

# WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus  
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 13, 2020

St. Joseph of the Valley: 31151 207<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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	Sept 15	07:00 pm	STL	For Peace and Comfort
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	Sept 17	07:00 pm	SJV	Parishioners of SJ-SL
SAT	Sept 19	05:00 pm	SJV	Steve Payeur †
SUN	Sept 20	09:00 am	STL	Jack Rogers †

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 30-45 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-stiosephst>. Please see online info for restrictions and guidance.

**Please pray for the sick, especially:** Phil Bell, Deacon Guy Berry, Susie Beying, Jennifer Brushwood, Glenn Coffey, Carl Davidson, George Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Ronnie Gast, Alan Halstead, Marly 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 was \$3336, to include \$35 for utilities and \$17 for Catholic University. Last week's on-line collection was \$345.10. Thank you for your generosity.

**DO YOU WANT TO DONATE and not sure how during this time?** In Father's letter of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 the upkeep of the parish through online or mail services. God loves a cheerful donations for 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!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We are soliciting volunteers who would like to serve as our Parish Director of Religious Education (DRE), leading the effort to teach our children about their Catholic faith. The DRE performs a number of crucial functions: coordinating CCD enrollment and the necessary paperwork, developing the CCD calendar, recruiting and assisting teachers and other volunteers, working with the Archdiocese and teachers in curriculum development and resource procurement, communicating with parents and the parish council, and ensuring all teachers are Virtus trained. Please prayerfully consider this incredibly fulfilling role within our parish. We are also open to co-DREs if that is an approach that works for you. The parish council does not anticipate starting CCD classes before October, allowing the new DRE time to prepare. If you are interested please contact: Jason Nichols, phone: 913-683-2661 or email: [jnichols@dfamil.com](mailto:jnichols@dfamil.com) OR Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: [w5cattle@aol.com](mailto:w5cattle@aol.com).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We are searching for a volunteer to clean the rectory twice a month. POC is Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: [w5cattle@aol.com](mailto:w5cattle@aol.com).

**BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER:** Betty Pierron will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to honor her on this occasion, please send her a birthday card, letter, photos, and other good wishes, to Betty Pierron, 5150 Hughes Road, Apt #3, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Happy Birthday Mrs. Pierron!

## OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

### ABORTION VIOLATES THE LAWS OF GOD

We need to review certain facts. First of all, the most beautiful thing a woman can be is a mother. Only women have the power to populate God's earth and women are the ones who nurture and cherish their children.

But, sad to say, the most dangerous place on Earth today is the womb of a mother. That is because of legalized abortion – a vicious taking of a life. We need to take the blinders off our eyes and see the horrendous evil that is abortion. It is an abomination in God's eyes. There is absolutely no government, no law and no man that can override or veto God's law. Get the facts. Do not believe the lies from the abortion industry. Don't be fooled into believing it's just tissue in the womb. It's a baby.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Not all children are starting school; some in the world are trafficked for sex and labor. TOGETHER we can work to stop this assault on the dignity of children. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. VISIT OUR LINK: ([www.sistersagainstrafficking.org](http://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org)) USCSAHT is a 501©3 org. 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, 63131

**BIRTHRIGHT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION & TRAINING** Birthright Volunteers offer hope, understanding and love to women distressed by pregnancy. We help them evaluate their situation, look at resources and

discover how they can give life to their babies. For 34 years Birthright of Leavenworth, Inc. has been helping women in this area carry their babies to term. If you are interested in being a Birthright Volunteer, we will be having a training wearing masks or social distancing when appropriate. We are practicing safety measures at the Birthright center. For more information or to sign up for orientation call Margaret McNamee 913-991-7660.

