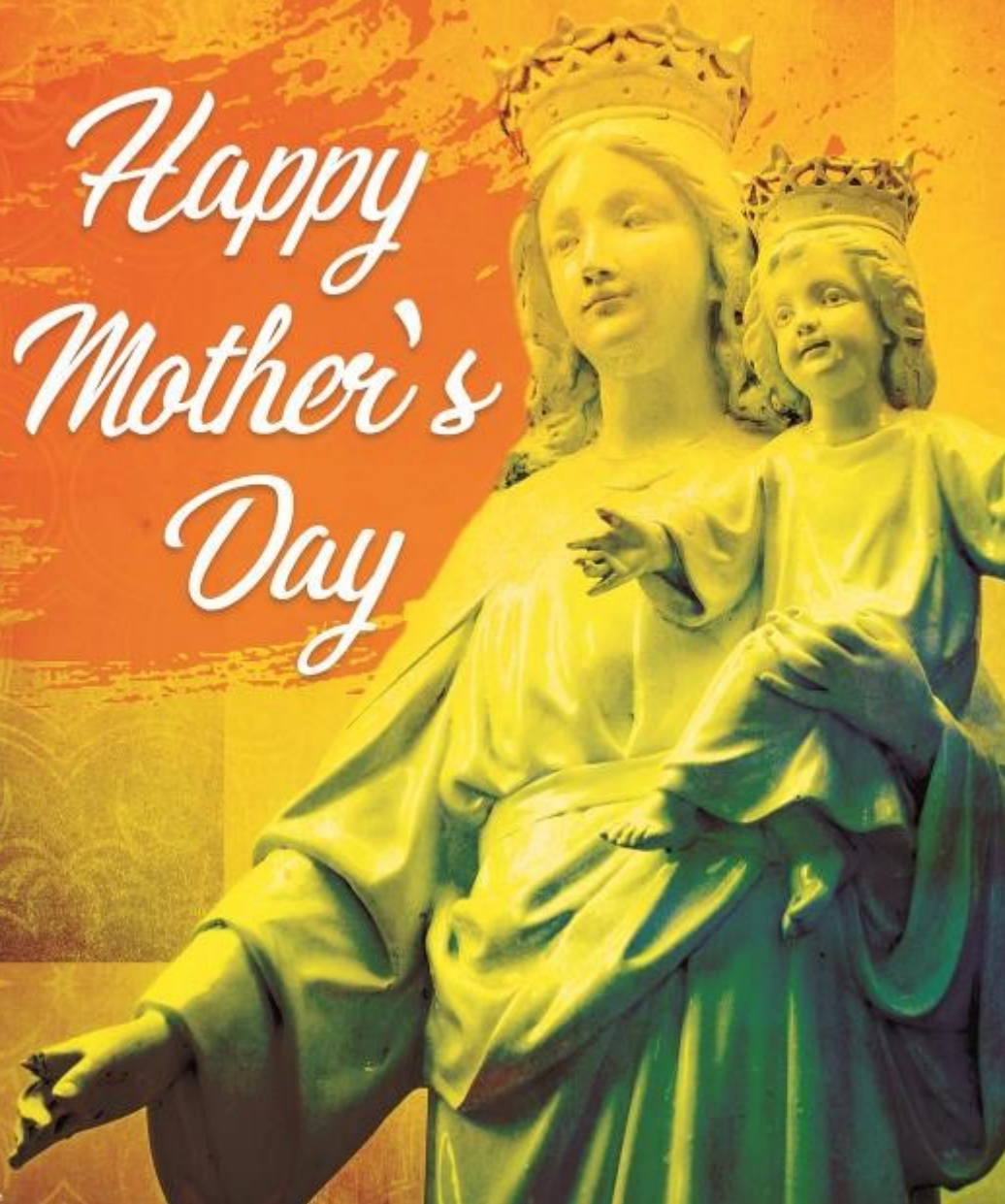


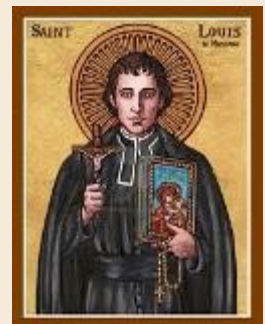


*Happy
Mother's
Day*



“The formation and the education of the great saints who shall come at the end of the world are reserved for her. For it is only that singular and miraculous Virgin who can produce, in union with the Holy Ghost, singular and extraordinary things.”

