



SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." - Jn 6:67-69

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCO

OLPI

“For Christ is the God over all, Who had arranged to wash away sin from mankind, rendering the old man new.”

-St. Hippolytus



MASS SCHEDULE & OFFICE HOURS

Daily Masses May 28-September 6:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 7:30 am

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4:30 pm;

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

*Tuesday Masses are available at:

Corpus Christi at 8:15 am,

St. Lawrence Center at 12:10 pm,

Holy Family, Eudora at 9:00 am,

Sacred Heart, Tonganoxie at 7:30 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wednesday: 11:00 am – Noon;

Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm;

Other: by appointment

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.

MASKS

Masks are recommended & encouraged inside the church buildings.
Per Lawrence/Douglas County Health Department
as of August 10. This is subject to change.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Fr. John Cousins x319
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Jason Moore x313
Principal, St. John School.....Mr. Chris Reffett x211
Administrative Assistant.....Meg Milburn x310
Business Manager.....x311
Catecísimo en español.....María Mota x316
Database.....Patty Guadian x116
Director of Faith Formation.....Shelly Bole x315
Director of Liturgy & Music.....Lisa Roush x326
High School Youth Director.....Allison Loecker x111
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke
Multimedia Communication Coordinator....Jacinta Hoyt x115
Parish Coordinator.....Reid Bissen x333

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 - 8:30 am-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-Friday8:30 am-2:30 pm
After 2:30 pm please call staff members direct extension.
Thank you.

Weekend Masses

Saturday..... 4:30 pm
Sunday..... 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,
.....1:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule May 28-September 6

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the north church entrance)
Wednesday..... 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Saturday..... 3:00 pm-4:00 pm
Other..... 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

Christine Wenger - Chair,
Susan Tabor - Vice Chair,
Lisa Leroux-Smith - Secretary,
Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock,
Larry Koster, John Milburn,
Maria Monroy, Bria Phipps

Finance Council

Terry Gunselman - Chair,
David Ehrlich, Jeannette Mercier,
Michael Burrichter, Kristen Toner,
Janice Andes, Sofia Galarza-Liu,
Adrian Marquez,

School Advisory Council

Jordan Bass, Laura Elder,
Kim Green, Cherry Jordon,
Laura Mosconi, Josh Stephenson
Larry Koster-Pastoral Council Liaison

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

JOB OPENING DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT (DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP)

St. John Church and School in Lawrence seeks a full-time Director of Advancement (Development & Stewardship). The Director will develop and administer development plans to ensure the long-term viability of the Church and School. The Director will oversee all advancement activities necessary by building relationships with a broad range of parishioners, parents, alumni, volunteers and community members. Candidates with three to five years of fundraising experience and bilingual (English and Spanish) are preferred. Please see full job description and requirements at: www.sjevangelist.com. This position is eligible for an Archdiocesan benefits package. Position will be open until filled. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. John Cousins at: frjohn@sjevangelist.com or mail to 1229 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

JOB OPENING BUSINESS MANAGER

St. John Church and School in Lawrence, KS seeks a full time Business Manager. The Manager will administer the finances of the parish and school, maintain accuracy of all financial operations, and serve as HR officer. Applicants need computer/new technologies competencies. Candidates with a degree in Business/Accounting with 1-3 years of experience or its equivalency, and bilingual (English and Spanish) are preferred. Please see full job description and requirements at: www.sjevangelist.com. This position is eligible for an archdiocesan benefits package. Position open till filled. Send cover letter and resume to Fr. John Cousins at: frjohn@sjevangelist.com or mail to 1229 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



All Spanish-speaking and international women who need to learn English. Small World, a program for women will begin enrollment for the fall semester on **Tuesday, September 7**. Classes meet on Tuesday & Thursday
*Note the new time: **1:00 pm -2:30 pm**.

If you have any questions, call Ligia: **785-749-3677** or visit our website: <http://smallworld.school.blog> or Email: swlawrence68@gmail.com

ST. JOHN BENEFIT YARD SALE

A yard sale on **Friday, September 10** from 8:00 am to noon; and **Saturday, September 11** from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm located at 705 Mississippi Street. This will benefit the St. John Church Building & Grounds Projects! Please sort through your belongings and set aside items to donate to this yard sale. Items can be dropped off on the front porch the day before the sale. (We cannot manage big furniture or truckloads of items). Leftover items will be handled thoughtfully. Call Nora Murphy at **785-331-0421**, or e-mail noramurphy777@gmail.com for more info or to volunteer to help with the sale.



