

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Second Sunday of Easter– April 19, 2020

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 Francis Bakyor, Pastor
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Website: www.sjslparish.org
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St. Lawrence Hall & Fax: 913-773-8401
“LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

TUES	April 21	06:00 pm	STL	CANCELLED
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Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED

WED	April 22	06:30 am	STL	CANCELLED
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FRI	April 24	07:30 am	SJV	CANCELLED
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SAT	April 25	05:00 pm	SJV	CANCELLED
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SUN	April 26	09:00 am	STL	CANCELLED
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Confessions: SAT-4:30 pm at SJV; SUN-8:30 at STL- CANCELLED

PLEASE NOTE: Archbishop Naumann has cancelled all public celebrations of the Holy Mass effective March 17th and until further notice. Please pray for the health and protection of our entire community and nation, and for an end to this crisis.

Please pray for the sick, especially: Phil Bell, Deacon Guy Berry, Susie Beying, Joe Brose, Jennifer Brushwood, Glenn Coffey, Carl Davidson, George Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Donald Ernzen, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Ronnie Gast, Alan Halstead, Marly Heim, Richard Heim, Rita Sachse Heim, Frank Heintzelman, Jim Heintzelman, Lydia Heintzelman, Melanie Herken, Jon Highfill, Trista Highfill, Mark Hund, Arlene Jennings, Wendi Johnston, Michael Jones, Elmer Karczewski, Phillip Leon, Kelly Long, Joyce Lowe, Mary Meinert, Jeni Mettelstedt, Don Navinsky, Kay Nocktonick, Dannie Phillips, Adam Pineau, Mike Pursel, Mary M. Ruhlman, Kim Sachse, Tanner Siebenmorgen, Julie Simonis, Jim (Poly) Sloan, Gary Stafford, Aaron Welch, Louise Wistuba and Nick Yuska.

Prayer List for Our Soldiers: ARMY: 1LT Daniel Broaddus, Pvt. David Crook, Lexi (Skaggs) Hargis, Major Bryan Herken, SPC Derrick Hunt, SGT Colby Seifert, William Stradley. AIRFORCE: E-4 Robert W. Herken, TSGT Scott Loecher, E-3 Connor Schuler, A1C Noah Tattershall. NAVY: ADDA Jason P. Herken, YNS1 (SS) Kevin Lansing.

Prayer for Vocations: Brother Seelos (Tyler Lunsford).

OUR PARISH NEWS

REMINDER: Father would like to encourage everyone to pray for the health and protection of our entire community and nation, for all our brothers and sisters who are ill, for their caretakers, doctors, nurses, medical and emergency preparedness personnel and elected officials. Should you have an emergency and need to speak with Father, you are encouraged to call him at 913-773-5712 or 913-235-6837.

Please call Father to make an appointment for Confession, if desired. We are also encouraged to go to the Church for private prayers and adoration (but no more than 10 people at a time, and observing the social distancing of 6 ft apart). St. Joseph of the Valley and St. Lawrence Church will be open and available for private visits and prayers from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday starting on Monday, March 30th. At no time shall there be more than ten persons present in the church at one time. Each person should keep proper social distance (minimum of 6 feet) from one another.

Father has also provided his Homily for this Sunday. It is attached to this bulletin.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

On the second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It's an annual feast honoring devotion to Christ's tender mercy for all humanity. It is based on the private revelations that St. Faustina Kowalska received which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy. Jesus himself gave Sister Faustina The Divine Mercy Chaplet in 1935.

Do you know the Divine Mercy Chaplet? In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, we encourage you to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a family this week. It has a similar structure to the rosary (e.g. 5 sets of 10 prayers), so you can use rosary beads to help you keep your place.

How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet:

<https://formationreimagined.org/divine-mercy/>

Kid's Video about St. Faustina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDQHTDFEKQs>

Make a Divine Mercy Chaplet

<https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2013/04/pop-out-ivine-mercy-chaplet.html>

History of Divine Mercy

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/history>

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! Collections received this week totaled \$795.00. Last week's on-line collection was \$478.40. Thank you for your generosity.

DO YOU WANT TO DONATE and not sure how during this time?

In Father's letter of March 24th, he wrote "I know many families are going through hard times this period. I would still like to encourage everyone to continue giving your weekly donations for the upkeep of the parish through online or mail services. God loves a cheerful giver." **Any donations during this difficult time will be greatly appreciated.** You can mail in your donations to: St. Joseph-St. Lawrence, P.O. Box 129, Easton, KS 66020 or deposit online by visiting our website at <https://www.sjslparish.org/home/donations> to click on the link to donate on-line! Thank you! We wish everyone good health. Blessings to all!

