Pre-order your mugs and bierocks by September 23.

CALL or TEXT Angie at **785-550-0411** to order with EXACT cash or a check made out to St. John's Oktoberfest. Or push the easy button and order via PayPal at:

cdenning@saint-johns.net, please note your purchase is for Oktoberfest. Or via **PushPay** (pushpay.com/pay/sjevangelist, please select Oktoberfest Fund).



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 September 13, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$30,254.80
Average weekly collection amount	\$22,419.90
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD	\$350,208.20
Actual collection fiscal YTD	\$246,618.91
NET SHORTAGE	\$104,183.89

Visit: www.sjevangelist.com/giving for 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.

~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](https://www.pushpay.com) for auto bank withdrawals at:

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.

Jenn Bole
 Andrew Bouchard
 Susan Guenther Brown
 Donna Callaghan
 Ricky Dalton
 Hank Desch
 Garrett Dreiling
 Anna Dukart
 Nathan Dukart
 Linda Erp
 Joanne Feist
 Colette Fisher
 Linda Flyer
 Janet Fox
 Rudy Fritz
 Ed Garza
 Wendy Glick
 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
 Julie Patterson
 Josephine Ramirez
 Mike Reilly
 Joel Rivera
 Reggie Robinson
 Virginia Romero
 Jon Rossillon
 James Sandy
 Alexander Ramirez Salazar
 Jerry Scherer
 Greg Schurer
 Carole Scott
 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
 Cindy Vasquez
 Leonard Vasquez
 Marianne Vietti
 Trent Wallace
 Jeanette Walker

Susan Williams
 Nancy Wright
 Jon Yarnell

IN MEMORIAM
 -EVA RICKETTS
 & CURTIS BURNS

MASS INTENTIONS

SEPTEMBER 21 – SEPTEMBER 27

Mon.: 7:30 am	Richard Monsont
Tues.: 7:30 am	All Loved Ones
Wed.: 7:30 am.....	Ernesto Florot
Thurs.: 7:30 am	Leonard H. Monroet
Fri.: 7:30 am.....	Mary Vannicola.†
Sat.: 4:30 pm	Steve Hill†
Sun.: 7:00 am	Roger & Kenneth Caldwell
9:00am	Bernice Sickingert
11:00 am	Parishioners of St. Johns
1:00 pm (Sp.).....	Ramon Romero†
5:00 pm.....	Michele Carlson



MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

El marco de la perspectiva de Dios es siempre la salvación. La promesa de Dios se cumplirá siempre. Ya desde el Antiguo Testamento, el profeta Isaías lo proclama. "Pues sus proyectos no son los míos, y mis caminos no son los mismos de ustedes, dice Yahvé. Así como el cielo está muy alto por encima de la tierra, así también mis caminos se elevan por encima de sus caminos y mis proyectos son muy superiores a los de ustedes. (Isaías 55:8-9).

Por otro lado, el Evangelio muestra nuevamente la gran bondad de Dios con la parábola de los trabajadores de la viña. Una historia con un final sorprendente. El dueño de la viña paga el salario por igual al que entró temprano, al mediodía y al caer la tarde.

¡Gracias Dios! Por pagarnos a todos igual, al inmigrante, al extranjero, al que radica en su tierra. Gracias, porque para ti todos somos raza santa y herederos de tu Reino. Pues, a que patrón se le ocurre contratar personal a última hora y pagar igual como el que tiene señoría. ¡No se vale Señor! decimos los humanos, eso es injusto. Prestemos atención, al mensaje. ¿Cuál es el punto de Jesús? ¿Qué pretendía con sus oyentes? Pretendía que cambiaran de pensamiento, que no fueran indiferentes con los que sufren, con los menos favorecidos. Ahora, qué pretende Jesús para nosotros en esta Liturgia. No se puede salir de la Eucaristía igual que cuando llegamos a ella. ¿Cuál es el camino a seguir de ahora en adelante? No seamos sordos a su voz, pongamos atención para trabajar en su viña. ©LPi