Thanks to those who want to read The Leaven online <http://theleaven.org>. That is a \$21/ subscription savings for St. John. If you would like to cancel, please email: pquadian@sjevangelist.com or call Patty at **785-843-0109**.

THANK YOU

To those who helped
paint our school.

MEN OF ST. JOHN – FALL 2021 ANNOUNCEMENT

After meeting virtually last year, we are excited for the return of the Men of St. John ministry.

All men in the parish and community are welcome to attend the morning sessions of fellowship, a video session about the faith and a small group discussion.

The program will begin **6:00 am, Wednesday, September 8, in the church basement**. Light breakfast and coffee will be provided. Each session wraps up at 7:25 a.m. We will meet every Wednesday morning through the fall semester aside from holiday breaks. We will follow public health guidelines strongly encouraging masks and social distancing.

This fall we will begin with the Metanoia video series, production of The Ministry of The Wild Goose hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka.

Anyone with questions can contact Brian Walter, walterpack@sunflower.com, **785-766-1569**.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

EMMAUS GROUPS FOR ADULTS ARE FORMING!

1. Emmaus Groups are also known as Small Faith Groups. Based upon the story from Luke 24, we know that Jesus appears to us on our journey and often we need others to help us "see" Him. As Catholics, we are Eucharistic people and experience a profound communion with Jesus through the Eucharist which we celebrate in community as a family of Faith. Emmaus groups are formed around similarities -- married, young married, young adult, single or mixed groups. Suzy Novotny helps each group form and assists leaders in finding resources to fulfill the needs of that particular group. We have had requests for groups of young mothers, retired people to meet during the day, and young adults/married or single. If you are intrigued about Emmaus groups, please reach out to the parish to learn more. <https://form.jotform.com/211227054847151> or snovotny47@gmail.com.
2. Children's and Youth Formation: We are exploring options for formation for children here at St John's. Please pray for us as we continue to discern how to best serve our families.
3. There are been several requests for adult formation opportunities for retired parishioners who can meet during the day. If there is a specific topic you would like to learn about OR you would like discuss possibly leading a session or topic, please contact Shelly at the parish office or sbole@sjevangelist.com.

CYO PARENT INFORMATION AND SURVEY

Hello St. John Community,

Robin and I are very excited to be the new CYO directors, beginning this summer. Thanks so much to Shawn and Kelly for all their hard work and assistance in the transition. Please bear with us as we learn the processes and contact us with any concerns or suggestions at: jordanbassku@gmail.com.

CYO sports at St. John will be returning in the fall with 3rd through 8th grade cross country and volleyball. The total cost for all grade levels of cross country is \$83 and volleyball is \$78 for 3rd and 4th grade and \$98 for 5th – 8th grade. Additionally, if there is interest in participating in flag



football at certain grade levels please send me a note so we can discuss logistics.

Finally, if you are interested in coaching or helping coach a volleyball or flag football team this fall please fill out the quick survey below. Thanks!

Link to Survey:
https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7X77dnLYTRWr4cC

For information on Sports and Registration:
<https://cyojwa.org/current-programs>

Best,
Jordan and Robin Bass
SJ Athletic Directors

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BOOKENDS

BEFORE/ AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Our Before and After School Care program is looking for staff members for our morning and afternoon shifts. Staff members will be responsible for the supervision of students. Staff members will need to be willing to help with homework, engage the students in fun activities, and provide consistent supervision. Before school hours are from 7:00 - 8:05 am and After school hours will be from 3:30-6:00 pm. We are looking for college students who might have flexible hours or someone who might want a part-time job and would love to have the opportunity to work with kids. If you are interested, please send your email pdasto@sjegles.com.

SCHOOL MISSION

Faith-Knowledge-Service-Growth

All St. John Catholic School students will be challenged to grow in their faith and knowledge, learn to show respect and compassion for themselves and others, and live their beliefs through service in their community and the world.



STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Below reflects donations received July 1, 2021 through August 8, 2021.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$28,365.38
Average weekly collection amount.....	\$26,270.19
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD.....	\$170,192.28
Actual collection fiscal YTD.....	\$157,621.15
NET SHORTAGE.....	\$12,571.13
FY 2020/2021 Current Net Deficit	\$257,811.13
FY 2019/2020 Total Deficit	\$267,486.68

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

Contact Church office at: 785-843-0109 if you have any questions.

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

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.

Steven Avila
 Mariele Berthold
 Chris Besler
 Jenn Bole
 Andrew Bouchard
 Susan Guenther Brown
 Donna Callaghan
 Bob Carlson
 Ricky Dalton
 Hank Desch
 Linda Erp
 Sharron F.
 Noni Fallaria
 Joanne Feist
 Colette Fisher
 Lori Fleming
 Linda Flyer
 Danielle Foote
 Mark Fortun
 Janet Fox
 Rudy Fritz
 Ed Garza
 Michael Jay Gomez
 Tom Gorges
 Bonnie Griggs
 Tony Guadian
 Lonna Hamm
 Caeson Hatch
 Christian Heady
 Luke Henry
 Patsy Heptig
 Charles Hermann
 Kathy Higley
 Maureen Hirt
 Janet Ikenberry

Michele Johnson
 Joani Kampschroeder
 Allen Kehde
 Gretchen Kehde
 Becky Kuhn
 Diana Matthews
 Leo Mauler
 Russ McDonald
 Ellen Mesa
 Vickie Mesa
 Zackary Messerly
 Paul Milburn
 Linden Morgan
 Augustus Nelson
 John Nelson
 Mary Beth Nelson
 Danny Nguyen
 Theophilus Obiefule
 Lupe Otero
 Kathy Otter
 Julie Patterson
 Mike Reilly
 Joel Rivera
 Virginia Romero
 Jon Rossillon
 Greg Schurer
 Carole Scott
 Mary Kay Seidl
 Pete Sethatut
 Christine Shipley
 Gerald Simon
 Brett Smith
 Scott Smith
 Linda Snyder
 Joseph Soza

Cameron Stupansky
 Jack Taylor
 Deloris Tharp
 Amelia Tinio
 Fleda Umscheid
 Lily Van Giezen
 Oren Van Walleghem
 Cindy Vasquez
 Lou Volpe

Marilyn Wagnitz
 Jeanette Walker
 Ted Walker
 Susan Williams
 Jon Yarnell
 Dena Yepa
 IN MEMORIAM
 -LYDIA OWEN



AUGUST 23 – AUGUST 29

Mon.: 7:30 am.....	Larry Smith†
Tues.: 7:30 am.....	NO MASS
Wed.: 7:30 am.....	Robbie Willist
5:10 pm (Sp.).....	NO MASS
Thurs.: 7:30 am	Witold Grzymala-Busset
12:10 pm	NO MASS
Fri.: 7:30 am.....	Witold Grzymala-Busset
12:10 pm	NO MASS
Sat.: 8:00 am	NO MASS
4:30 pm	Daniel Sickingert
Sun.: 7:00 am	End to the Pandemic
9:00am	Ellen Chadbornet
11:00 am.....	Parishioners of St. John
1:00 pm (Sp.).....	Nathan Ruiz
5:00 pm.....	Leonard Monroet

INGLÉS COMO SEGUNDO LENGUAJE



Todas las mujeres de habla hispana o internacionales que necesiten aprender ingles. Small World empezara a matricular para el semestre de otono **el martes 7 de setiembre**. Las clases se imparten los martes y los jueves *Note el nuevo

horario: **1:00 pm -2:30 pm**.

- Si tiene preguntas puede llamar a Ligia: **785-749-3677** o visitar nuestro website: <http://smallworld.school.blog>
- Email: swlawrence68@gmail.com

THE LEAVEN

Gracias a quienes quieran leer la levadura en línea <http://theleaven.org>. A St. John le costó \$ 21 por familia recibirla. Si desea cancelar, envíe un correo electrónico a: pquadian@sjevangelist.com o llame a Patty al **785-843-0109** ¡Gracias!

