

# WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus  
Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 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	Dec. 8	06:00 pm	STL	For Our Pope
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	Dec. 10	06:00 pm	SJV	Parishioners of SJ-SL
SAT	Dec. 12	05:00 pm	SJV	Steve Payeur †
SUN	Dec. 13	09:00 am	STL	Jack Rogers †

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

## PLEASE NOTE:

Attendance for Masses is limited. We will be seating every other pew. We must continue to practice social distancing (of at least 6 feet). Masks are required to be worn. We are 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. Please see online info for restrictions and guidance.

**Please pray for the sick, especially:** Phil Bell, Susie Beying, Jennifer Brushwood, 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 \$2,758, including \$285 for Utilities and \$20 for CCHD. Last week's on-line collection was \$2448.82. Thank you for your generosity.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Will be held the weekend of Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> for Retirement Fund for the Religious. We appreciate your generosity.

**VIRTUAL ANGEL TREE:** We would like to help make Christmastime special for some of the children in our community by helping their families with gifts. This year, we will have a virtual Angel Tree. We will be helping out 4 families with children who attend Pleasant Ridge Schools. The links below will list the items that the kids have wished for. Each link includes the wish list for 2 families. If you would prefer - please feel free to buy a gift certificate to Wal-Mart, The Hill Top or any Gas Card of your choice. We are also in need of any kind of non-perishable grocery items. **We have also provided screen-shots of the link and additional information in an attachment to this bulletin below (such as drop off locations). We would like all gifts by December 20.** If you have questions, please contact Ginny Mowery (913-773-8303) or Danielle Nichols (913-683-3311). Thank you for your help!

Family 1 & 2:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040945A8AD29A1FE3-stjosephst>

Family 3 & 4:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040945A8AD29A1FE3-2st>

**MISSALETTES:** The Finance Committee has agreed to offer the new missalettes to parishioners at a cost of \$5.00 per book. These books will be available the weekend of November 28 & 29, then again on December 5 & 6. Once the missalette is purchased, please keep the book in your possession due to coronavirus.

**FATHER'S FRANCIS BAKYOR 38TH PRIEST ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY.** Please congratulate and pray for Father Francis Bakyor on his 38th Priest Ordination Anniversary on December 16, 2020. Parishioners are welcome to send him cards to the parish mailing address, PO Box 129, Easton, KS 66020.

**ONLINE MASSES:** For those who may not be able to attend our parish masses, here are some of the masses that are available to watch on line or on television:

- For regular TV - Channel 38 airs Sunday morning Mass at 7:00am each week.
- For Dish and DirecTV - EWTN airs Sunday Mass a few times throughout the day.
- For livestream – here are some you may wish to look up:
  - Church of the Ascension, Overland Park - Sunday Masses at 8:15am, 10:00am, 11:45am & 5:00pm - <https://kccascension.org/>
  - Queen of the Holy Rosary, Wea - Sunday Mass at 8:30am - <https://qhrwea.church/watch-daily-mass>
  - St. Michael the Archangel, Leawood - Sunday Mass at 9:00am - <https://stmichaelcp.org/ecatholic-live>
- Here you can find links to Holy Masses online from different parishes all around the world. There is a link to see the calendar with the Catholic Holy Masses live online. Click on the chosen hour when you want to see the Holy Mass online. <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online>

**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. If you are interested please contact: Jason Nichols, phone: 913-683-2661 or email: [jnichols@dfamilk.com](mailto:jnichols@dfamilk.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).

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY:** The Finance Council is happy to announce that the parish will be accepting applications for one or more scholarships for Catholic school (K-16) attendance during the 2021-2022 academic year or Catholic camp attendance during summer 2021. The scholarship is made possible by donations specified for Catholic Education. Interested applicants should fill out the application form, attach either a report card or transcript, and provide contact information for a reference. Applications are **due by April 1, 2021**. The link to the application form is available on the parish website and parish Facebook page. If you cannot access the application form one of these ways, send an email to [angela.broaddus@gmail.com](mailto:angela.broaddus@gmail.com) to request the link. LINK: <https://forms.gle/TZprU6dvCQ9wa9n7>

## CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE:

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

Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	SJV
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 pm	STL
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	STL

## OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** When we feed the hungry and shelter the stranger, we are also serving Jesus himself. This past fiscal year we provided food and shelter to 57,573 people. We provided 88,613 summer meals to children during the Pandemic. Open your hands and hearts to embrace the poor through a gift to the Christmas 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection to support Catholic Charities.

## RESOLUTION FOR NEW YEAR

Jesus was born into a harsh world, where Herod was doing the unthinkable: killing babies. Is there any doubt that our world today needs Jesus to come and dwell among us?