-St. Louis-Marie De Montfort
Treatise on True Devotion



Weekend Mass Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4a82da0fdce9-may89>

Daily Masses: Monday – Tuesday: 7:30 am,
Wednesday: 7:30 am & 5:10 pm Spanish,
Thursday & Friday: 7:30 am & 12:10 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday: 8:00 am & 4:30 pm;
Sunday: 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,
1:00 pm Spanish, 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesday: 11:00 am – Noon
Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm; and 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.

“MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS, PLEASE BE A MOTHER TO ME NOW.”
-ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

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
Catecismo 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..... 8:00am 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-may89>

Masses to be livestreamed at: <https://sjevangelist.com/live/>

Sunday..... 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday – Tuesday: 7:30 am, Wednesdays: 7:30 am & 5:10 pm (Spanish),

Thursdays: 7:30 am & 12:10 pm, Friday: 7:30 am & 12:10 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

Wednesday..... 11:00 am-12:00 pm & 6:00-7:00 pm

Saturday..... 3:00 pm-4:00 pm, and by appointment

Bulletin Deadline

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to bulletin@sjevangelist.com

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

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

Advertise in the Bulletin

Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call Doug Wolfe:

800-950-9952 x5833

dwolfe@4LPI.com

Pastoral Council parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com

Christine Wenger - Chair,
Susan Tabor - Vice Chair,
Lisa Leroux-Smith - Secretary,
Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock,
Connie Ehrlich, Luis Gonzalez,
Larry Koster, Jason Tanking,
David Ehrlich-Finance Council Liaison

Finance Council
Brian Green-Chair, David Ehrlich,
Jeannette Mercier, Terry Gunselman,
Michael Burrichter, Kristen Toner,
Janice Andes, Sofia Galarza-Liu,
Adrian Marquez,
Jason Tanking-Pastoral Council Liaison

School Advisory Council
Hanon Misko-Chair, Emily Malin,
Cherry Jordon, Jordan Bass,
Kim Green, Laura Mosconi,
Larry Koster-Pastoral Council Liaison

SAINT JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL



JOB OPENINGS



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE DIRECTOR

St. John is currently looking for a Director for our Before and After School program for the 2021-2022 school year. The Director will be in charge of managing the hiring, scheduling, and administration of the Before and After School program for the students of St. John Catholic School. If interested in this position, please contact Chris Reffett at: creffett@seagles.com.

4TH/5TH GRADE TEACHER

St. John is currently seeking a teacher for 5th grade Religion and 4th and 5th grade Math. If you are interested in this position please send your resume and cover letter to Chris Reffett at: creffett@seagles.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA

St. John Catholic School is looking for a knowledgeable and enthusiastic English Language Arts teacher to work as part of our middle school team. We are looking for an individual who can help students build strong reading, writing and communication skills in a faith based environment. If you are interested in applying for this position please email Chris Reffett at: creffett@seagles.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RELIGION/ HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH DIRECTOR

St. John Catholic School and Parish is looking for an energetic and knowledgeable Middle school Religion teacher and High School Youth Director. The position would include teaching religion class to 6th-8th graders as well as preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The High School Youth Director is a parish position and would work closely with the Faith Formation Director in the development of this program. If you are interested in applying for this position please email Chris Reffett at: creffett@seagles.com.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM - ADULT TRAINING (VIRTUS)

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.



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Knights of Columbus will conduct the Baby Bottle Campaign again this year starting on Mother's Day and ending on Father's Day. 100% of the proceeds will go to Kansans for Life. KFL is a

Right to Life Advocacy organization out of Wichita. The Knights will hand out a baby bottle at all masses on Mother's Day, you take the bottle home and put in loose change or bills and then return the bottle to church on Father's Day weekend. There will be clearly marked containers to put into. You can also write a check and insert in the bottle or put in a marked envelope and place in the collection basket. Be sure to mark the envelope "K of C Baby Bottle Drive". Checks should be written to Knights of Columbus Council 1372 and put "Baby Bottle Drive" in the memo line. If you miss getting them turned in on Father's Day weekend just bring them to the next Mass you attend. Thank you for your support.



