

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – June 7, 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	June 9	07:00 pm	STL	Jack Rogers †
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	June 11	07:00 pm	SJV	Floyd & Ruth Schmania †
SAT	June 13	05:00 pm	SJV	Steve Payeur †
SUN	June 14	09:00 am	STL	Parishioners of SJ-SL

Confessions: SAT-4:30 pm at SJV; SUN-8:30 at STL

PLEASE NOTE:

Attendance for Masses - limited to 25% of the building's seating capacity— 30-75 at St. Lawrence and 15-30 at St. Joseph of the Valley. We will be offering four Masses per week. Please do not feel obligated to attend weekend Masses — weekday Masses will work just fine if it fits into your family's schedule. You may sign-up for Masses online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4AA9AB2AA1FA7-sjosephst>. Please see online info for restrictions and guidance.

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, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Ronnie Gast, Alan Halstead, Marly Heim, Richard 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

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! Collections received this week totaled \$987.00. Last week's on-line collection was \$129.59. 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!

CONGRATULATIONS! Fr. Francis is very pleased to announce that he was officially sworn in as a United States citizen on Thursday, June 4th. He is very happy to have achieved this honor, and now he can proudly say that his home is in Easton, Kansas. Many blessings and adventures to you in your future as a U.S. Citizen, Fr. Francis.

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES from the parishioners of St. Joseph-St. Lawrence Parish to the family of Donald Ernzen, who passed away recently. May he rest in peace.

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

A RETREAT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH DOROTHY DAY: To be held at Christ's Peace on Friday, **June 12, 2020** 5:30 PM - Sunday, **June 14, 2020** 4:30 PM. Please join us as we delve into the teachings of Dorothy Day and her deep conviction for Social Justice. Come be inspired by the dynamic way in which this journalist's conversion propelled her to found the Catholic Worker movement and advocate for the poor. There will be conferences, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Confession and time for private prayer, reflection and walking. Cabins/Courtyard Rooms: \$170 Single/\$250 Couple or Single Guest Rooms: \$100 (Meals Included). To attend, send an email to: info@christspeace.com or call 913.773.8255.

UNFAILING MERCY RETREAT: PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY
If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Our next Unfailing Mercy retreat for help after abortion will be held on **June 12-14**. This is a weekend of focused, intensive time wherein God often brings about profound healing. To register please call Ann Marie Alvey at (913) 621-2199 or email at projectrachelkc@archkck.org.

ENDING SLAVERY IS EVERYONE'S WORK AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN DAY SLAVERY. 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

CORPUS CHRISTI with Archbishop Naumann: Sunday, **June 14th**, at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle, KCK. Mass for the Solemnity at 10 am. Procession of the Eucharist around the Cathedral Square with Benediction following Mass. Seating for Mass will be limited based on present restrictions in place for large gatherings. Facemasks are required.

XAVIER OPEN HOUSE: You can now visit Xavier Catholic School from anywhere! Join Xavier Catholic School for an online open house via Zoom. Open house will be held Tuesday, **June 23rd** and Thursday, **July 23rd**, 6-7 pm CST. During this interactive experience, you will have an opportunity to meet with admissions and financial aid staff, the principal, several teachers,

and Xavier parents and students. We are excited to share what it means to be part of the Raider family! All new families who enroll following the Virtual Open House will receive \$100 credit towards enrollment fees. You must be registered to receive the credit. Register at <https://leavenworthcatholicsschools.org/ad.../enrollment-events>

POUSTINIA DESERT WEEKEND will be held **July 17th** at 5:30 pm through **July 19th** at 4:30 pm at Christ's Peace House of Prayer. Join us for this special "Poustinia" weekend. We will start the weekend off with a teaching about what a Poustinia is and how to enter into it though the words of Catherine de Hueck Doherty. Saturday will be a "Poustinia" day of prayer and fasting alone. The group will come together on Sunday for Mass and to share the fruit of their experience and what they will take back with them into the world. Cabins/Courtyard Rooms: \$170 or Guest Rooms: \$100. To attend, send an email to: info@christspeace.com or call 913.773.8255.

CHRIST'S PEACE PRAYER GROUP: WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:30 PM
This is a special announcement for St. Joseph/St. Lawrence Parishioners: The Lord wants to speak to you. Do you know how to listen to his voice? Join us this summer on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm as we prayerfully read the gospel for the upcoming Sunday and learn to listen to the Lord. The meetings will take place at Christ's Peace House of Prayer, 22131 Meagher Rd, Easton, KS 66020. RSVP 913-773-8255.

