

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Second Sunday of Advent – Dec. 9, 2018

St. Joseph of the Valley: 31151 207th Street, (Rural) Leavenworth, KS 66048
 St. Lawrence: 211 West Riley, Easton, KS 66020
 Parish Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129, Easton, KS 66020

Father Mathew Francis, Pastor
 Pastor's Email: fmathew62@yahoo.com
 Easton Rectory Phone: 913-773-5712
 Father's Cell Phone: 913-547-3300

Website: www.sjslparish.org
 St. Joseph of the Valley Hall: 913-758-9225
 St. Lawrence Hall & Fax: 913-773-8401
 “LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

TUES	Dec 11	06:00 pm	STL	Stephen Payeur †
<i>Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m.</i>				
WED	Dec 12	06:30 am	STL	Parishioners of SJ-SL
THUR	Dec 13	09:30 am	ENH	Country Care Residents Easton Nursing Home
FRI	Dec 14	07:30 am	SJV	All intentions for pilgrimage to grave of Fr. George Bertels this Advent
SAT	Dec 15	05:00 pm	SJV	Shirley Karczewski and Jamie Karczewski †
SUN	Dec 16	09:00 am	STL	Eugene (Bud) Wagner †
<i>Confessions: SAT-4:30 pm at SJV; SUN-8:30 am at STL</i>				

Please pray for the sick, especially: Phil Bell, Susie Beying, Doris Blockburger, Ellen Boudreaux, Joe Brose, Carl Davidson, Georgia Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Ronnie Gast, Pete Gwartney, Alan Halstead, Marly Heim, Frank Heintzelman, Jim Heintzelman, Lydia Heintzelman, Melanie Herken, Jon Highfill, Trista Highfill, Mark Hund, Arlene Jennings, Michael Jones, Phillip Leon, Kelly Long, Matt David Massoth, Mary Meinert, Jeni Mettelstedt, Kay Nocktonick, Dannie Phillips, Adam Pineau, Mike Pursel, Mary M. Ruhlman, Irene Schmidling, Tanner Siebenmorgen, Julie Simonis, Jim (Poly) Sloan, Gary Stafford, Louise Wistuba and Nick Yuska.

Prayer List for Our Soldiers: ARMY: 1LT Daniel Broaddus, Pvt. David Crook, Lexi (Skaggs) Hargis, Major Bryan Herken, PFC Colby Seifert, William Stradley. AIRFORCE: E-4 Robert W. Herken, TSGT Scott Loecher, E-1 Connor Schuler, A1C Noah Tattershall. NAVY: ADDA Jason P. Herken, YNS1(SS) Kevin Lansing.

Prayer for Vocations: Brother Seelos (Tyler Lunsford).

LITURGICAL MINISTERS – Dec. 15th and 16th

			EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	LECTORS	OFFERTORY
SAT	SJV	5:00 pm	Vince Eimer, Aaron & Vickie Welch	Vince Eimer	Luke Beying and family
SUN	STL	9:00 am	Mary Ray, Geri Wilburn, Sue Griffee	John Johnston	Liv Fletchall and family

OUR PARISH NEWS

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! We received \$2,685, including \$20 for the SJV Cemetery, \$15 for CCHD, and \$20 for memorials, as well as last week's on-line collection of \$5. Thank you for your generosity. Visit our website OR Facebook page to click on the link to donate on-line!

SECOND COLLECTION: will be held this weekend of Dec. 9th for Retirement Fund for Religious. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

ANGEL TREE PROJECT-This year our Community is having a particularly bad time for some of our families. I contacted the Primary School Principal and she already had five families whom she felt were really struggling. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful response taking the Angels from our trees. If you did not get an Angel, Wal-Mart Cards and Gas Cards are always appreciated. I know you all are so giving for responding to our pleas. The teachers have been buying snacks to supplement their meals at school because some of these children are really hungry. Things they could use in individual servings are PB or Cheese Crackers, Goldfish, Fruit Cups, Pretzels, Graham Crackers, Teddy Grahams, Animal Crackers, Pudding Cups, Applesauce, Cheez its, Cereal Bars, Granola Bars, Nutri Grain Bars, Raisins or Yogurt Covered Raisins. Please have your Angels back by Dec. 16th so she can get them to the families before Christmas Vacation. My sincere thanks to all of you and may you have a wonderful and Blessed Christmas.