*"La alegría es el signo infalible de la presencia de Dios".
- San Agustín*

Dios está presente en nuestras familias, pero ¿pueden los demás verlo por nuestra alegría? Hogares Felices es una nueva iniciativa diseñada para llevar el espíritu de la Convocatoria a nuestras familias. Como las familias de la Arquidiócesis de Kansas City en Kansas City, seremos honestos sobre las alegrías y las luchas en nuestras vidas, y seremos serios en hacer un pequeño cambio cada mes para invitar a más Dios- más ALEGRÍA en nuestros hogares. ¿Se unirá a nosotros? Empieza con el desafío de septiembre en:

www.archkcks.org/intentional

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 20 DE SEPTIEMBRE

Domingo: Is 55, 6-9/Sal 145, 2-3. 8-9. 17-18 [18]/Flp 1, 20-24. 27/Mt 20, 1-16

Lunes: Ef 4, 1-7. 11-13/Sal 19, 2-3. 4-5 [5]/Mt 9, 9-13

Martes: Prov 21, 1-6. 10-13/Sal 119, 1. 27. 30. 34. 35. 44 [35]/Lc 8, 19-21

Miércoles: Prov 30, 5-9/Sal 119, 29. 72. 89. 101. 104. 163 [105]/Lc 9, 1-6

Jueves: Ecl 1, 2-11/Sal 90, 3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14 y 17 [1]/Lc 9, 7-9

Viernes: Ecl 3, 1-11/Sal 144, 1 y 2. 3-4 [1]/Lc 9, 18-22

Sábado: Ecl 11, 9—12, 8/Sal 90, 3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14 y 17 [1]/Lc 9, 43-45

Domingo siguiente: Ez 18, 25-28/Sal 25, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 [6]/Flp 2, 1-11 o 2, 1-5/Mt 21, 28-3

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Tony Schmidt
Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee,

The Gospel of Creation

Monday, September 28 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

September is the Season of Creation and in October we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

St John the Evangelist Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee invites you for part one of a four-part series on Laudato Si, On Care For Our Common Home. The Season of Creation unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

I will be presenting highlights from the Encyclical's Introduction and chapter two with a colorful, fast-paced visual slide presentation in our first session. This will include: I The Light Offered By Faith, II The Wisdom Of The Biblical Accounts, III The Mystery Of The Universe, IV The Message Of Each Creature In The Harmony Of Creation, V A Universal Communion, VI The Common Destination Of Goods, and VII The Gaze Of Jesus as well as samples from Pope Francis' important introduction to the letter.

To receive a link for this ½ hour Zoom presentation and ½ hour

discussion please email me at: tschmidt@eaglecom.net so I can send you a Zoom link. This letter from the Pope is very special to me. It is the strongest position any leader has taken on the issue of earth care. We all know the warnings about humanity's effect on the climate. They are very real, and I fear we have let this critical message to humankind from our Pope slip away among the noise. I will present his message in a different order than is presented in the book in hopes this is helpful as we are considering it again from a fresh perspective. But I enthusiastically endorse Pope Francis 200-page letter to all people of the earth. My hope is that these little samplings will give you a boost to consider doing that.

Fr. James Martin in his Top 10 Take Aways from Laudato Si said, "The greatest contribution of "Laudato Si" to the environmental dialogue is, its systematic overview of the crisis from a religious point of view. Until now, the environmental dialogue has been framed mainly with political, scientific, and economic language. With this new encyclical, the language of faith enters the discussion—clearly, decisively, and systematically." **Part I is Monday, September 28 at 7:00 pm, Part II is Monday, October 5 at 7:00 pm, Part III is Monday, October 12 at 7:00 pm, and Part IV is Monday, October 17 at 7:00 pm.** We will be building relationships through prayer and action for our common home. As a goal, we hope to develop an Earth Care program for our parish(s) in Lawrence. For the love of and care for Creation!

THE QUR'AN AND THE BIBLE: RELATIVES OR ENEMIES?

What does the Qur'an have to do with the Bible? Wednesday Evenings:

September 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, 7:00-9:00 pm

Repeated Thursday Mornings:

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:00 am-Noon

The Qur'an, God's revelation to Muslims through the prophet Muhammad, shares many similarities with the Bible in terms of stories and persons. Yet they are two completely different books in terms of composition, literary style and purpose. Ultimately they both intend to draw believers closer to God, alerting them to God's mind set, wishes, desire and intention for all humanity. These sessions explore the similarities and the differences between the Bible and the Qur'an. Stories and persons that appear in both texts will be examined, pointing out both similarities and differences in tone, perspectives and details.

Qur'anic texts dealing with Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Mary and Jesus will be examined, correlating them to their parallel Biblical story and perspective. Come to deepen your knowledge of Islam, Muslims, the Qur'an and the Bible. All faith traditions are most welcome. The sessions will be conducted via Zoom and facilitated by Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate at St. Sabina Catholic Church in Belton, MO. For more information, or to register please e-mail Biagio at biagio46@gmail.com. Once registered, you will be sent a Zoom link to the sessions.