CONSECRATION TO MARY SMALL GROUP RETREAT will be held
Sunday, **July 12th** from 1pm-4:30pm - Introduction and Orientation Meeting
Sunday's (**July 19 - August 16**) from 6:30pm - 8pm - Weekly Group Meetings at Christ's Peace House of Prayer. You are invited to sign-up for this special 33-day preparation for Marian Consecration on the Feast of the Assumption using Fr. Michael Gaitley's 33 Days to Morning Glory. For six weeks, we'll individually read about and reflect on four great Marian giants: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, and Pope John Paul II. They'll teach us the secrets to drawing closer to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary. In our weekly meetings, we'll share our insights within our small group and then watch a 30-minute video. If you're looking for a simple way to be spiritually renewed, develop a deeper relationship with Our Merciful Savior, and grow in holiness, join us for 33 Days to Morning Glory Small Group Retreat. To attend, send an email to: info@christspeace.com or call 913.773.8255 (prior to June 26th to be included in the book order). Cost: \$20-\$30 for books.

CONSECRATION TO MARY CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION RETREAT will be held Friday, **August 14th** at 5:30pm - Sunday, **August 16th** at 4:30pm at Christ's Peace House of Prayer. Come spend a weekend dedicated to Mary and make/renew your Marian Consecration on the Feast of the Assumption! Don't forget to start your 33 day renewal preparation on July 13th or join our small group. There will be Marian conferences, a special Consecration to Mary Ceremony and Celebration, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Confession and time for private prayer, reflection and walking. Cabins/Courtyard Rooms: \$170 Single/\$250 Couple or Single Guest Rooms: \$100 (Meals Included). Day Guests are also welcome for the Ceremony and Celebration. To attend, send an email to: info@christspeace.com or call 913.773.8255.

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)

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.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE “WATCHMEN”

Since Roe v. Wade, 61 million babies ---- created in the image of God ---- have been silently put to death before they were even born. There was no cry for help, there was no public outrage, and no trumpet sounded to warn the women who felt like abortion was their only option. As Christians, we are called to be the "watchmen."

"But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood" (Eze:33:6).

Not everyone is equipped to counsel women in the delicate situation of "an unplanned pregnancy." But we can all do something. This is the human rights issue of our time. We cannot plead ignorance or remain apathetic.

"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." (James 4:17)

As Christians, we cannot and should not sit idly by and accept this massive slaughter of the innocents. We are called to be the "watchmen" of our brothers and sisters who are defenseless, voiceless and by far the most vulnerable in our society.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT, the Archdiocesan "Walking with Moms" Ministry, will be holding a virtual informational meeting using Zoom for all women interested in becoming an "Angel" for the ministry. An Angel is someone who works directly with pregnant women in need -- listening, guiding, and helping them access the resources they need in order to choose life for their child. The Angel also connects the woman with the parish to provide a community of support and love, when often she has none. This meeting will take place Thursday, **June 18th** at 6:30 pm, and will provide information to help you discern if this is a volunteer role that is right for you. If interested, please contact Ann Marie Alvey at director@gabrielprojectkc.com.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

Religious Freedom Week takes place from **June 22-29** each year. The USCCB has chosen the theme "For the Good of All." Religious freedom is both an American value and an important part of Catholic teaching on human dignity. When we promote religious freedom, we promote the common good and thus strengthen the life of our nation and the community of nations. Religious freedom means that all people have the space to flourish. Religious freedom is both an American value and an important part of Catholic teaching on human dignity. When we promote religious freedom, we promote the common good and thus strengthen the life of our nation and the community of nations. Learn more at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek!

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: Fertility Care Center is planning to hold their next Creighton Model Education Class in August (EPI) & March (EPII). They will provide the class over two extended weekends to help accommodate everyone's busy schedules.

The dates are:

Education Phase One: **August 21-24 & August 28-31, 2020**

Education Phase Two: **March 6-8 & March 13-15, 2021**

The link to their website with all the information needed to apply is

<http://www.fertilitycarekc.com/fertilitycare-practitioner-training.html>

Questions can be referred to admin@fertilitycarekc.com or pwhite@fertilitycarekc.com.

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.

VIRTUAL BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: Wyandotte and Olathe Pregnancy Centers are taking their Baby Bottle Campaign virtual this year! During this time of the Covid 19 crisis, your prayers and financial support are needed more than ever to assist them in carrying out their mission of supporting women and families facing unplanned pregnancies. Visit: <https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/website/home/?e=20149> or donate through your parish link. Together, we can continue to share God's truth while showing His Love to men and women in our community facing unplanned pregnancies.

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>

CAMP TEKAWITHA IS OPEN

Faith, Fun and Friends. Camp Tekakwitha is Open; Sign Up at ARCHKCK.ORG. Kids need fresh air, friendly smiles, fun activities and to talk about the big ideas in their heart, mind and soul. That is Camp Tekakwitha!! We are operating in correspondence with social distance guidelines, CDC and ACA guidelines.

“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

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.

Holy Trinity Sunday, Year A (6/7/2020)

Texts: First Reading. Exodus. 34: 4-6, 8-9.

Second Reading. 2Cor. 13: 11-13.

Third Reading. John. 3: 16-18.

Them : Like God, Like Worshippers.

