

# Church History

- 1857** First mass in Lawrence celebrated in Bernard Donnelly home by Fr. McGee of Leocompton. Later, masses held in small stone parsonage used as church and rectory. Fr. John Schact (1858-62).
- 1859** St. John the Evangelist Parish established.
- 1860** September 30. First church on Kentucky St. dedicated by Bishop J. Miega. Made possible by Col. Carnie Babcock who deeded the land; Dr. Charles Robinson provided the stone. Fr. Favre Sebastian (1862-67).
- 1863** Bishop J. Miega from Osage mission here to celebrate sacrament of confirmation. Quantrill's Raid changes mass to funeral services for the 15 Catholics killed.
- 1871** First church dismantled and rebuilt larger (45x80) to accommodate growing community. Fr. John Cunningham (1867-73), Fr. Richard Nagle (1873-74), Fr. Carius (1874-75), Fr. William Fitzgerald (1875-77), Fr. P. Scholl (1877-78).
- 1883** St. John's grows to 150 parishioners. Fr. Guenther (1879-84), Fr. Dugan (1884-85), Fr. Alfonso Ennis (1885-92), Fr. R. B. Groener (1893-1901), Fr. T. J. Downey (1902-03), Fr. John McCourt (1905-06), Fr. George Eckart (1906-20).
- 1920** Fr. Henry Fitzgerald (1920-32).
- 1924** Church and first organ destroyed by fire caused by lightning.
- 1925** Present church dedicated November 26. First mass celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 21.
- 1946** Fr. George Towle (1946-63).
- 1956** Present school built. The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth serve as administrators and faculty.
- 1957** Parishioner Thomas Cawley ordained as priest.
- 1958** St. Lawrence Campus Center established by Benedictines.
- 1962** Parishioner Larry Albertson ordained.
- 1964** Present Reuter organ #1479 installed. Fr. Michael Moriarty (1964-77).
- 1973** Parishioner Bob Flannery ordained as priest.
- 1976** Diocesan priest appointed to St. Lawrence Campus Center.
- 1977** Fr. Larry Albertson, Fr. Vincent Krische, and Fr. Al Rockers appointed co-pastors of St. John with ministry to Catholic students at Haskell Junior College and the University of Kansas (1977-80).
- 1980** Fr. Al Rockers (1980-86).
- 1981** Parish has grown to 750 households. Daughter parish, Corpus Christi, established.
- 1986** Capuchin Franciscan appointed to the parish. Fr. Michael Scully O.E.M. Cap. (1986-1995).
- 1992** Church interior renovation begun.
- 1993** Archbishop Ignatius Strecker consecrates new altar and blesses the ambo and presider's chair.
- 1995** New Crucifix, sculpted by local artisan, installed. Fr. Charles Polifka O.E.M. Cap. (1995-2004)
- 1999** Church becomes accessible with new elevator for persons with disabilities. Parish has membership of more than 1,000 households.
- 2000** St. John's celebrates 75th Anniversary of church.
- 2004** Membership 1,350 households. Fr. John Schmeidler O.E.M. Cap. appointed pastor.
- 2007** Sesquicentennial of First Mass celebrated in Lawrence.
- 2008** Sesquicentennial of appointment of first Pastor.
- 2009** Sesquicentennial of the establishment of St. John Parish.



# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. John Schmeidler, O.F.M. Cap.  
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 785-843-0109  
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 churchoffice@saint-johns.net

## Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy:

Saturday .....5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday .....7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m.  
 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. (Spanish), 5:00 p.m.

## Weekday Eucharistic Liturgy:

Monday - Friday .....7:30 a.m.  
 Saturday .....8:00 a.m.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday .....4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
 (or by appointment)

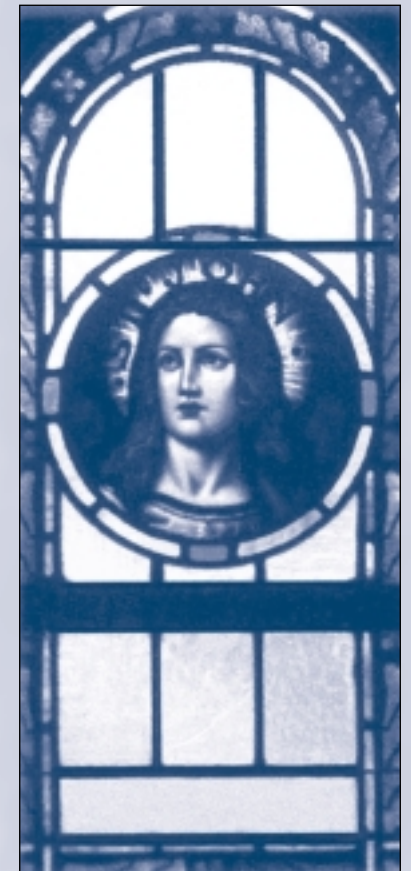
Saturday during  
 Advent and Lent.....3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

## Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday .....8:00 p.m. - Midnight  
 Friday .....8:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Saturday

A SELF GUIDED  
 TOUR AND HISTORY

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



1234 Kentucky • Lawrence, Kansas  
 Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

# Welcome!

Come join us on a tour through the structure and history of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. In 1924, this 131 by 50-foot building cost \$70,000 to build. St. John's was built in Romanesque style architecture.