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Ten choices of flowering baskets will be on sale online in advance of Mother's Day at St. John the Evangelist Church Spring Plant Sale! - Vinland Valley Nursery. In addition, we will have flowers and garden plants after all Masses the weekend of **May 8 and 9**. All purchases will support our goal of beautifying the north entryway of our church. Thank you!



NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASS

A class in using the Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) of Natural Family Planning during the pre-menopause period takes place at St. John the Evangelist in the extra building, 200 West 13th St., on **Wednesday, May 19, at 6:30 pm**. For more info about this or other Couple to Couple League classes in the metro area, call Shannon or John Rasmussen at 785-749-1015. Online pre-registration is required at: www.ccli.org.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPENINGS

Looking to help out? Please consider being a part of our elite SAFETY SENTINELS who care for our parishioners during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Duties include: Checking people in, sanitizing hands, helping people maintain 6 feet of social distancing, guarding the offerings, and providing directions to people to maintain a safe environment at the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday. Volunteers would need to be present by 10:40 am. The more volunteers, the less times that you would be needed. If interested, Please call or email Lisa or Meg at the Parish office. Thank you.

FOCUS ON THE WORD

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Is gossip a mortal sin?

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid

reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

©LPi

FOCUS ON THE WORD

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Choosing to Love One Another

Love one another. The greatest commandment, the simplest commandment — and if you've ever loved anyone, you know it's also the hardest.

I'm man enough to admit it. I've seen one or two of those cheesy Hallmark movies that are especially popular around the holidays. Boy meets Girl. Boy and Girl encounter a catastrophic roadblock to their relationship — they're coaches of rival high school volleyball teams, or he runs a dog kennel and she works at a feline rescue, so it could never, ever work out, right? But sprinkle a little movie magic over the whole situation and Boy and Girl find what Hallmark tells us is true love.

I could make a list of all the things that are inaccurate about these movies, and something I would put right near the top — maybe even above the sometimes-unbelievable storylines — is the idea that love is a feeling.

See, I'm not sure if it's accurate to call these movies love stories. Attraction stories, sure. But if you've ever forgiven someone

who's hurt you, nursed a dying parent, gotten up for an infant's night feeding or let your kid have the last piece of cake, you know that real love is a verb. It's something you do. And it is almost always a choice.

Love one another. How often do we hear this? How often do we think about what it really means? How often do we take a moment to consider the action Jesus is asking us to take and the choice he is asking us to make?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



©LPi

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

*By Susan Tabor,
Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee,*

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. At St. John's, we are recognizing mental health awareness by beginning an 8-week course called Sanctuary, which is designed to help us understand mental health, mental illness and other related issues. The course began on April 29. This course will likely be offered again in the future.

The Mental Health Committee of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability offers 10 things that parish leaders should know. Actually, we all should know them. The list is below:

10 Facts Parish Leaders Should Know About Mental Illness

1. Mental Illness is a disease of the brain and is not a moral issue
2. One in four families are directly affected by mental illness. If you don't encounter persons or families dealing with mental illness in your parish then, they are either hiding (often in plain sight) or feel unwelcome. What you see is often the tip of the iceberg

3. Stigma isolates people, and sometimes kills both body and soul
4. The symptoms of mental illness vary in intensity and over time and so should support. Each situation is unique.
5. The public mental health system is at or above capacity, this is why it's important to help people find help.
6. Many persons with serious and persistent mental illness do not know they are sick and think their behavior and beliefs are normal
7. Persons with mental illness are more likely to be harmed than to do harm.
8. Mental illness is often linked with alcoholism and substance abuse
9. Poverty and underemployment are pervasive among persons with mental illness. Many of the problems of persons with serious mental illness has more to do with their poverty than their disease
10. Understand the importance of making and keeping good boundaries

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 May 2, 2021.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$30,254.80
Average weekly collection amount.....	\$26,684.18
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD.....	\$1,331,211.20
Actual collection fiscal YTD.....	\$1,174,103.97
NET SHORTAGE.....	\$157,107.23
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 Cris Denning at: cdenning@sjevangelist.com or phone 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.