**JOYFUL HOMES** is a new initiative designed to carry the spirit of the Convocation into our families. As the families of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in KS, we will be getting honest about the joys and struggles in our lives and serious about making one small change each month to invite more God-- more JOY into our homes. Will you join us? Get started with September's challenge at: [www.archkcks.org/intentional](http://www.archkcks.org/intentional)

**OPEN GATE SERIES AT PRAIRIE STAR RANCH** Did you know that Prairie Star Ranch, home of Camp Tekakwitha, is open year-round? Are you looking for opportunities to get out of the house and enjoy some COVID-friendly time together as a family? On select Saturdays in the months of September and October, the gates of Prairie Star Ranch will be open for families to enjoy some casual, open-air fun. Come fish (bring your own poles!), picnic, hike, and more! On each Open Gate day, a different staff-facilitated camp activity will be offered for a small fee. Otherwise, the experience is free, and donations are welcome. Gates will be open from 10am to 4pm, and no registration is required. Upcoming Open Gate Days include **September 19, September 26, and October 3**. For a full schedule of event dates, the staff-facilitated activity for each weekend, our COVID-19 precautions and more, visit our website at [archkck.org/ranch](http://archkck.org/ranch).

### THE VITAE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL KANSAS CITY PRO-LIFE EVENT

Wednesday, **September 16**, 2020 – 7:00 pm at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel. The featured speaker is Jason Chaffetz, former congressman from Utah who is an ardent supporter for life! He rose to Chairman of the powerful House Oversight & Government Reform Committee. Chaffetz is currently a Contributor on Fox News Networks and a Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School, Institute of Politics. Dinner and program begin at 7 p.m. Registration is \$100. Social distancing guidelines are to be followed for safety of all. Livestream option is \$25. For more details and to reserve your seat, visit our website at [www.VitaeFoundation.org/events](http://www.VitaeFoundation.org/events) or call 573-634-4316.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:** Join us on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, **Sept 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**. This will be a traditional, in-person, experience at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas. The option for a Virtual Weekend Experience, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, will be offered in conjunction with the scheduled traditional, in-person weekend. For more information, or to apply for a weekend, visit [www.wm4youandme.org](http://www.wm4youandme.org), or call/email Deacon Tony & Barb Zimmerman at 816-741-4066, [tonybarbz@prodigy.net](mailto:tonybarbz@prodigy.net).

**FALL 40 DAYS FOR LIFE:** Join us for the Kick-off Rally of the Fall 40 Days for Life on **September 23rd** at 9:00 a.m. outside the Center for Women's Health abortion facility, 4840 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS. 40 Days for Life is an internationally coordinated 40-Day campaign that seeks to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. We are praying for BOTH surgical abortion facilities in Overland Park to close. The vigil runs **Sept 23rd – Nov 1st** from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily. Sign up individually or register a group at [40daysforlife.com/overlandpark](http://40daysforlife.com/overlandpark) to be a part of this powerful prayer mobilization. Contact Wendy Curtis at 816.765.9477 with questions. Together we will protect women and save lives!

**PLEASE** – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> page to this bulletin.

Bulletin Items: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 Or Email [Sisparish@gmail.com](mailto: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)**

**HURTING FROM AN ABORTION?** Attend a Healing Retreat **Sept 18-20** Are you or someone you know suffering from a past abortion? Abortion Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is real and can be the cause of serious health issues such as depression, substance abuse, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, eating and sleep disorders, among others. It is never too late to seek healing. Project Rachel Ministry offers hope and a path to healing in a non-judgmental and confidential atmosphere. The next **Project Rachel Retreat** is Sept 18-20. It is free and available to anyone, regardless of faith. Contact us at [projectrachelkc@archkck.org](mailto:projectrachelkc@archkck.org) or 913.621.2199 for more information about the retreat. Visit [www.projectrachelkc.com](http://www.projectrachelkc.com) for more information about Abortion PTSD.