A cornerstone on the church's northeast corner notes three important events — the church's first Mass in Lawrence in 1857, the erection of the second church in 1871, and the construction of the present church in 1924.

Visitors enter the church through the small vestibule or foyer from Kentucky Street. This entrance is reminiscent of the courtyards and plazas that served as gathering areas in ancient churches. The Cry Room is to your left. The holy water fonts located just inside the sanctuary are filled with blessed water. As they bless themselves with this water, Catholics are reminded of their baptism.

During the daytime rays of sun stream through the 56 stained-glass windows into the sanctuary. The colorful windows portray biblical events and Catholic beliefs. The small clerestory windows above the roofline depict

various saints. The windows were crafted using techniques brought from Germany by craftspeople who established the former Munich Studio of Chicago. Memorials and donations financed the stained-glass windows.

The 14 hanging shrines that adorn the walls between the larger windows are known as The Stations of the Cross. These shrines recreate the last footsteps of Jesus' life on earth, and those reflecting on the stations say a brief prayer before each small shrine. In our times, a 15th station that remembers the Resurrection often is added to this devotion.

Looking back to the choir loft you can see the rose window that depicts St. Cecelia, the patron of music. The many pipes encircling the loft come from our Reuter organ. This world famous organ company, which is located in Lawrence, produced its 42nd organ and our first in 1920. Fire destroyed the church and the organ in 1924 and 40 years later the church purchased its current Reuter organ #1479.

The altar and ambo at the east end are the focal point of the sanctuary. In

the original design, the church had a Renaissance - style altar. That altar was removed in the 1960's and a free standing altar was installed. It was replaced with the present one in 1992. The partition wall behind the altar is known as the reredos. The arches of the reredos behind the altar continues the round-topped arch motif of the nave side aisles. The tabernacle, located on a stand behind the altar, contains the Blessed Sacrament. Those who visit the homebound come to the tabernacle for the hosts they will take to the sick and dying members of the parish. The red sanctuary lamp indicates the presence of the reserved sacrament. The altar and other liturgical furnishings, including the crucifix, were designed and crafted by local artisans.

The church's bell tower reaches high above the roof. The original bell cast in St. Louis in 1859 rang faithfully for many years. Over time the repeated vibrations weakened the structure, and from the late 50's the bell was silent until the tower and bell supports were repaired and strengthened in 1983. The bell can now be safely rung.

In 1999, the bell tower took on a new look when the addition of the ground level entrance and elevator were added on the north side of the church. This extension also includes a new devotional chapel dedicated to St. Padre Pio that allows the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed for private devotion. In this new entrance stands the original baptismal font from the former baptistery which is now the Cry Room. Visitors leaving the church through the new addition walk out onto a brick patio known as the Walk of Faith. The engraved bricks include names memorialized or honored by donors to the remodeling project.

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a long-time parishioner, we hope you find this tour both inspirational and informative. If you have historical information to add, please send it to the parish office to the attention of the Evangelization Ministry.

## Legend and Biblical References for Stained Glass Windows

### North Side: (West to East)

- 1 Jesus in the Temple Lk 2:46
- 2 Holy Family Lk 2:51
- 3 Nativity Lk 2:7
- 4 Annunciation Lk 1:28
- 5 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven (Declared an infalliable dogma in 1950 - Feast is celebrated August 15th)

### Dome Area:

- 12 Ascension Lk 24:51
- 13 Transfiguration Mt 17:2-3; Lk 9:29-31

## Clerestory Windows: North Side - West to East

- St. Joseph
- St. Anthony
- St. Aloysius
- St. Rita
- Blessed Virgin Mary
- Christ (Crown of Thorns)
- St. Thomas
- St. Matthias
- St. Thaddeus
- St. Bartholemew
- St. Simon
- St. Paul
- St. Peter
- St. Mark

## Clerestory Windows: South Side - East to West

- St. Luke
- St. John the Apostle
- St. James Major
- St. Andrew
- St. James Minor
- St. Philip
- St. Elizabeth
- St. Therese (The Little Flower)
- St. Margaret
- Young Jesus
- St. Agnes
- St. Vincent

## Legend and Biblical References for Stained Glass Windows

### South Side: (West to East)

- 6 Baptism of Jesus Mt 3:16
- 7 Good Shepherd Jn 10:14
- 8 Wedding Feast Jn 2:7
- 9 Jesus w/ Children Mt 19:14; Lk 18:16
- 10 The Rich Young Man Mt 8:8
- 11 Garden of Gethsemane Mt 26:39; Mk 14:36; Lk 22:42

- 14 Cry Room: Angels with Lamb, Chalice, Holy Spirit
- 15 Stairway: Ave Maria, Holy Bible, INRI

- 16 Choir Loft: St. Cecelia
- 17 Sacristy: (Closed to the Public) Lamb of God, Immaculate Heart of Mary, INRI, Pelicans

- 18 St. Padre Pio Chapel: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 19 Bell Tower: Three Doves Bread, Peter's Keys, Palm Branches

# Church Floor Plan