Leslee Adams
Mariele Berthold
Chris Besler
Jenn Bole
Andrew Bouchard
Susan Guenther Brown
Donna Callaghan
Bob Carlson
Ricky Dalton
Hank Desch
Christopher Erickson
Linda Erp
Noni Fallaria
Joanne Feist
Colette Fisher
Linda Flyer
Janet Fox
Rudy Fritz
Ed Garza
Michael Jay Gomez
Bonnie Griggs
Tony Guadian
Buddy Hadl
Lonna Hamm
Christian Heady
Luke Henry
Patsy Heptig
Charles Hermann
Kathy Higley
Janet Ikenberry
Michele Johnson
Joani Kampschroeder
Allen Kehde
Gretchen Kehde
Becky Kuhn

Diana Matthews
Leo Mauler
Russ McDonald
Ellen Mesa
Vickie Mesa
Zackary Messerly
Linden Morgan
Augustus Nelson
Mary Beth Nelson
Danny Nguyen
Theophilus Obiefule
Kathy Otter
Lydia Owen
Mike Owens
Julie Patterson
Mary Polfer
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
Lily Van Giezen

Wendy Van Giezen
Cindy Vasquez
Marianne Vietti
Lou Volpe
Trent Wallace
Jeanette Walker
Ted Walker
Susan Williams

Jeannine Wyatt
Jon Yarnell
Dena Yepa

IN MEMORIAM
-ROBYN GARCIA



MAY 10 - MAY 16

Mon.: 7:30 am.....Alan Heatht
Tues.: 7:30 am.....Nicholas Petert
Wed.: 7:30 am.....Lily Van Giezen
5:10 pm (Sp.).....Mardoniot
Thurs.: 7:30 am.....Diana Matthews
12:10 pm.....Priest's Intention
Fri.: 7:30 am.....Peace in the World
12:10 pm.....Lyle Simmonst
Sat.: 8:00 am.....Dee Jardont
4:30 pm.....All Students
Sun.: 7:00 am.....Deceased members of the Tulley Familyt
9:00 am.....Rosemary Wertht
11:00 am.....End to the Pandemic
1:00 pm (Sp.).....Agripina Mendozat
5:00 pm.....Parishioners of St. John

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

La sociedad actual tiene muchos sufrimientos y sinsabores; la pandemia ha dejado secuelas que no se curan tan fácilmente. Existe mucho por hacer, a pesar de que tenemos grandes héroes que arriesgaron su vida por la salud de otros. Tanto en el ambiente de la salud y la comida, hubo amor y esperanza de parte de mucha gente. Las personas eligieron hacer el bien en lugar de hacer el mal. La Iglesia misionera reza incansablemente por la salud y el bienestar de todos. ¿Qué hiciste tú, y que haces para aliviar el dolor de los demás? ¿Dónde pusiste tu amor durante el tiempo que estuviste en casa?

Hoy, la Liturgia nos presenta a Jesús con el mandato de vivir la alianza del amor. “Ámense los unos a los otros: esto es lo que les mando” (Juan 15:17). Tener amor es un don que solo el Espíritu de Dios puede encender en los corazones. Bien decimos al invocar al Espíritu Santo: Ven, Espíritu Santo y enciende mi corazón con el fuego de tu amor. Este Espíritu de Dios habita en nosotros desde nuestro bautismo. Solo falta abrirle el corazón para que crezca su llama. De ese modo estaremos listos para la misión. Quien se sabe amado lleva hasta el extremo el mandato de Jesús. ¡Amar hasta el extremo! Sus buenas obras son silenciosas pero llenas de misericordia. Con estas obras se da razón de la esperanza, concretamente la esperanza cristiana. Señor, ayúdanos a querer lo que tú haces y que sepamos hacer lo que tú quieres de nosotros, especialmente en este momento de la historia.

©LPi



“No son ustedes los que me han elegido, soy yo quien los ha elegido y los ha destinado para que vayan y den fruto y su fruto permanezca, de modo que el Padre les conceda cuanto le pidan en mi nombre. Esto es lo que les mando: que se amen los unos a los otros”.