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

The story is told of St. Augustine of Hippo, a great philosopher and theologian. He was preoccupied with the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity. He wanted so much to understand the doctrine of one God in three persons and to be able to explain it logically. One day he was walking along the sea shore and reflecting on this matter. Suddenly, he saw a little child all alone on the sea shore. The child made a hole in the sand, ran to the sea with a little cup, filled her cup with sea water, and ran up and emptied the cup into the hole she had made in the sand. Back and forth she went to the sea, filled her cup and came and poured it into the hole. Augustine drew up and said to her, "Little child, what are you doing?" She replied, "I am trying to empty the sea into this hole."

"How do you think," Augustine asked her, "that you can empty this immense sea into this tiny hole and with this tiny cup?"

She answered back, "and you, how do you suppose that with your small head you can comprehend the immensity of God?" With that the little child disappeared.

The doctrine of the inner relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in such a way that each of them is fully and equally God, yet there are not three Gods but one, cannot be fully comprehended by the human mind. It is a mystery.

What is a mystery? Mystery is defined as something that is a secret. Something where there is no clear explanation. Something difficult to understand or explain or something unexplainable or unsolvable. It is something that baffles our understanding and cannot be explained. Something strange or not known that has not yet been explained or understood. A religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand.

On this note I am not trying in today's reflection on the Solemnity of the Feast of the Blessed Trinity to convince anyone one this mystery. I will share with you my own thought and understanding of this mystery the way I have understood it and lived it as a catholic priest.

If we expect today's readings to give us a clear and elaborate presentation of the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity, we have found out that they simply do not. The doctrine of the three persons in one God, equal in divinity yet distinct in personality, is not explicitly spelt out in the Bible. In fact the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. Early Christians arrived at the doctrine when they applied their God-giving reason to the revelation which they received in faith. Jesus spoke about the Father who sent him (the Son) and about the Holy Spirit whom he was going to send. He said the father had given him (the Son) all that he has and that he in turn has

given to the Holy Spirit all that he has received from the Father. In this we see the unity of purpose among the three persons of the Trinity.

In the story of salvation, we usually attribute creation to the Father, redemption to the Son and sanctification to the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, though they are distinct as persons, neither the father nor the Son nor the Holy Spirit ever exists or acts in isolation from the other two persons of the Godhead.

Like Augustine we may not be able to understand the HOW of the Trinity but I think it is important to understand the WHY. Why did God reveal to us this mystery regarding the very nature of the Supreme Being? The importance of this doctrine lies in this: we are made in the image of God, therefore, the more we understand God the more we understand ourselves. Experts in religion tell us that people always try to be like the god they worship. People who worship a warrior god tend to be warmongering, people who worship a god of pleasure tend to be pleasure-seeking, people who worship a god of wrath tend to be vengeful, and people who worship a god of love tend to be loving. Like god, so the worshipers.

Therefore, the more important question for us today is: What does the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity tell us about the kind of God we worship and what does this say about the kind of people we should be? On this, I have two points to share with you.

God does not exist in solitary individuality but in community of love and sharing. God is not a loner. This means that a Christian in search of Godliness (Mt.5:28) must shun every tendency to isolationism. The ideal Christian spirituality is not of flight from the world like that of certain Buddhist monastic traditions where the request for holiness means permanent withdrawal to the Himalayas away from contact and involvement with people and society.

To be a whole person, we must have a relationship with our God. We humans do not like being out of relationship with those around us or our God. Think of the worst moments of your life, when you are rejected by someone, when you are cut off from family and friends. Perhaps you felt betrayed by a friend, or you felt isolated. We do not even like to go to the movies or out to dinner by ourselves, do we? Why is solitary confinement such a horrible form of punishment? We human beings are in desperate need of union.

Rejection is such an intolerable hurt because we need to be connected. The question is, why this existential driving for union? Why are the best moments when unions occur, and worst when it is absent? The answer simply and profoundly is today's feast.

We are made in the image and likeness of God, and God is communion, is relationship, and therefore so we are. Humans strive for union with God and with each other. We reach out for companionship. Every hug or embrace gives indirect testimony to the Trinity.

The Trinity says that God is relationship, and so we search. The Trinity says That God is community, and so we seek. The Trinity says that God is love, and so we love, we cannot help our ourselves. We are made to that image and likeness, we mirror our origins.

God is love and unity undivided, and we strive for the same. Think of the most satisfying moments of your life. I would suspect that they were times when you felt safe and loved and cared for. When you sat on your mother's lap when you were held and hugged. When you were affirmed, and when you were simply in the silent presence of someone you loved, when you had someone in your life.

So it is no wonder that we, who are made in God's image and likeness, are also essentially about relationship. Relationship is what God is all about: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That how the great creator has chosen to reveal himself to the human race as Father Son, and Holy Spirit. He could have chosen other ways. But this what he thought we will understand him a little better with our human limitations.

Finally, the Trinity is not an abstract theological concept, instead, it is reality which is to be believed and lived. The Trinity is someone to whom we pray, but it is also a community, the communion of three in one, the family in whose image we build up our own human community. In appreciation of this fellowship and communion let us give praise to the Most Holy Trinity: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit" Amen.

Fr. Francis Bakyor