

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Fourth Sunday of Easter– May 3, 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
Easton Rectory Phone: 913-773-5712
Father's cell: 913-235-6837
Father's Email: francis.bakyor@yahoo.com

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	May 5	06:00 pm	STL	CANCELLED
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Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED

WED	May 6	06:30 am	STL	CANCELLED
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FRI	May 8	07:30 am	SJV	CANCELLED
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SAT	May 9	05:00 pm	SJV	CANCELLED
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SUN	May 10	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.

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! Collections received this week totaled \$715.00. Last week's on-line collection was \$205.84. 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!

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE ONLY WAY TO END IT. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. VISIT LINK > (www.sistersagainstrafficking.org) USCSAHT is a 501© 3 organization. 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131

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.

ADOPTION: THE LOVING AND CARING OPTION

In the U.S., there are approximately two million couples waiting to adopt. Clearly, this is absolutely tragic. Many good, loving families are waiting throughout our nation for a baby whom they want to cherish, value, and raise for the rest of that baby's life. Adoption – especially the adoption of a newborn baby – almost always involves a loving, excited couple who have dreamed for years of holding and caring for their own special treasure. Do mothers considering abortion realize that families actually go on waiting lists to adopt newborn babies? Do they realize that some couples wait years to adopt the baby they've desperately waited to hold in their arms? Do mothers realize how many experienced parents with wisdom, resources, and plenty of love are reaching out to adopt another child – no matter his or her race, gender, or disability?

We need to let mothers know that they can handpick their babies' adoptive families. They can choose an open adoption, where they see their babies at certain times throughout the year. They can choose a partially open adoption, where they receive photos and updates about their children's lives. Or they can choose a closed adoption and give their babies completely over to their adoptive families. We must let expectant mothers know that adoption is the loving, caring option.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: CARES Act: This recently passed Congressional law includes a new deduction for charitable donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns. You will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to \$300, to reduce your tax liability. Learn more at CatholicPlannedGiving.org.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: CARES Act: The recently passed Congressional law includes an increase in a tax deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts. Make a gift to the parish this year and deduct more when you prepare your 2020 tax return. Learn more at CatholicPlannedGiving.org.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: ANNUITIES. If you are concerned about your financial security given the ups and downs of the stock market during the COVID-19 crisis, you may want to consider funding a charitable gift annuity and at the same time make a gift to our parish. Provide for your family, protect your assets, and give at the same time. Email Terri Lynn, Office of Stewardship and Development, Planned Giving officer at PlannedGiving@archkck.org for more information.

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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(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.

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 .

4th Sunday after Easter, Year A (5/3/2020)

(Vocations Sunday)

Texts. First Reading-Acts.2:14a,36-41

Second Reading- 1Pt. 2:20a 25

Third Reading.Jn.10:1-10

Theme: I am the gate for the Sheep.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Many warm greetings to you all. I hope you are all staying safe and doing well. I keep all of you in my prayers everyday when celebrating mass in ~~my~~ my private prayers. Let us continue to pray for one another during this stress, confused and difficult times. We shall overcome some day. With trust in the Lord nothing is impossible. Let us turn to listen and reflect on the word of God for this weekend.

"I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" (Jn.10:

Today is the 4th Sunday of Easter and it is commonly known as "God Shepherd Sunday" a day in which the Church recalls the relationship between God and his people as described in the image of Shepherd and Sheep. Each year the Gospel Reading of today is chosen from chapter 10 of St. John's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of himself as the "Good Shepherd". Today, in fact, we listen to the first and the beginning part of that chapter.

In recent times, this day has also become known as "Vocation Sunday", a day when our Church prays especially for new shepherds and pastors to lead the Christian communities. Now we are in the Easter Season and today's liturgy continues to hearten us with the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst, contemplated as Shepherd and Guardian of the sheep.

The responsorial for today, beautifully introduces that theme: "The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want". Jesus is the Good Shepherd because of his gentle care and loving commitment to the flock he pastures and protects. The Gospel of today tells us that Jesus is also the "gate for the sheep" because he is the way to salvation. As sheep gate, he leads us to eternal life.