- Jn 15, 16-17

Leccionario I © 1976 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica
de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **785-304-5509**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de **6:00 a 9:00 de la noche**, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parróquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR

Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

Preparación al matrimonio por la Iglesia Católica, solo para parejas que viven juntos y tienen niños.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

CATECISMO EN ESPAÑOL

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

CONFESIONES

Sábado de 3:00 pm a 4:00 pm y Miércoles 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 9 DE MAYO

Domingo: Hch 10, 25-26. 34-35. 44-48/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4 [cfr. 2]/1 Jn 4, 7-10/Jn 15, 9-17

Lunes: Hch 16, 11-15/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 y 9 [cfr. 4]/Jn 15, 26—16, 4

Martes: Hch 16, 22-34/Sal 137, 1-2. 2-3. 7-8 [7]/Jn 16, 5-11

Miércoles: Hch 17, 15. 22—18, 1/Sal 148, 1-2. 11-12. 13. 14/Jn 16, 12-15

Jueves: Hch 18, 1-8/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4 [cfr. 2]/Jn 16, 16-20

Ascensión: Hch 1, 1-11/Sal 46, 2-3. 6-7. 8-9 [6]/Ef 1, 17-23 o Ef 4, 1-13 o 4, 1-7. 11-13/Mc 16, 15-20

Viernes: Hch 1, 15-17. 20-26/Sal 112, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8 [8]/Jn 15, 9-17

Sábado: Hch 18, 23-28/Sal 46, 2-3. 8-10. 10 [8]/Jn 16, 23-28

Domingo siguiente: Ascensión: Hch 1, 1-11/Sal 46, 2-3. 6-7. 8-9 [6]/Ef 1, 17-23 o Ef 4, 1-13 o 4, 1-7. 11-13/Mc 16, 15-20 7º

Domingo de Pascua: Hch 1, 15-17. 20. 20-26/Sal 102, 1-2. 11-12. 19-20 [19]/1 Jn 4, 11-16/Jn 17, 11-19

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

SMALL GROUPS

WORSHIP
CONNECT
GROW
SERVE

Why Small Groups?

Small groups are a way of going deep to make connections with others in the St. John community and grow as missionary disciples. These groups of approximately 8-10 people will:

1. Keep you accountable to going deeper in your faith journey.
2. Focus on a strong prayer life.
3. Do life with you as you walk with Jesus.

Available Small Groups

Married Couple with Small Children
Married Couple
Young Adult
Women's Group
Men's Group
Mixed Group

It's easy to sign up for a small group! Visit us online at www.sjevangelist.com/small-groups to sign-up for one of our small groups today.

You can also fill out the communication slip below with your group preference and drop it by the parish office, in the collection basket, via the mail or email sbole@sjevangelist.com. The form is also available online: SJEvangelist.com/small-groups

Name/Couple's Names: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Preferred Group Members: _____

Circle all meeting times that apply: Daytime Evening Weekends Any

What type of study would you be interested in? Book Scripture Other ☐ I would consider being a small group leader

Small Group Preference (please check any that apply)

- ☐ Married Couple with Small Children
☐ Married Couple
☐ Young Adult
☐ Women's Group
☐ Men's Group
☐ Mixed Group

Other: _____

Small Group FAQ

1. What is a small group?

Small groups are made up of 8-10 people who meet on a regular basis for the purpose of connecting relationally with one another, growing spiritually through prayer, bible study fellowship, and serving together. In short, small groups encourage all members to worship, connect, grow, and serve as missionary disciples.

2. Are small groups biblical?

The book of Acts is very clear about how God intends for His people to grow and have their needs met in the church. "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Every day they continued to meet together... they broke bread in their homes and ate together... and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42, 44, 46-47

3. When, where, and what do small groups meet about?

Groups meet at various times, either monthly or every other week, and in many different locations throughout Lawrence. Your group will decide where the best time, frequency, location, and content to meet.

4. What kinds of small groups are available?

There will be many different groups to choose from including:

Men Women Singles Couples Mixed Others by request

These groups offer natural connecting points through which members come together and form real Christian relationships. Within these affinity categories, there are specific groups that are based upon age and stage of life.