PLEASE NOTE: The Collection for the Holy Land (scheduled for Easter weekend) has been moved to Sunday, Sept. 13th due to the COVID-19 crisis.

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRO-LIFE PRAYER SERVICE will be held on Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 pm CDT. It is offered through live-streaming with Archbishop Naumann from the Cathedral of St. Peter in Kansas City KS. The prayer service will include scripture readings, Adoration, a homily given by Archbishop, and praise and worship music. All are welcome to join in this service that will bring hope and healing to those who have been affected by abortion and to our country as a whole. To view- <https://livestream.com/archkck>.

PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us. He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

COUPLES CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 2020:

The Archdiocesan 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration has been rescheduled to Sunday, August 23rd, at 2:00 pm, at the Church of the Nativity/Leawood. To receive your invitation from Archbishop Naumann, please call the parish office and give us your name, address, phone number and date of your wedding. Please do this as soon as possible.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: "We are all called to combat every form of slavery and build fraternity – all of us, each one according to his or her own responsibility" (Pope Francis). **HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEMANDS OUR ATTENTION – LET'S WORK TOGETHER** U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. **VISIT LINK>** (www.sistersagainstrafficking.org) USCSAHT is a 501© 3 org. 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING WRONG!

Any reasonable person considers the possibility that he (or she) could be wrong regarding any important position they take. If the pro-life movement is wrong, then we are guilty of trying to deny women a so-called right to privacy (which has never been part of our Constitution). But, if the pro-abortion side is wrong, then they are indisputably and directly responsible for the slaughter and mass murder of millions of innocent children – three and a half thousand a day in the United States. So, the question is, would it be better to be pro-life and wrong, or pro-choice and wrong? The answer is very clear!

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 Sisparish@gmail.com. Mass intentions may be scheduled with Kim as well. MUST SUBMIT BY 9 pm TUES FOR INCLUSION.

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PAGE 2 – bulletin
(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)

CAMP KATERI TEKAKWITHA combines demanding outdoor activities with powerful, spiritual instruction bringing about a unique encounter with God. Although our adventure activities are memorable, often the love that campers experience through prayer is what kids remember most. Take advantage of this amazing opportunity for your kids. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.archkck.org/camp>

NOTE: MESSAGE ABOUT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Archdiocese is closely monitoring the unfolding COVID-19 situation. At this time no decisions have been made about summer programs of Camp Tekakwitha, Totus Tuus or Prayer/Action. We will keep you updated as we explore all possible options for safely conducting summer programs in 2020.

“THE HISTORY & LEGACY OF IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL” is now available for purchase from the publisher, Lulu.com. Access the link to order from Facebook pages “Forever Raiders”, “Immaculata High School Alumni” or “The History & Legacy of Immaculata High School”. Direct link is:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/mary-ann-sachse-brown-and-marti-sachse-judson/the-history-legacy-of-immaculata-catholic-high-school-in-the-first-city-of-kansas/hardcover/product-24157407.html> This is a keepsake hardcover 120 page book with nearly 300 images. Available in color (best quality) or black and white.

CREATING FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR A LOVED ONE WITH SPECIAL

NEEDS: Tuesday, **May 5, 2020**, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 11822 Homes Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64131

- Establishing a Special Needs Trust
- Guardianship
- The Achieving Better Life Experiences Act of 2013 (ABLE) which allows for tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. RSVP to Tom Racunas at tracunas@archkck.org or call 913.647.3054. Sponsored by the Special Needs Ministries of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the Diocese of Kansas City—St. Joseph Missouri

AMAZING PARISH: Registration is filling fast for the upcoming Amazing Parish Conference hosted by our Archdiocese on **Oct. 19-21st** at the Overland Park Convention Center. Parish teams from around the country have already signed up to take part in this valuable training! Register Here: <https://amazingparish.org/>

What does an Amazing Parish look like? If you're ready to build an effective leadership team and improve the organizational health of your parish, we hope you'll join us. Amazing Parish gives busy pastors and their teams the tools they need to transform their parishes - moving from maintenance mode to mission communities that are truly alive! For more information: Parish Journey – A Pastor's First Steps, <https://amazingparish.org/get-started/#firststeps> or call the Office of Evangelization at 913-721-1570

FAITH-BUILDING AND EVANGELIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

Benedictine College is pleased to offer a number of opportunities for faith-building and evangelization:

Study Abroad Experience: Attention, Parents and Grandparents! Do you know a high school student who would benefit from a once-in-a-lifetime short-term study abroad experience with Benedictine College? Students earn 3 hours of college credit while traveling with a Benedictine College professor to Italy **June 26 – July 16, 2020**. Highlights include a general audience with Pope Francis, guided visits to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Padua, Ravenna, Verona, and Milan. Register by December 1 to save \$500! Learn more and submit an inquiry form at www.benedictine.edu/journeywithdante.