Scripture Study is the soul of theology and a solid foundation for immersion into the Sunday Eucharist. Sessions will be facilitated by Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate, St. Sabina Parish.

To register e-mail Biagio at: biagio46@gmail.com

St. Sabina Parish, 700 Trevis Avenue, Belton, MO 64012,
www.stsabina-parish.org

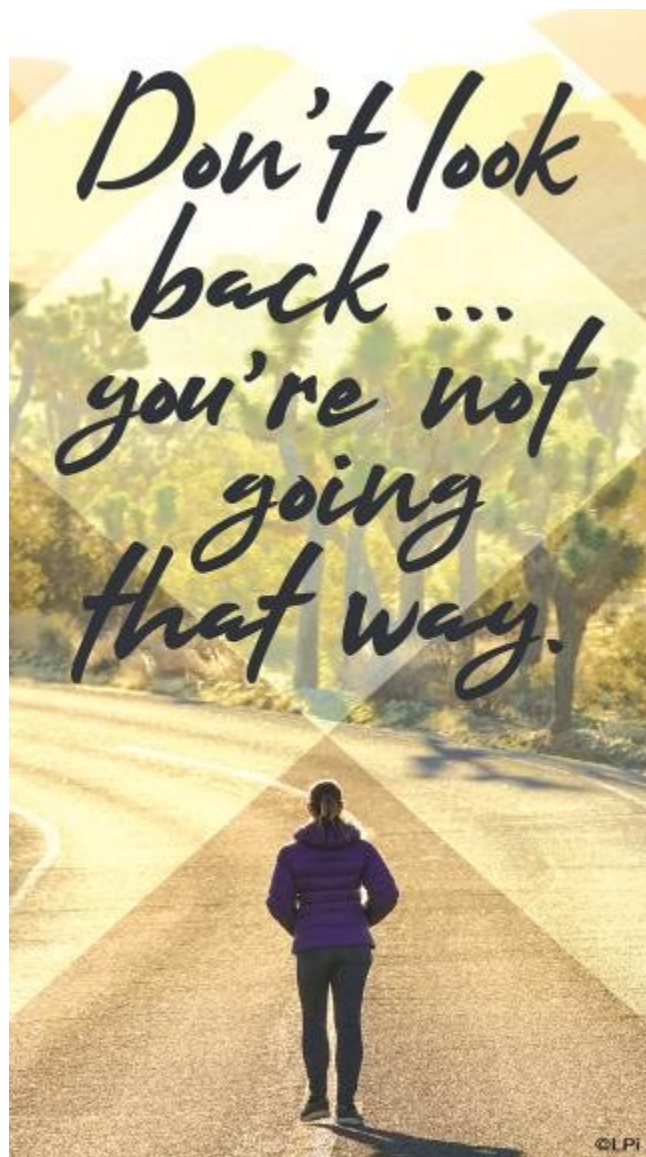
816-979-3153

Thank You to our sponsors

AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

NATIONAL LIFECHAIN

Please join us for the National LifeChain on **October 4th, from 12:30-2:00 pm in Lawrence at the corner of Iowa Street and 23rd Street**. We stand as witnesses to the beauty of human life from conception to natural death. Signs to hold will be available under the big oak tree at the northeast side of the intersection. Please remain six feet apart from one another. Bottled water will be available. Never participated before? Don't be afraid -- we will walk you through the whole thing. See you there!



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 or Jenifer Valenti at: jvalenti@archkck.org. May God bless you and keep you safe.



AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

OPEN GATE SERIES AT PRAIRIE STAR RANCH

Did you know that Prairie Star Ranch, home of Camp Tekakwitha, is open year-round? Are you looking for opportunities to get out of the house and enjoy some COVID-friendly time together as a family? On select Saturdays in the months of September and October, the gates of Prairie Star Ranch will be open for families to enjoy some casual, open-air fun. Come fish (bring your own poles!), picnic, hike, and more! On each Open Gate day, a different staff-facilitated camp activity will be offered for a small fee. Otherwise, the experience is free, and donations are welcome. Gates will be open from 10am to 4pm, and no registration is required. **Upcoming Open Gate Days include September 26, and October 3.** For a full schedule of event dates, the staff-facilitated activity for each weekend, our COVID-19 precautions and more, visit our website at: archkck.org/ranch

EVERY DAY IN LOVE

"Every Day in Love" "These skills were a lifesaver for our marriage during this pandemic!" These past few months have been so stressful. Do you and your spouse have the skills to continue to navigate these challenging times? Join Brad and Libby DuPont for 7 Thursday nights (live, online) starting **October 8.** We'll discover practical ways to: * Pray together * Reconcile hurts * Deal with and share feelings * Communicate * Make decisions * Achieve deeper intimacy * Tap into the grace of our sacrament To register, go to: www.archkck.org/everyday or email Brad at: bdupont@archkck.org

A VIRTUAL DAY OF SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT FOR CAREGIVERS

Caregiving is a holy vocation that truly imitates the loving example of Jesus Christ. But it is not an easy activity, and it can take a toll on the very people who bring great blessings to others. Fatigue, depression, frustration – these and other effects can wear down the most conscientious caregiver, especially during the unprecedented times in which we are living.

