

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Third Sunday of Advent – Dec. 16, 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 18	06:00 pm	STL	Danny Herken <i>✠</i>
<i>Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m.</i>				
WED	Dec 19	06:30 am	STL	Parishioners of SJ-SL
THUR	Dec 20	09:30 am	ENH	Country Care Residents Easton Nursing Home
FRI	Dec 21	07:30 am	SJV	All intentions for pilgrimage to grave of Fr. George Bertels this Advent
SAT	Dec 22	05:00 pm	SJV	Sam Ernzen <i>✠</i>
SUN	Dec 23	09:00 am	STL	Mary Gwartney <i>✠</i>
<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 Schmiding, 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. 22nd and 23rd

			EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	LECTORS	OFFERTORY
SAT	SJV	5:00 pm	Robert Jardon, Carol Kroll, Rita Herken	Rita Herken	Noah Johnson and family
SUN	STL	9:00 am	Sharon Wagner, Mary Ray, Geri Wilburn, Sue Griffiee	Rita Oatney	Haley Heim and family

OUR PARISH NEWS

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! We received Regular Collection \$1472, Special Collection for Holy Day \$30, Priests retirement fund \$435, Mass Stipend \$30, Gifts and Bequests \$1395 and SL Hall Rent \$150 for a total of \$3512. We also received \$20 for SJV Cemetery and \$220 for St. Lawrence Cemetery, as well as last week's on-line collection of \$154.63. Thank you for your generosity. Visit our website OR Facebook page to click on the link to donate on-line!

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES are available in the back of each of the churches for those who use them for their weekly contributions. Please feel free to pick them up.

CONDOLENCES: Prayers and condolences to Donna Rogers and her family on the death of her husband, Jack, who passed away on Dec. 9th. May he rest in peace.

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!

SECOND COLLECTION will be held during Christmas mass for Catholic Charities. We appreciate your generosity!

LEAVENWORTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES sincerely thank our parishioners for their support and generosity. Contributions from our parish help to feed families in need for two weeks. Please continue to be generous to this cause.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Below is the schedule for the upcoming Masses for this holiday season. We hope that you can join us!

MON	Dec. 24 th	4:00 pm	SJV
MON	Dec. 24 th	10:00 pm	STL
TUES	Dec. 25 th	10:00 am	STL
MON	Dec. 31 st	5:00 pm	SJV
TUES	Jan. 1 st	9:00 am	STL

LIONS CLUB COMMITTEE – Jan. 3rd - Chairman, Karen Logan, Donna Gates Cindy Werner and Peggy Gwartney.

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): In early spring, Donna came to CCNK to inquire about the services available at the Emergency Assistance Center. Through tear-filled eyes, she explained that her 18 year old nephew, Dustin, had been homeless through the harsh winter. She had recently discovered him living in a dog kennel trying to stay warm. Although Donna's own apartment was a meager 500 square feet, she took her nephew in to live with her. However, due to her own debilitating health issues, she could not financially afford to provide for the both of them. Both Donna and Dustin were immediately welcomed to utilize the CC food pantry.

The following week, they returned to use the clothing closet as Dustin had found employment with a tree company and needed some work clothes. A local volunteer group learned of their story and donated a bag of brand new clothing including work gloves to protect Dustin's hands. CC directed Dustin to resources to help him apply for his GED. As of now, Dustin is gainfully employed, working on his GED, and on his way to self-sufficiency. Donna says that her relationship with her nephew has become mutually beneficial as he helps take care of her and she continues to provide a roof over her head.

Thank you for considering a gift to the Christmas Collection to support the mission of CC.