**SCHOOL OF LOVE “AMORE” 2020 BENEFIT**

This year's Amore is now partly a digital “hybrid” event. That means you can view it online via live-stream, or you can join live in-person (safely, drive in style) at the filming with food, live music, and others. (Friends can gather in parking parties!) But however you join us you must sign up. Sign up is FREE, BUT NECESSARY. **September 26<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00-10:30pm (In person parking will open at 6:00pm), at 103rd & Mastin St. - Overland Park, Featuring Mikey Needleman Band. Mr. P'z Bar & Grill - car-side drive-in menu will be available

**A VIRTUAL DAY OF SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT FOR CAREGIVERS:**

Caregiving is a holy vocation that truly imitates the loving example of Jesus Christ. But it is not an easy activity, and it can take a toll on the very people who bring great blessings to others. Fatigue, depression, frustration – these and other effects can wear down the most conscientious caregiver, especially during the unprecedented times in which we are living. Presented by Maureen Pratt, Catholic Author and Speaker, Saturday **October 3, 2020**, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Special Needs Ministry. For more information and to register go to [www.archkck.org/special-needs](http://www.archkck.org/special-needs).

**“EVERY DAY IN LOVE”** “These skills were a lifesaver for our marriage during this pandemic!” These past few months have been so stressful. Do you and your spouse have the skills to continue to navigate these challenging times? Join Brad and Libby DuPont for 7 Thursday nights (live, online) **starting October 8th**. We'll discover practical ways to: \* Pray together \* Reconcile hurts \* Deal with and share feelings \* Communicate \* Make decisions \* Achieve deeper intimacy \* Tap into the grace of our sacrament. To register, go to: [www.archkck.org/everyday](http://www.archkck.org/everyday) or email Brad at [bdupont@archkck.org](mailto:bdupont@archkck.org)

**AMAZING PARISH:** Registration is filling fast for the upcoming Amazing Parish Conference hosted by our Archdiocese on **Oct. 19-21<sup>st</sup>** 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

 **RESOURCES** 

**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.

**“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.

**NEW FOSTER CARE WEBSITE:** You can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Kansas! Sadly, every day in Kansas, children are removed from their homes by no fault of their own for a variety of reasons. Each of these children is a precious, unique gift from God who deserves a loving and safe environment where he or she can THRIVE! Because care of the orphan and works of mercy are part of the mission for all baptized Catholics, the Church is the solution to an overwhelmed Kansas foster system which is facing increased needs due to COVID-19.

Please visit the new Archdiocesan Foster Care Ministry Website at [www.archkcks.com/foster](http://www.archkcks.com/foster) to learn how you can help vulnerable children in our community and support the families who have answered the call to love and protect these children. If you are currently fostering or have adopted your child/ren from foster care, we want to connect with you to support you on your journey! Please join the Archdiocesan Foster Family by registering here: [www.archkck.org/fostercaredatabase](http://www.archkck.org/fostercaredatabase)

**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](http://www.archkck.org/prolife-end-of-life-care).

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM - ADULT TRAINING (VIRTUS)** Effective Immediately In light of the current health conditions, one prudent and preventative measure we are taking is to make the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults training available Online as an option. Effective immediately, due to COVID-19, the Archdiocesan requirement for attending a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults workshop live session will be suspended and the option of the online version of the module can be offered in lieu of live training. This is a temporary safety precaution, and parishes may still offer the live training session available as an option if they prefer as long as the local county and state ordinances in effect at the time of the event are followed. Please note, the training must still be completed prior to participants working around youth, but the requirement may now temporarily be met by completing the online Protecting God's Children module. Individuals needing to attend a session will be offered the option of the online module at the time of registration. They will still need to follow the background screening and policy completion process at the time of registration. Individuals who are already currently registered for an upcoming live session, may log back into their account and change to the online module. These procedures will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed and are in place to protect you, those you work with, and your family. Please stay safe and healthy and continue to pray for all our brothers and sisters in Christ! We are praying for all of you and your families. If you have questions, please contact Sandy Vielhauer at [svielhauer@archkck.org](mailto:svielhauer@archkck.org) or Jenifer Valenti at [jvalenti@archkck.org](mailto:jvalenti@archkck.org). May God bless you and keep you safe.