Presented by Maureen Pratt Catholic Author and Speaker Saturday October 3, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Kansas City Special Needs Ministry For more information and to register go to: www.archkck.org/special-needs

FALL 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Join us for the Kick-off Rally of the Fall 40 Days for Life on **September 23 at 9:00 am** outside the **Center for Women's Health abortion facility, 4840 College Blvd, Overland Park.** 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-Day campaign that seeks to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. We are praying for BOTH surgical abortion facilities in Overland Park to close. The vigil runs **September 23 – November 1 from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily.** Sign up individually or register a group at: 40daysforlife.com/overlandpark to be a part of this powerful prayer mobilization. Contact Wendy Curtis at **816-765-9477** with questions. Together we will protect women and save lives!



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"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." ~ St. Augustine

God is present in our families, but can others see it by our joy?

JOYFUL HOMES is a new initiative designed to carry the spirit of the Convocation into our families. As the families of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, we will be getting honest about the joys and struggles in our lives and serious about making one small change each month to invite more God-- more JOY into our homes. Will you join us? Get started with September's challenge at:

www.archkcks.org/intentional

FOCUS ON THE WORD

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

If I work for five hours, I expect to get paid for five hours. If I work for two, I expect to get paid for two. What if we worked for a company that paid everyone the same amount regardless of how long they worked? How would we feel going home with the same pay for working eight hours as my co-worker did for working only two hours? Secular wisdom would have a huge problem with this and a visit to the Labor Board would quickly pursue. But this is God's wisdom and God's ways.

We sometimes think that if we pray more, better, or more fervently and go over and above with the practice of our faith, God will somehow reward us and present us with some kind of merit badge. We are so wrong. Spiritual practices have only one true purpose: to deepen our love for God. In deepening our love for God, we also increase our ability to see God's presence around us, living life more purposefully and contemplatively. What if God chooses to treat someone who has come on the scene of faith later in life the same as someone who has devoted their whole lives to it? Does it really matter? If we have the merit badge notion of faith, we can find ourselves feeling a little arrogant and



even jealous of folks who have not followed the same path that we have. We can even see ourselves as the privileged few who have a corner on the faith and fully possess it.

That thinking doesn't square with God. God is all about mercy in abundance and is ready to take anyone to himself regardless of when they come. He is only happy that they have come home and delights in their return. After all, if you really and truly love someone, does it matter what they will give you in return or what you receive as a benefit? If relationships were assessed based upon productivity, they would lack authentic love. We invest too much self

interest in our prayer and neglect to see it as an opportunity to pursue our Lover and deepen the intimate bond we have with God.

When we breathe our last, all that is of consequence is union with God. If my love for God is real, I am going to want to live the Gospel, abide by the commandments, practice my faith, forgive and love my neighbor, and care for the environment, regardless of how much time it takes or benefits me. We want God to think and behave as we do, and in doing so, we set ourselves up for disappointment. God has a totally different agenda and that's okay. ©LPI

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS BE SURE TO LOOK THE PART

I used to coach my oldest son in soccer when he was younger. As he got older, he would go to tryouts for select and high school teams. I was no longer the coach, but I always shared with him one piece of advice before any tryout: Be sure to look the part. I told him that if he showed up looking like a soccer player, there was an increased chance of him being seen as a soccer player. If he showed up looking like a kid that plays soccer in video games as opposed to the real thing, he might not be taken seriously. As he grew older, that same advice was then applied to getting a job. It's advice I have heeded myself all my life. You can even say it is like another common phrase: "Fake it till you make it."

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we certainly do not want to fake it, but we do need to look the part. The world looks at those of us who proclaim to be Christians to see if there is anything to this

way of life. If they see us looking and acting like people transformed by Jesus Christ, they will be more likely to take Christianity seriously. If they look at us and see nothing different, then they can easily conclude that there is nothing different about Jesus Christ. He just becomes simply another religious figure of history. Can the world see the power of Christ in you? How will do you look the part?

– Tracy Earl Welliver

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