As a new year begins, let us resolve to be a more effective and dedicated instrument of Jesus. Let us do more to promote love and peace. Let us do more to help moms turn the unplanned into a loving plan that embraces innocent life. Let us do more to change our culture of death.

## STEWARDSHIP: "Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Mark 1:3)

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

**XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL** is looking for substitute teachers and part-time teachers in extended care. If you are interested in working with talented children and staff at our Xavier K - 8 campus or at our extended care program please contact the school office at 913-682-3135.

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

**BRIGHTEN YOUR CHRISTMAS SEASON!**

***A Christmas Prayer for God's Blessing***

Heavenly Father, help us to honor the birth of Jesus.

May we join in the praises of angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

May the Light of your Son shine forth in this dark world.

May His peace take away our anxiety and fear.

Help us to forgive and to be forgiven.

Teach us to love one another as you love us. Amen.

Enjoy a **free virtual concert** with John Michael Talbot and other Catholic musical artists. To register go to [SCRC.org/Christmas](http://SCRC.org/Christmas). The Christmas Concert is a 1-hour celebration that includes a dozen performances and a message of Christmas Inspiration

**NEW YEAR'S SPIRITUAL REFLECTION AND PLANNING RETREAT**

To be held at Christ's Peace House of Prayer, 22131 Meager Road - Easton, KS, Friday, **Jan. 8th** starting at 5:30pm and ending on **Jan. 10th** at 4:30pm. Set aside time this year to focus on spiritual growth, Create growth goals for various roles, Devise steps to reach goals and Write a vision statement for the year. The structure of the retreat will allow ample time for you to do work on your plan. We will be providing resources and ideas to incorporate in your plan. There will be time to brainstorm and share our plans with others as well as time to meet with a spiritual director if you prefer to speak on an individual basis. Private Time for Prayer/Reflection, Daily Eucharistic Adoration, Praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, Confession and Mass at the local parish will also be available.

The suggested donation is \$170/Single or \$250/Couples for the Cabins and Courtyard Rooms or \$100 for the Single Guest Rooms (Meals Included). To attend, send an email to: [info@christspiece.com](mailto:info@christspiece.com) or call 913.773.8255.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES SNOWBALL 2021**

Due to COVID-19, many businesses have closed their doors, and many jobs have been lost. As more and more families are facing financial hardships, they are turning to Catholic Charities for help. Your support to our mission has never been more critical as we continue to provide help, hope and hospitality across our 21-county service area. Snow Ball 2021 is sure to be unforgettable as the event shifts to an entirely virtual experience. Guests will host their own version of Snow Ball in their homes, much like the founders who started Snow Ball with a potluck dinner and a small gathering of family and friends over 47 years ago. Register now to join us on Saturday, **January 16, 2021**. Our hope is to expand, engage and celebrate hundreds of Snow Ball parties across the agency's 21-county service footprint and beyond! <https://catholiccharitiesks.org/special-events/snow-ball/> or Theresa Gaul 913.433.2068

**MARCH FOR LIFE & TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST**

We made the difficult decision not to take a delegation to March for Life in January in DC. But this opens up the possibility for teens to attend the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat. We will provide a small group retreat experience for high schoolers **on January 16-18, 2021** at Prairie Star Ranch (PSR). We will be following social distancing and other safety procedures that allowed Camp Tekakwitha to happen. TEC is a 3-day retreat based on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. TEC involves 16 and older adolescents encountering Christ in a way that many have never experienced before. On a TEC retreat, you will have the opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ through talks, group discussion, individual reflection, prayer, and sharing in the Sacraments. The weekend retreats are led by a team of youth, adults and a priest as spiritual director. To sign up go to: [www.sunflowerterec.org](http://www.sunflowerterec.org)

**SAVE THE DATE: Jan 21st, 2021 Kansas Mass, March & Rally for Life in Topeka!** The annual Kansas Mass for the Legal Protection of the Unborn, and the March & Rally for Life will take place this year in Topeka, KS on Thursday, January 21st, 2021. 10:30 am Mass with the Kansas Bishops – Livestreamed! 12:00 pm March to the State Capitol for the Kansans for Life Rally All are invited to join in the March for Life from the Topeka Performing Arts Center to the state capitol for the Kansans for Life Rally at the capitol steps. Stay tuned for more detailed information and the livestream links. Visit the [www.archkck.org/prolife](http://www.archkck.org/prolife) website for continued updated information and details on the day's event.

 **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](http://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)

**THE CATHOLIC GUIDE FOR END-OF-LIFE AND ESTABLISHING OF ADVANCE DIRECTIVES**

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 in accordance with the teachings of our faith about complex treatments in grave illness or as life's end approaches. 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.