Faith & Beauty in Italy - You are invited to travel with Benedictine College to Italy **June 15 – 24, 2020** with Associate Professor of Theology Dr. Matt Ramage. Visit the most significant cultural sites in Rome and Florence. Walk in the footsteps of St. Benedict and St. Francis in Subiaco and Assisi. Meet current Benedictine College students at their summer villa in Florence. Learn more and submit an inquiry form at <http://www.benedictine.edu/ravendiscovery>.

Opportunity for College Students and Adult Learners – Benedictine College Professor of Theology Dr. Mark Zia will lead a two-week Holy Land Study Abroad Summer Program **May 31 – June 14, 2020**. Earn 3 credit hours while traveling to Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, and other sites. Learn more and submit an inquiry form at <http://www.benedictine.edu/holyland>.

NEW END-OF-LIFE RESOURCE GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Ethics Council that serves Archbishop Naumann has produced a comprehensive resource for end-of-life planning titled “Catholic Guide For-End-Of Life and Establishing of Advance Directives”. The purpose of the guide is to assist the faithful in making wise decisions about complex treatments in grave illness or as life's end approaches in accordance with the teachings of our Catholic faith. It also includes two Appendices for a Durable Power of Attorney and an Advance Directive form. For a free digital copy of the Guide, visit www.archkck.org/prolife-end-of-life-care.

Second Sunday after Easter, Year A (4/19/2020)

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Texts: First Reading. Acts.2:42-47.

Second Reading. 1Pet.1:3-9

Third Reading. John.20:19-31

Theme: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

Congregation: St. Joseph -St. Lawrence Parish, Easton.

In the town of Wishaw there lived an earnest Christian man who became a magistrate. One morning there appeared before him in the court a friend of his youth, who had strayed from the path of righteousness and had committed an offense against the law of the land. Those who know the relationship between the two men, expected the magistrate to deal with the man mercifully, and they were very much surprised when they heard that the sentence was a heavy fine. But they were more surprised when the magistrate went to the officer of the court and took from his own pocket the money to pay the fine. He did his duty as a magistrate, and upheld the law, but he also showed something of the mercy of God, for his friend when he paid the penalty for his friend. There is little wonder that the law-breaker was broken-hearted in his repentance.

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Easter and with it we conclude the octave of Easter. We know that Easter is the most solemn of all Christian feasts and it is so great that an event that one day of celebration does not suffice. We needed eight days of liturgical celebrations to contemplate and assimilate the Easter mysteries. On this 2nd Sunday of Easter, every year we have the same Gospel Readings, though the other two readings may vary. The Gospel passage of today from John begins with the narration of the first appearance of the risen Lord to his disciples on the day of Easter, it then goes on to narrate the appearance of the Lord to Thomas (who was absent on the day of Easter) along with the other disciples. The latter takes place on the eighth day of Easter. Thus, the gospel text of today really links Easter Sunday to the Octave. A very apt reading indeed to conclude the Octave of Easter.

Again, the 2nd Easter Sunday is also known as the "Divine Mercy Sunday". Our Lord Jesus appeared to Sr. Faustina in the 1930 and promised that he would bestow his Divine Mercy, to any sinner that totally repents his/her sins, no matter how grave and our Lord would not refuse any soul his mercy. It is not a mere coincidence that in the private revelations that Sr. Faustina received Jesus asked on numerous occasions that a feast be celebrated to the Divine Mercy, and that the feast be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Therefore, on 30th April 2000, when Pope John Paul II canonized his country-woman, Sr. Faustina, he said, "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday". In brief, this Sunday invites us to contemplate the Mercy of God. We experience this Divine Mercy very tangible in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and also in Grace-the unmerited favor, the gratuitous gift which God gives to us out of his compassion and merciful love.