**PLANNED GIVING BRIEF:** Our Catholic Church has spanned the centuries and the globe and through all previous pandemics and disasters has been a source of charity to all through its parish priests and religious. We invite you to make a grateful response to God for these gifts by planning a deferred gift to your parish. Visit [CatholicPlannedGiving.org](http://CatholicPlannedGiving.org) to learn how to accept this invitation.

## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (9/13/2020)

### *Texts:*

*First Reading: Sirac, 27:30-28:7*

*Second Reading: Rom, 14:7-9*

*Third Reading: Mt. 18:21-35*

*Theme: Forgiveness Liberates, and heals.*

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

Warm greetings to you all. Hope everyone is doing well and keeping safe.

Today is the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of ordinary time. Last week, the Church reminded us of the importance of reconciliation through fraternal dialogue and mutual love. Today she, invites us to reflect on forgiveness. It is a very important element of reconciliation, and our Christian belief. It is the central message of today's first and gospel readings.

There is a popular saying that to err is human, while to forgive is divine. That is to say, that the one who sins acts humanly. This is because, it is part of our attributes as humans to err or to sin. On the other hand, the one who forgives acts divinely. This is because to forgive is to participate in a very important attribute and nature of God. That is His divinity. It is what our God is known for. "He is compassionate, merciful, love and He forgives. (Ps.102)

The first reading focuses on forgiveness. First it reminds us that for our prayer to be answered, we must forgive others. Second, it presupposes that we all sinners, in need of God's forgiveness. So, for us to be forgiven, first, we must forgive others. Therefore, Sirac urges us: "Forgive your neighbor the hurt he does to you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven." This is a call to liberate others, in order to liberate and heal ourselves too.

In the second reading, Paul reminds us of something important. "The life and death of each of us has its, influence on the other." Also, our ability to forgive has great influence on the other, as well as, on ourselves. Hence, it is important to note that, forgiveness has a double effect. It is a single dose medicine that cures one or many persons at the same time. It liberates the one who is forgiven, as well as, heals the one who forgives.

In the gospel, Christ takes forgiveness to a different and practical level. This unfolds in the dialogue between Peter and Christ. Peter asked a theoretical question: "How many times must I forgive my brother?" Jesus answered him in the most practical way: "seventy- seven times" Christ's response, simply reminds us that Christian forgiveness does not have limits. We must forgive all, always and forever as the prayer of Saint Francis of Assis says: "Wherever there is injury (offence or hurt), forgiveness.

Hence, to demonstrate this, Jesus tells a parable about the kingdom of heaven. Let us reflect on how many times we have acted like the wicked servant. He was forgiven a great debt, but he could not forgive his neighbor a little debt. He was set free, but he jailed his neighbor. The message of this parable is that we must treat others mercifully. We must forgive, because God forgives us every day. We must not always hold our neighbors to contempt. Rather, we must consider their situation as God considers our situation always.

Jesus tells us to forgive all, and forever. What does it mean to forgive all and always? First, it does not mean: "I forgive you, but we must go our separate ways," or "I forgive you, but I do not want to see you again in my life," or "I forgive you, but I will not forget." It means something much deeper. It means to restore unity, to believe that it is possible to walk together towards a common goal. It means to heal a wound, without leaving a scar. Do I forgive others? Do I forgive some who offend me and not others? Am I a person who bears grudges? How do I deal with the person who harms me or hurt my feelings?

It is most important to add that, sometimes, one equally needs to forgive oneself for the faults committed against self. Endless grieving or guilt conscience because of one's mistakes in life, reduces one's quality of life. It hinders both spiritual and material progress. So, we must forgive ourselves too, in order to continue living in peace with ourselves.

Finally, he who forgives act like Christ. So, as we pray today at this Eucharistic celebration: "Forgive us our offences, as we forgive those who offend us," let us ask God to help us to be true to these words, by living them practically. Let us live for God and live God's forgiveness every day – from our hearts.

Peace be with all.

Fr. Francis Bakyor