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



St. Lawrence/St. Joseph of the Valley

## St. Joseph/St. Lawrence Adopt a Family

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

**VIRTUAL ANGEL TREE:** This year has presented many challenges for many local families. We would like to help make Christmastime special for some of the children in our community by helping their families with gifts. This year, we will have a virtual Angel Tree. We will be helping out 4 families with children who attend Pleasant Ridge Schools. So many of our families at the school are having a very difficult time during this pandemic and if you can find it in your hearts to help us it would be so appreciated.

The links below will list the items that the kids have wished for. Each link includes the wish list for 2 families. We have also provided screenshots of the link below so you can see what is on the list and if someone has signed up to donate the item. If you would prefer - please feel free to buy a gift certificate to Wal-Mart, The Hill Top or any Gas Card of your choice. We are also in need of any kind of non-perishable grocery items.

Please be sure that your gift includes a tag that includes the Family # and the child gender and age. (Example: Family #2, Girl age 8) This will ensure we get it to the appropriate family. If you sign up for a gift, please leave it in the back of either church or at one of these drop off locations: Linda Heim 29829 207th Street; Donna Crook-Rogers 22447 Easton Road; or Virginia Mowery 24226 Easton Road. **We would like all gifts by December 20.** If you have questions, please contact Ginny Mowery (913-773-8303) or Danielle Nichols (913-683-3311). Thank you for your help!

Family 1 & 2:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040945A8AD29A1FE3-stjosephst>

Family #1; Boy age 10- Skateboard or Chiefs shirt (12 youth)	SH Samantha Hendrix
Family#1; Boy- age 10- Clothing - shirt sz 12 youth; pant sz 12 youth	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family#1; Boy - age10; Youth History Books	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family#1; Girl, age 6- Barbie or art activities	TW Tracy Wagner
Family #1; Girl, age 6- Shirt/pants sz 6t or shoes sz 13 Toddler	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family#1; Girl age 6- Princess books	TW Tracy Wagner
Family #1- Girl age 3; likes Frozen and Peppa Pig	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #1; Girl age 3- shirt/pants sz 4T or shoes size 11 Toddler	LO Linda Oertel
Family #1- Girl age 3; Book about Unicorns	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #1; Boy - age 2 months- any items for new baby	VM virginia mowery VIRGINIA MOWERY
Family #1- Boy - age 2 months- onesies or sleepers size 0-3 mo.	VM virginia mowery VIRGINIA MOWERY
Family #2, Girl age 8- LOL dolls or Failfix Makeover doll	LO Linda Oertel
Family #2, Girl- age 8- snowboots (size 5-6 girls)	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #2, Girl age 8- Dog Man book	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #2, Boy age 3- Ryan's World Giant Egg Mystery or PJ Masks Dino Trouble Deluxe Figure Set	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #2, Boy age 3- snowboots (size 2 boys) and socks	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #2, Boy age 3- books about PJ Masks	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>

Family #3, Boy age 11- Pokemon Cards	CM Cassie Miller
Family #3, Boy age 11- Pants (sz 12 boys)	CM Cassie Miller
Family #3, Boy age 11- Harry Potter books	MS Mary Lee Sullivan
Family #3, Girl age 8- LOL doll	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #3, Girl age 8- pink winter Coat (size 8/9)	CM Cassie Miller
Family #3, Girl age 8- book about horses or unicorns	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>
Family #4, Girl age 6- Paw Patrol toys	LH Linda Heim
Family #4, Girl age 6- clothes (size 7-8) and socks	CM Cassie Miller
Family #4, Girl age 6- Book about Paw Patrol or Curious George	CM Cassie Miller
Family #4, Girl age 8- Shopkins toys or unicorn things	CK Carol Kroll
Family #4, Girl age 8- clothes (size 14-16) and socks	LH Linda Heim
Family #4, Girl age 8- Babysitters Club books	LH Linda Heim
Family #4, Girl age 11- LOL Doll or Rainbow High doll	CK Carol Kroll
Family #4, Girl age 11- clothes (size 14-16) and socks	CK Carol Kroll
Family #4, Girl age 11- Books: Smile, Sisters, Guts (Author Raina Telgemeier	LH Linda Heim
Family #4, Boy age 12- gift card for Gamestop	LH Linda Heim
Family #4, Boy age 12- (clothes size 16-18)	LH Linda Heim
Family #4, Boy age 12- Book: Dog Man or Fetch 22	LH Linda Heim

## JOYFUL HOMES AREN'T PERFECT

# They assume the best.



Your brother posts something divisive on social media. A guy cuts you off in traffic. Your kid is whining. You can't control anything about these frustrations, except the most important thing: how you respond. When we **assume the best**, especially of those in our own home, we invite so much joy into families—even if we're wrong!