PILGRIMAGE/MASS INTENTIONS: Members of the Bible Study group at St. Frances de Sales knew Fr. George Bertels for many years. They have stated that they miss his presence and guidance. Some members of that group (Tad & Tama Brzustowicz) will be making a pilgrimage to his grave in Nortonville this Advent, and have offered to take your intentions for petition, praise, requests for intercession for healing - both spiritual and physical, all. The mechanics are to place our written intention in a sealed envelope. There will be a brown envelope in the church to collect them. Please turn in your intentions **by Thursday, Dec 13th**. Your intentions will be blessed. They will not be opened. They will take them to the grave and offer prayers according to the guidance for local pilgrimages from the USCCB. Upon returning home they will be burned in their fire pit using sacramental candles.

NATIVITY PLAY: Our CCD students will perform their Nativity play on Saturday, Dec. 15th after the 5 p.m. Mass at SJV in Bertels Hall. Dinner and refreshments will be served after the play. Please join us!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION will be held on Sunday, Dec. 16th, from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church. Please join us!

FAREWELL: Fr. Mathew has been informed by the Archdiocesan office that he will be temporarily assigned to Mother Teresa Parish in Topeka, Kansas after his vacation in January. His last masses at St. Joseph-St. Lawrence will be on Jan. 5th and 6th. He will be assigned to a new parish in July 2019, and we will be assigned a new priest also at that time. We will bid him farewell at a parish breakfast on Jan. 6th after mass at St. Lawrence Hall.

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHEAST KANSAS (CCNK), FISCAL YEAR 2018 AT-A-GLANCE: *Every 60 seconds, CCNK provides help and opportunity to families across our 21-county service area; *Over 5,000 times per week, food assistance was provided to families in our community; *2,533 times housing assistance was provided to those facing homelessness; *1,600: volunteers each month carry out the mission of CCNK. CCNK's mission is to provide help, hospitality and hope to our neighbors in need. Thank you for being a part of this mission by considering a generous gift to the Christmas collection to help the less fortunate.

HOW DO WE CHANGE OUR CULTURE OF DEATH?
 Pope John Paul II noted that the structure of man's sin is characterized or manifest on a universal scale in our Culture of Death. He pointed out that the powerful are easily able to manhandle the weak (e.g. abortion and euthanasia). The culture of death is not the result of philosophy or decrepit ethics, or political theory. The culture of death is a result of sin committed freely by persons. Thus, it is fundamentally a personal problem, not a political one. So, the battle will not be won solely by a political action or movement, because the battle is not against human beings or arid philosophies, but is a battle against sin: "For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens" (Eph. 6:12).

Therefore, first and foremost, we must first recognize God's saving action and saving mission, and then participate in it. This has always been, and will always be the Church's role. We love because He loved us first (1 Jn. 4:19), and we spread that love through our testimony to the nations (Acts 1:8). We must try to influence our culture with our words and deeds, realizing that the purpose of evangelization is always to introduce man to the Person of Christ, and the Person of Christ to man, that man might enter into His mystical body, the Church.

Thus, through grace attained by turning to Him, the culture of death can indeed be transformed, simply because the Gospel always has the power to transform the hearts of men...even when the culture seems most evil, hopeless and perverse.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS Charitable donations may be more complicated under the new tax law. Many CPAs and tax attorneys recommend a strategy of 'bundling' deductible gifts into alternate years. One way to bundle charitable gifts, according to your Catholic values, is through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with the Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas. More information is available at www.cfnek.org/daf or call 913-647-3062.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY BREATHE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM Saturday, Dec. 15, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Holy Cross Catholic School 8101 West 95th Street Overland Park, Kansas. BREATHE Respite Care provides the gift of time away from caregiving for families who have a loved one with a disability age 5 and older. If you have any questions regarding the program please contact Tom Racunas, Archdiocese Lead Consultant of the Special Needs Ministry, at 913.647.3054 or by email at tracunas@archkck.org. To register a loved one please go to www.archkck.org/specialneeds and complete the on-line form.