THE “DIFFERENCES” BETWEEN THE BABY IN THE WOMB AND THE NEWBORN BABY

There are four “differences” between the baby in the mother's womb (or so-called fetus) who has no protection under the law from a newborn baby, who is protected:

1. Size. The baby in the womb is usually smaller than newborns. The question, then, is what does size have to do with rights of personhood? The answer: nothing.
2. Level of development Babies in the womb are less developed than a newborn (unless the newborn is born prematurely). Again this has no moral significance. Children are generally less developed than adults and all human beings continue to develop and change throughout our entire lives. It is humanity, not brain capacity or strength that determines personhood.
3. Location. The baby in the womb has a different place of residence. Again this is irrelevant because personhood stems from being a human being, not from your location.
4. Dependency. Abortion protagonists love to argue that, “since a fetus cannot survive on its own, it has no inherent right to life”. The problem with this argument is that to varying degrees, we are all dependent on others. Moreover, newborn babies and small children are absolutely dependent upon their parents for survival. What is absurd about this line of thinking is the fact that dependency should merit more protection under the law, not less! We are all far more outraged, for example, at violence towards children than at violence towards other adults. The reason is obvious. Children are more helpless and innocent and less capable of defending themselves than adults. The child in the mother's womb is the most helpless and innocent and the least capable of defending themselves. That is precisely why we must fight to protect them! Every person is part of God's plan.

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

BABY SHOWER: The Knights of Columbus Immaculata Council #900 is conducting their 19th Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower throughout the month of **January 2019**. Donations of new and used clothing, diapers, baby formula or cash donations are very much needed and appreciated. Baskets will be located in the entries of SJV beginning in January. The donations will then be given to Birthright of Leavenworth. For more information, please contact Tim Ledniky, 913-680-0422.

THE CALL TO ADDRESS RACISM IN OUR HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES In their new pastoral letter against racism, Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, the Catholic bishops of the United States invite conversion of hearts, minds, and institutions in order to address the evil of racism that still exists in our communities. You can read this letter and find other great USCCB resources against racism at www.usccb.org/racism.

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.

Bulletin Items: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 Or Email Sjslparish@gmail.com. Mass intentions may be scheduled with Kim as well. MUST SUBMIT BY 9 pm TUES FOR INCLUSION.

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(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL? The State of Kansas has made one for you – which may not distribute your estate according to your wishes. For your protection and the security of your heirs, consult an attorney about making out your will. 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.

DINNER WITH ROY: Adult parishioners are invited to join Rural YM Outreach for dinner and discussion with Roy Petitfils. Roy is an internationally recognized expert in understanding teens and author of: **WHAT TEENS WANT YOU TO KNOW (BUT WON'T TELL YOU)**. Anyone that knows and loves our teenagers is welcome to attend – parents, grandparents, catechists, youth leaders and priests. Rural parishes will earn grant money for their parish youth programs based on attendance. Please check out www.roypetitfils.com and www.archkck.org/rural-outreach for more information. Dates available are: **Jan. 12th**, 10am to 2 pm, at Sacred Heart, Emporia; **Jan. 12th** 5-9 pm, St. Aloysius, Meriden; or **Jan. 13th** Noon-4 pm, St. Bede, Kelly. All sessions include an appreciation meal. Attendance earns grant money for your rural parish.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY BREATHE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM Saturday, **Jan. 12, 2019**, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at 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.

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.

F.I.R.E. MEN'S RETREAT AT PRAIRIE STAR RANCH, Feb. 9-10, 2019. F.I.R.E. is a very unique Catholic men's retreat that combines a love for outdoor activities like camping, hiking, hunting and fishing with powerful and exciting encounters with the Sacraments. Through Fellowship, Inspiration, and Renewal – attendees will leave the retreat ready to Engage in their faith like never before. Sign up now at: www.fire-ministries.org or find out more at fire.retreats@gmail.com or 816.590.1744.

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 Mike 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.wvme4youandme.org or call Tony & Barb Zimmerman, 816-741-4066 or email tonybarbz@prodigy.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 Ciaccio 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/protectingyoungmindskck>

MARRIAGE MINUTE: It's all about joy!

This week of Advent is all about joy. Not a sugar-coated “holiday feeling,” but a deep trust and peace that comes from God and often “surpasses all understanding.” When asked how to get this joy, John the Baptist told people to live their current situation well. In other words, focus your efforts on the vocation God has called you to.

Consider these options to increase your joy:

- Pray that God would help you see your spouse as God sees him or her.
- Affirm your husband's or wife's strength or beauty.
- Tell him or her why they are a great dad or mom.

As we lean into our vocation, joy is released. Consider a marriage retreat in the New Year: www.archkck.org/livinginlove.

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