The first Reading from Acts of the Apostles portrays Peter proclaiming how to return to the Lord's flock, by personal repentance, the purification of Baptism and receiving then holy Spirit. In the Second Reading from his 1st Letter, Peter seems to echo the words of Isaiah 53 as he recalls how we had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way. Jesus Christ takes on himself the task of reuniting the sheep, as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

The Gospel Reading of today from St. John also contains a mixed metaphor. In this passage Jesus gives two comparisons. He compares himself to the shepherd and to the Gate. The first title

represents his ownership, and the second title his leadership. The first is a warning against people who would want to steal the sheep and the second focuses on the relationship between the sheep and the shepherd. Jesus is the Gate, the door through which the sheep have an access to the shepherd. Jesus says: "I am the gate for the sheep" and the shepherds who come in and out are pastors who are faithful to Jesus. Anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate for instance, by climbing over the fence or breaking through it, is dangerous and should be avoided. Only a thief and a brigand who comes to steal and do harm to the sheep will not use the gate. The genuine shepherd, however, enters by the gate and is recognized and admitted by the watchman outside. The true shepherd knows which ones belong to him and calls them out one by one. The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice and stay with him. They will not follow other shepherds, even if called by them. It is a free relationship. They follow, not because they are forced to but by their own choice.

The passage ends with one of Jesus' most beautiful statements, "I come so that they might have life and have it more abundantly". To follow Jesus is not, as some seem to fear, to live half life, a life filled with endlessly dire warnings of "Don't". It is to live life more abundantly. Good Shepherd is the leader who lays down his life for the sheep, his flock. He is the caring companion, who protects them, whose voice they recognized and who provides pasture and life for them. The believer is thus offered a relationship of trust and safety because of the action of the shepherd. The use of this image indicates the intimate and close bond between the members of the flock, the Church, with Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS:

The Scripture Reading of today are intimately linked with the second theme of this Sunday. Not only is it "Good Shepherd", it is also "Vocation Sunday". It is obvious that our Church today is in great need of good shepherds, totally committed to the way of Jesus. So, the Church invites us to reflect on the meaning of God's call and ask us to pray for good vocations. Those called to minister in whatever capacity in the Church are like shepherds. They are called to care for the spiritual welfare of those they serve.

The readings therefore focus on the Risen Lord, the Shepherd par excellence. The central image is that of the caring shepherd, Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus in the passage refers to himself as the gate for he ensures their security. The early Church would have seen Jesus as the Gate of the sheepfold, while the shepherds are pastors who are faithful to Jesus, charged to care the sheep. Anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the Gate is dangerous and should be avoided. Jesus refers to such a person as "a thief and a brigand" who comes to cause harm to the sheep. The genuine shepherd, however enters by the Gate through Jesus. Such a person is recognized and admitted by the watchman of the gate.

Now, "Vocation Sunday" is not for a few selected, it is for all of us. It is a pity that we tend to narrow the term "vocation" to those who feel called to the priesthood or what we call "religious" life, as when we ask, 'Do you think you have a vocation?' Or say, 'There are very few vocations in our Diocese'. So, we need to emphasize very strongly that very single baptized person has a "vocation". Everyone is called by God to play a specific role in the Christian community and in the wider community. Unless we Christians see that "vocation" is something that we are called to, it is not likely that there will be enough people to meet the service needs of our Christian communities. Our Christian communities can only grow and thrive when every member makes a contribution to the well-being of the whole.

Conclusion:

Jesus is obviously our Good Shepherd, there is no doubt about it but there can be a lot of doubt about whether we are the kind of sheep that we ought to be. As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray to the Lord that we may be his good sheep, listening attentively to his voice, and follow his example of self-giving love. Let us pray for all our shepherds, especially our religious and political leaders. May they follow the example of Jesus who was willing to serve and lay down his life for his sheep. Jesus our Good Shepherd is the Way, Truth and Life. He is the one who goes after the lost sheep leaving the ninety-nine to bring to bring I back to the fold.

Again, the Church today insists that vocations are a responsibility of the Christian family. To foster vocations, the family must foster Christian life. The family must live its faith in Christ on a daily basis in unity and prayer. The Church of Jesus fosters a living faith in the Christian family. Through such families', the grace of God is manifested and vocations flourish to ensure that the needs of the Church are all met. Today let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that many more will be inspired to show true love, to the point of sacrificing many other attractive options to become priests, to follow him in religious life. And this is the Good News of today.

Fr. Bakyor Francis.