PROLIFE CHRISTMAS CAROLING: will be held Saturday, Dec. 22nd, 9 am to 10 am at Planned Parenthood, 4401 W. 109th St, Overland Park, KS.

PLEASE NOTE – There are a large number of other Archdiocesan announcements that could not fit in the space available. They will be posted on our church website listed above as a 2nd page to this bulletin.

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(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)

MEMORIAL GIFT: A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare and work at a balanced estate plan. Be sure to include our parish in those plans. For information about joining our Catholic Legacy Society, contact the parish office.

MAUR HILL - MOUNT ACADEMY is administering the 8th grade entrance exam on Saturday morning, Feb. 9, 2019. The exam is required for all 8th graders applying to MH-MA and families need to register their student by **January 18**. Please visit the “Apply” page at www.mh-ma.com to register your 8th grader for the exam prior to the deadline. Contact the MH-MA admission office with any questions at 913-367-5482 or admissions@mh-ma.com.

SURGE OF THE HEART 3-DAY PARISH MISSION

Jan. 13-15th, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Church in Olpe, KS. Nationally known Catholic speaker, best-selling author, and radio host Jon Leonetti, will be helping Catholics understand this greatest story ever told- the story of Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church. Jon will present on 3 distinct topics of our Catholic faith! Evening 1: Who is God and why does that matter? Evening 2: Jon will outline some of the most fascinating and holy people to ever walk the planet; Evening 3: Jon will help us live an authentic relationship with Jesus in the messiness of everyday life. This will be a life changing experience. Invite a family member or friend and join us in Olpe. Please COME!!!!

“COPING WITH LIFE ALONE” - PEER-TO-PEER GRIEF SUPPORT

"Coping with Life Alone ®" is a Beginning Experience ® grief support program that meets each week for 7 weeks. The program helps those who have lost a love relationship due to death, divorce or separation, move through the experience of grief and loss into a future with renewed hope. Upcoming program dates and location: Overland Park, KS – Saturdays, **January 5 through February 16**, at Church of the Ascension, St. Mark Room, 9510 W 127th St, Overland Park, KS. Sessions will be from 2:00-4:00 pm. Contact Donna at (816-305-3760), for information and registration.

2019 IGNITE – YOUTH RALLY

Please join us for the 2019 Ignite Youth Rally In Topeka, on **January 22, 2019**, at the Topeka Performing Arts Center. Event begins at 9:00am MASS at 11:15am concelebrated by Archbishop Naumann and Bishop Brungardt. March to KS Capital Steps and Kansans for Life Rally following Mass. Wichita Adore Ministries will be providing worship music and entertainment. Our keynote address will be David Scotten from “I Lived on Parker Avenue”. A story about adoption, forgiveness and hope. Please contact the Pro-Life Office at 913-647-3059 or at prolife@archkck.org with any questions. Visit www.archkck.org/ignite for more information and registration details.

LIVING IN LOVE” RETREAT: See why over 700 couples in the Archdiocese have experienced the “Living in Love” retreat. You can sign up now for the “Living in Love” retreat at Holy Spirit Parish, Overland Park, **Feb. 16-17, 2019**. Register online at www.archkck.org/LivingInLove or contact Mary Anne Kierl at the Archdiocese at 913-647-0345 for information.

SAVE THE DATE- JR. HIGH YOUTH RALLY: Please save the date, **Feb. 24th, 2019**, for the Jr. High Youth Rally at Prairie Star Ranch, featuring Steve Angrisano & the Mikey Needleman Band.