So, today is also the feast of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In today's Gospel, Jesus gives authority to his disciples to forgive sins saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained". This is a Divine power given his disciples and handed down to his Church and to our priests. But it is God who really gives pardon and peace. The priest- who takes the place of the "disciples" of Jesus today absolves in the name of the Church, that is, he

frees the penitent from guilt and blame. This understanding is still maintained in the formula of absolution that the priest utters during the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins, through the mystery of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

This is a wonderful possibility available in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; "the visible sign of God's invisible mercy". On this feast then, let us resolve to make frequent confession-good, sincere and open confession-and experience God's Divine Mercy.

Now, it is on the very day of his resurrection that Jesus Christ, risen and triumphant, made his first appearance to his disciples who hovered in fear and huddled behind locked doors. We could recall here his previous appearance in the Gospel of John, in fact the first appearance, was to Mary Magdalene, earlier at the day break. The appearance of the risen Lord was meant to calm their fearful hearts, change their doubting minds and evoke the faith of the disciples in the reality of the resurrection of the one who suffered and died on the cross.

In his appearance to his disciples, after his typical greeting of "Peace be with you" Jesus showed them his wounds and sent them on his mission to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins. After this, He breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit". These two sentences are a mouthful, but, they really describe the beginning of the Church. Pentecost is familiarly described in the Acts of the Apostles.

To further strengthen the fear of the fear-stricken disciples to continue where he stopped, the risen Lord appeared to them again eight days later and stood in their midst and again said to them "Peace be with You". This time together with them was the doubting Thomas who reacted vehemently to their testimony with a protestation. Jesus confronted the doubting Thomas with the stigma of his passion. Thomas' resistance and unbelief broke down completely in the face of the Risen Lord. He then uttered the ultimate Christian profession of Faith: "My Lord and my God". The Risen Lord, however, exhorted him to a greater faith: "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed".

Today's Gospel thus is also an exhortation to us "to believe without seeing".

Therefore, the Gospel is apt for the celebration of Divine Mercy as well as to confront doubt. The Lord kept the marks of his wounds on his risen body. These wounds were necessary to help the apostles remember and recognize him. The Evangelist John tells his recipients: "These are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in him.

Today, we are celebrating "Divine Mercy Sunday" and are joyfully proclaiming: "I WILL SING OF THE MERCIES OF THE LORD". Let us remember that the message behind the Upper Room appearance is that Jesus wanted the disciples to know that his Church is founded on forgiveness and has a mission to bring about peace through forgiveness. This is why he did not only forgive them but also commissioned them to continue his mission of salvation and forgiveness of sins.

It is also to be noted that while the first gift of Easter is joy, the second one is peace. Anything that comes against joy and peace in our lives is not good for us. The person therefore, who fails to forgive his/her neighbor does not only lose identity as a Christian but robs oneself of true peace. In the same

vein, the one doubts his/her faith loses true peace of mind and body. As ambassadors we are to represent Jesus and become dispensers of his peace. And this is the Good News of today.

On a day like this, "Divine Mercy Sunday, I would think that Our lord encourages us to be merciful to one another, in our homes, families and communities, and continue to appreciate the gift of the sacrament of reconciliation in the Church.

Besides encouraging us to be "masters of Divine Mercy", Christ invites us like Thomas to touch his wounds (Jn.20:19-31), wounds that will heal Thomas' wounds of dis belief and faithlessness; wounds that replaces lack of peace with Peace of Christ; wounds that replaces spirit of darkness. with God's Spirit of Light. Christ wounds, a catalyst for testimony of healing truth, courage, unlimited mercy, and inexhaustible love of Christ. Thomas touches wounds of love, unity, wounds that would empower communion, the sharing (koinonia) and the preaching of the early Christian community.

Like Thomas, Mary Magdalene, peter Cleopas, and the Eleven Disciples, we all do have moments of doubt, uncertainties, confusions, disbelief, hopelessness, selfishness and frustrations. Conscious also of those moments we might have acted uncharitably or mercilessly towards our neighbor, we are invited today to deep our hands into those wounds of Christ! And be filled with faith and strengthen by Christ, our wounded healer!

And may our families, neighborhood, Churches, and workplaces continue to be channels and conduits for the transmission of Divine Mercy and faith in the Risen Christ. Lord Jesus continue to show your resurrection power and mercy towards us to end this coronavirus pandemic. Lord Jesu Christ keep us through every hour or the day.

STAY BLESSED AND SAFE.

Fr. Bakyor Francis.