5. How can I find a small group?

Just contact us and we will connect you with a small group. Simply complete the online form at www.sjevangelist.com/small-groups or email sbole@sjevangelist.com or 785.843.0109 to have a form mailed or emailed directly to you.

6. What can I expect when I join a small group at St. John?

The small group experience includes:

A minimum of meeting once monthly for the purpose of building relationships, growing spiritually through prayer, studying God's Word, and serving together in ministry as missionary disciples.

Spiritual growth, accountability, application of God's Word and fellowship!

People to do life with!

7. How long do small groups meet?

Most small groups will meet for one and half to two hours.

8. How do I sign up to become a small group leader?

Just click the box on the sign-up form that asks if you would like to be a small group leader. Coaching and resources will be provided!

9. Who do I contact if I have questions?

Please contact the Shelly Bole at 785.843.0109 or sbole@sjevangelist.com. Visit www.sjevangelist.com/small-groups to sign up online!

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

Make a difference in the life of a fostered child
— even if you can't foster one yourself

by **Patti Fisher**
Special to The Leaven

May is National Foster Care Month. It's a time to recognize that we each can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care.

Though the number of kids and their needs are immense, many of the solutions are small. All you have to do is think of helping just one kid.

Here are some easy ways to help make a difference in the life of a foster child and for the family caring for that child.

Pray for these children, their foster and biological families. Pray for the workers who put in long hours and face difficult barriers. Pray for the courts and policy makers. Pray that you might be used by God to show love, fill a need or bring a smile.

Clothing

When a child comes into care, they often come to a strange new home with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We, like many other foster families, have extra hand-me-downs sorted by size and gender.

However, we have also gotten kids that are different age/gender than the clothing we have on hand. We have recently been able to go to Lawrence Sunshine Foundation, the local clothes closet, instead of making a mad and expensive dash to the store.

This is only possible because others have donated. Yes, even gently used clothing can benefit children in care.

Meals

No one thinks twice about taking a meal to the parents of a newborn. It isn't as common to think of taking a meal to a family with a new placement.

Honestly, even having a simple meal delivered to us is appreciated. It is one less detail we have to worry about in the midst of new kids adjusting to a place, our family adjusting to them, and social worker and doctor appointments.

Offer to bring a foster family a meal during the first week of a new placement, and I guarantee you will not be turned away! Well, if the dish you're offering is liver and onions, you might be turned away.

Appointments

These kids have a lot more appointments than the average kiddo! In one week, I may be taking them to the doctor, have a home visit from my family's support worker, their support worker, take them to a visit with one or both parents, and have a court hearing.

There are people who volunteer with their local agency to pick kids up and drive them to some of these appointments when their foster parents can't, usually because of work obligations. Contact a local social work agency and see if you could volunteer one morning or afternoon a week.



Baby-sitting

All baby-sitters for foster kids have to pass a background check with the foster family's licensing agency. This means one additional hurdle for the parents to plan anything like a night out or even attend required training. Tell your friends who are foster parents that you would be glad to submit to the background check and keep the kids once a month for a couple of hours. Believe me, having a night out, even just for dinner or a movie, can really recharge the parents spending all their time and energy pouring into these kids.

Give

Donate to foster care causes. From welcome boxes, gift cards or backpacks and school supplies, you can help provide needed items to foster children and families. Designate a foster care agency to benefit from your United Way donation, day of service or Amazon Smile donation.

Have your child's youth group collect carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors or first aid kits to donate to an agency. Provide activity books and crayons to an agency to help kids pass the time waiting for appointments.

Talk to your friends who are foster parents and ask them what specific things they need — they might be things you would never guess. (We have neighbors who walk our dogs, freeing our time for the kids.) They may want help with chores or errands. Even better than asking in a general way is offering specific help. Use the National Foster Care and Adoption Directory to find a local agency to partner with to help children in foster care. Ask how you can help; maybe they need your party planning skills for their next foster parent appreciation event.

If you have read this far, you might be the person I should ask to open your home in addition to your heart. Consider becoming a respite home, taking placements according to your schedule (often on the weekends).

Don't let the fact that you are uncertain how to help keep you from action. A great first step is to reach out to a foster family or agency.

You can be part of God's plan for a child in care.

- Patti Fisher is a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish.



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