MARRIED COUPLES

It has been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is two parents very much in love with each other. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You deserve the best and your children need to see you reaching for it. The next Weekend in Kansas City is **March 1-3, 2019**. For more information or to apply, please visit our website: www.wwme4youandme.org or call Tony & Barb Zimmerman, 816-741-4066 or email tonybarbz@prodiqy.net

3-DAY WORKSHOP FOR MEN FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2, 2019

The “My House Workshop for Men” will be held Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2019. This is a 3-day confidential, intensive for men striving to overcome and heal from unwanted sexual behaviors; includes a half day on betrayal trauma and how this addiction impacts a spouse. The workshop is led by Dr. Todd Bowman, Fr. Sean Kilcawley, Michael Ciacchio and Sam Meier. For additional information and to register, visit <https://centerforhealingkc.com/my-house/my-houseworkshop>.

SPRING ICSC REGION IX CONFERENCE 2019: Please mark your calendars for the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) Region IX Spring Conference. What a great opportunity to “spring” into stewardship action! It will be **April 11 and 12, 2019** in Wichita, KS at the Spiritual Life Center, 7100 E 45th St N, Bel Aire, KS, 67226 (316)744-0167. More details to follow. Please contact Leslie Knop with any questions at (913) 647-0326, or email her at lknop@archkck.org.

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PORNOGRAPHY AND SEXUAL ABUSE

As a parent with young children, I feel frightened about the following information from Children’s Mercy Hospital about child on child sexual abuse:

“For the third year in a row, our biggest age range of people committing sexual assaults are children ages 11-15 years old ... I started looking through our past sexual assault victim’s stories and found hundreds and hundreds of records of sexual assault survivors who were perpetrated on by another child. Pornography is often a main factor, and sometimes the only factor, that influenced a child to act out in a sexually harmful way.” - July 2018, Heidi Olson, RN, BSN, CPN, Sexual Assault Nurse

Examiner Program Coordinator, Children’s Mercy Hospital

• In this short video, Heidi Olson indicated that Children’s Mercy treats 1-2 victims of child sexual abuse each day - <https://www.facebook.com/ProtectYM/videos/1025885260902569/>
We need your help to get ahead of the curve on this issue. We have launched a campaign through #GiveCatholic called “Protect Young Minds KCK” to raise funds for over 3,000 copies of the best-selling book Good Pictures Bad Pictures for all parents of 2nd graders in our Archdiocese. (Last year there were 3,020 2nd graders in our Archdiocese.)
• Donations to #GiveCatholic - Protect Young Minds KCK will also provide 16 parent presentations and a professionally filmed video for parents.

Amanda Khemraj is doing great work on this campaign, and she works closely with the author of Good Pictures Bad Pictures. Amanda directed a large early education center for years and is actively involved in Christ Renews His Parish and other programs at St. Paul’s in Olathe.

We ask you to please support this campaign with your prayers and donations. Also, please spread the word about this campaign to friends, family, Church and school leaders - <https://kansascity.igivecatholic.org/organizations/protectingyoungmindsck>

MARRIAGE MINUTE: Are we there yet?

If you have ever been on a road trip, you may have had a child ask, “Are we there yet?” Who can blame them? All of us desire obstacles to be removed, so we can reach our destination.

In this weekend’s Gospel, the way is being “made straight” for the coming of the Messiah, meaning the obstacles in the path will be cleared so it is easier for us to reach God, our ultimate destination. For married couples, our spouse is not an obstacle to God, but rather, the means to Him. God desires to draw us into His life through our spouse. Therefore, let’s:

- Bring low the mountains of our pride through humility.
 - Fill in the valleys of our woundedness with forgiveness.
 - Make straight the lines of communication between us.
- Consider the gift of a marriage retreat for Christmas, www.archkck.org/livinginlove.

BULLETIN ITEMS: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 or email sislparish@gmail.com. Mass intentions may be scheduled with Kim as well.