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

Lo que pasó en tiempos de Jesús, sigue pasando hoy día. Muchos le abandonan por cualquier bagatela, se dejan engañar fácilmente y hablan en contra de él y de su Evangelio. Inclusive algunos piensan que seguirle es de tontos. Pues, deja decirte Señor, que yo también reacciono como Pedro ante la pregunta: "¿Quiéren marcharse también ustedes?" (Juan 60:67). El lenguaje duro utilizado por Jesús los desconcertaba. Seguirte no es fácil; el camino de tus enseñanzas provoca un cambio radical con referencia a la justicia y al amor. Solo el que entienda tu lenguaje puede responder como Pedro: "Señor, ¿A quién iríamos? Tú tienes palabras de vida eterna. Nosotros creemos y sabemos que tú eres el Santo de Dios" (Juan 60:67-69).

Ahora bien, con tantas experiencias vividas en este año pasado (2020), muchas personas se han dado cuenta que vacía y sin sentido es la vida llevada a la ligera. Nos hemos dado cuenta que la ambición de tener y vivir corriendo no vale la pena. Lo que cuenta es tener una vida unida a Ti, por la oración y la entrega a los demás, y es una gran bendición el comprenderlo y ponerlo a prueba. El ser humano se ha dado cuenta que lo que sí vale la pena es la salud para poder trabajar y llevar la comida a la mesa familiar. El Papa Francisco nos lleva aún más allá: "Qué difícil es perdonar siempre a quienes nos hieren. Qué desafiante es acoger siempre al inmigrante y al extranjero. Qué doloroso es soportar la desilusión, el rechazo, la traición" (8/26/18). Mantra para esta semana: ¡Tú tienes palabras de vida eterna ©LPi

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

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

CATECISMO EN ESPANOL

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

CONFESIONES

Sábado de 3:00 pm a 4:00 pm y Miercoles de 11:00 am a 12:00 pm Habrá confesiones en español para quien lo necesite, y pueda recibir este sacramento.

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 22 DE AGOSTO

Domingo: Jos 24, 1-2. 15-17. 18/Sal 33, 2-3. 16-17. 18-19. 20-21. 22-23 [9]/Ef 5, 21-32 o 5, 2. 25-32/Jn 6, 60-69

Lunes: 1 Tes 1, 1-5. 8-10/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 y 9 [cfr. 4]/Mt 23, 13-22

Martes: Ap 21, 9-14/Sal 144, 10-11. 12-13. 17-18 [12]/Jn 1, 45-51

Miércoles: 1 Tes 2, 9-13/Sal 138, 7-8. 9-10. 11-12 [1]/Mt 23, 27-32

Jueves: 1 Tes 3, 7-13/Sal 89, 3-5. 12-13. 14 y 17 [14]/Mt 24, 42-51

Viernes: 1 Tes 4, 1-8/Sal 96, 1 y 2. 5-6. 10. 11-12 [12]/Mt 25, 1-13

Sábado: 1 Tes 4, 9-11/Sal 97, 1. 7-8. 9 [9]/Mt 25, 14-30

Domingo siguiente: Dt 4, 1-2. 6-8/Sal 14, 2-3. 3-4. 4-5 [1]/Sant 1, 17-18. 21-22. 27/Mc 7, 1-8. 14-15. 21-23

KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL

After Jesus compared himself to manna, and said that he was sent from heaven, many of his followers turned away from him. They just could not accept what Jesus was saying. It was too hard for them to understand. We have something they did not have. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. Sometimes what we learn might be hard for us to understand, too, but we never need to walk away. We can have faith in Jesus. We can ask him to help us.

PRAYER

Dear God, give me the faith to trust Jesus always. Amen.


SOMETHING TO DRAW

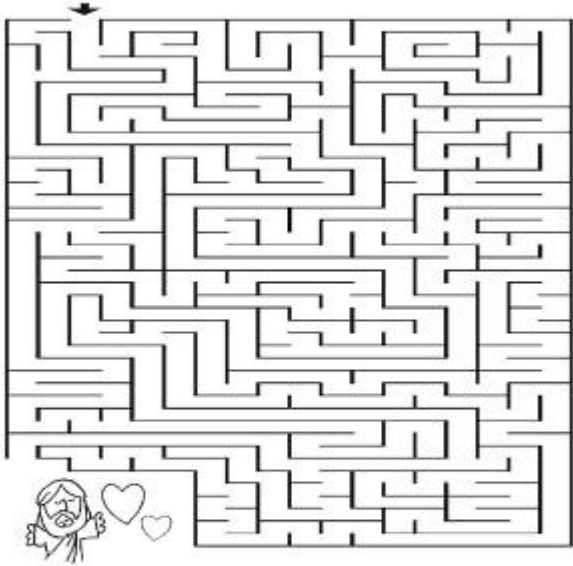
Draw a picture of yourself next to Jesus.


MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.



 **PUZZLE**
Find your way through the maze to Jesus.



 **MISSION**
Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/ Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

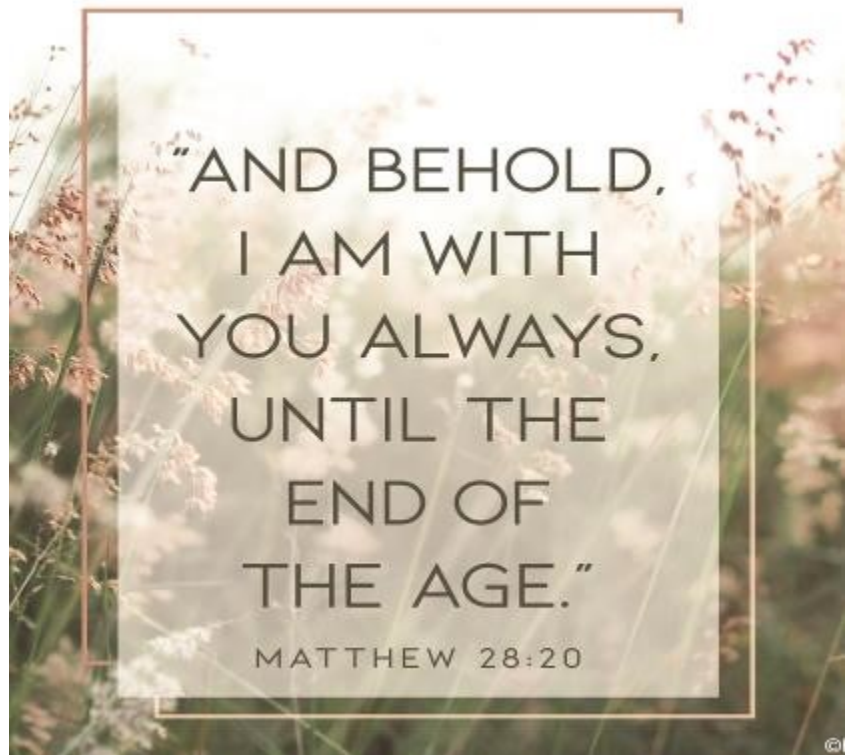
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



FOCUS ON THE WORD

GOSPEL MEDITATION

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these “gods” because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with “who is God” and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised “more.” But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only “feels” true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly



gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It’s a choice we all have to make. ©LPi

EVERYDAY REFLECTION

Submission as Stewardship

We aren’t comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it’s a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He’s asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can’t stand. The person who doesn’t respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we’re smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That’s the real challenge of stewardship, isn’t it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven’t done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn’t it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

LIVING OUR FAITH

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By The Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee

We have enjoyed sharing some materials from outside sources with you over the summer. But we've decided that now is the time to give you a ministries report.

Our Family Promise ministry needs a big shot in the arm! (No, not with Covid vaccine, but with people power!) For anyone who may not be familiar with Family Promise, it is a ministry here in Lawrence that serves homeless families. They help them get the resources and services they need to help them get back on their feet. Traditionally, local churches hosted families at night and they would go to the Family Promise day center, or to school or to work during the day. St. John's has served as a support church for Corpus Christi, who provided the lodging and helped us with

meals and evening hosting. During the pandemic, new arrangements were made with the help of some local landlords. Now each church provides frozen casseroles or \$25 gift cards to Dillon's or to Walmart and some other supplies instead. **What is needed:** People who are willing to contribute a frozen casserole, and/or a \$25 gift card from Dillon's or Walmart at each rotation, which occurs about every quarter. We are also looking for a Family Promise volunteer coordinator who will help make sure that we have the volunteers to do what is needed. If you are interested, please call Susan Tabor at **785-865-9949** or email her at souljourner@sbcglobal.net. Helping with Family Promise is a great way to help families who have fallen on hard times. Thank you for your prayerful consideration! Next week, we'll feature another peace and/or social justice-related ministry!

ARCHDIOCESE THOUGHTS

CHEERS TO A SPECIAL ADVOCATE JULY 30, 2021

All means all.

I'll never be able to hear those words without thinking of a particular person. He was a fierce advocate for a worthy cause, but never pushy. He was a wonderful teacher and never demeaning. He was a dedicated, hard worker, but always with a gentle smile.

His welcoming personality underscored his vision for the church: that all means all. In other words, he walked the walk and didn't just talk the talk.

The person I'm referring to is Tom Racunas, who retired last week as director of the archdiocesan special-needs ministry. It's fitting that we have a story in this week's Leaven on page 5 that features his famous words: All means all.

One enduring lesson that he taught me is the importance of the words we use, especially when speaking of one another. For example, I can no longer hear, without cringing a bit, that Gospel passage from Luke (17:11-19) often read on Thanksgiving Day. You're familiar with this story of the ten lepers who come to Jesus asking that he have pity on them. Thanks to Tom, I now say in my mind: not lepers, but persons with leprosy. These people are much more than simply their disease. Sometimes, people dismiss this sensitivity to words as just another instance of being "politically correct." Far from being "PC," Tom taught me that it's actually a matter



Fr. Mark Goldasich

of courteous respect for one another. In a column years ago, Tom spoke about how making venues physically accessible for people with special needs, like curb cuts and ramps, really benefits everyone. I thought about that — with a silent prayer of thanksgiving — every time I took my mom out when she was in a wheelchair. And I recalled it again when bringing supplies into The Leaven office as I wheeled them on a dolly up the ramp to the back door of the church offices. How true that we all benefit from those accommodations for accessibility. Honestly, though, I found Tom's insights challenging. He made me conscious of how accessible — both physically and spiritually — my parish is. But even more so, I had to face how accessible my mind and heart are. Tom was a living example of something I read last year in "Jesus Wears Socks with Sandals," by S. James Meyer. In an entry called "The Challenge to Step Up," Meyer highlights the observations of Ken Wilber,

a psychologist and philosopher. Wilbur noticed a "pattern of four foundational stages common to all: egocentrism, ethnocentrism, pluralism and universalism." Meyer "dumbs it down" for the rest of us as follows:

Stage One: Life is about what's best for me.

Stage Two: Life is about what's best for my tribe — us vs. them.

Stage Three: Life is about what's best for all tribes — us with them.

Stage Four: Life is about what's best for us — we are all one; there is no them.

Tom has done great work in reminding us to strive for Stage Four, by being, for example, a welcoming community as we celebrate the sacraments: from the tiniest babies to the oldest parishioners, from those with fewer needs to those with special needs.

He's made it clear that people with special needs are, first and foremost, people — people who also enjoy time at Prairie Star Ranch in Williamsburg and at summer Totus Tuus programs.

Beyond that, Tom hasn't forgotten parents who care for people with special needs, from the monthly BREATHE respite program to the practical financial workshops on how aging parents can ensure care for their loved ones with special needs.

Tom, I wish you well in "retirement," but know that you'll always be a voice for people so easily forgotten or ignored. And don't give up on me: I'm still at Stage Three . . . but improving, thanks to you!

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THE CRISIS OF SUICIDE EVENING OF HEALING AND HOPE

Join us for an evening of healing and hope. Kelly & Bob Specht, founders of Carl's Cause, will tell their story, and a teen breakout session will be offered. Professional counselors will offer resources and give concrete ways to foster mental wellness. Recommended for teens and up. **Tuesday, August 31 at 7:00 pm at St. Ann Catholic Church, 7231 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS 66208.** For more info visit: www.carlscause.org and www.archkck.org/family/caresupport/catholic-counselors/

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