**As a family, discuss:**

- When is a time recently when someone annoyed or hurt you? What did you tell yourself their motive was?
- How can we see the situation from their point of view?
- What difference would it make if we assumed the best of each other and others all the time?

### Pick one practice this month!

One small, attainable goal sets us up for success.

- Imagine and speak out loud the good motives of those who frustrate you: *He must be in a hurry. She really believes that is the best for me. It must be really difficult to make that kind of decision... I'm sure they took all the information into account.*
- Ask a family member to tell you the reason behind a behavior that makes you crazy (see box at right).
- Pray each day for a specific person about whom you have difficulty assuming the best. Ask God for compassion to see through their eyes.
- Consider ways you have assigned bad motives to others, and bring them to the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### FIND THE VALUE



Do you love someone who does things the **wrong way**? Maybe he folds the towels instead of rolling them, or she loads the dishwasher in a haphazard way.

These little behaviors can drive us crazy!

To get past this, simply ask the person the reason they approach the situation like that. Usually, the value behind their behavior is not so hard to support. Once we understand each other better, it's easier to come to a good solution.

Scripture of the month: Genesis 1:31

*God looked at everything he had made, and found it **very good**.*

God, help me see everyone in my life through your eyes!

Want more ideas and encouragement? [www.archkcks.org/best](http://www.archkcks.org/best)

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B (12/6/2020)

Texts:

*First Reading. Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*

*Second Reading. 2 Peter 3:8-14*

*Third Reading. Mark 1:1-8*

Theme: *Sins of Impatience.*

Congregation: *St. Joseph of the Valley – St. Lawrence Parish, Easton/ Kansas*

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent pulls our hearts to the Lord. Advent is a time to begin anew. Advent is a time to be still and listen again to the voice of the Lord. All of this is to say that we must prepare the way of the lord in our lives and in our hearts.

The theme this Sunday is about God's time and our time. To illustrate this, I will begin with a humorous story:

A man once had a conversation with God. He asked, lord, I have always wondered about time. What is a thousand years like for you? God answered, "For me a thousand years is like a second."

The man then asked, What about money? What is a million dollars like for you? And God answered, "For me a million dollars is like a penny."

The man became eager and said, Lord, could you give me one of those pennies?" And God answered, "No problem, but you will have to wait a second."

Today, St. Peter reminds us that God's time is different from ours. "With God," says St. Peter, "one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day." Then Peter exhorts us, he urges us to be patient because God is patient with us. "The day of the Lord will come," he assures us.

Patience is such an important virtue. It means waiting, sacrificing some immediate satisfaction for the sake of a greater good. Impatience, on the other hand, is the unwillingness to wait, wanting it all right now.

So many of our problems come from impatience. Consider our current financial meltdown. Bankers, eager to make quick profit told young people that they could have it all, now: a new house, a new car, everything. No need to wait. Well, our impatience to have it all has sadly caught up with us all.

This Advent I invite you to examine your conscience in terms of patience. We hear today that, when John baptized people, "they acknowledged their sins." When you think about it, almost every sin involves a lack of patience. For example, when I lost my temper, maybe flew into road rage- that showed a glaring lack of patience. Stealing and cheating are also sins of impatience: Rather than working hard, a person simply wants to grab things. And even sins like fornication, adultery, pornography, cohabitation and contraception are sins of impatience. Rather than respecting God's plan for marriage and human sexuality, a person wants it all and wants it now. As a society – for about fifty years – we have been

experimenting with cohabitation (living together) and contraception (birth control). Contrary to all the promises, cohabitation and contraception have not brought us strong, happy marriages. Just the opposite.

We need to return to the basics- and there is no virtue more basic than patience. It means discipline, hard work, sacrifice, waiting for the right moment. Patience is difficult. But it does bring great rewards. I mentioned cohabitation and contraception as examples of impatience- and the negative impact those practices have on marriage. On the other hand, couples who wait until marriage and who use the natural family planning have a significant lower divorce rate. It is not foolproof, but it does indicate that patience brings blessings even in this present life. Once again, patience is not easy – and I need to learn it just as you do.

Advent is a time for precisely that- to learn patience. It is a season of "waiting in joyful hope."

Today we lit the second candle of the Advent wreath. The advent Wreath (in its modern form) was invented to teach patience. A man named Johann Henrick Wichern 1808-1881 had founded a home for poor children in Hamburg. The children kept asking him how many days were left until Christmas. As a response, he developed the Advent Wreath with its candles to give the children some idea.

We use the Advent Wreath for a similar purpose- to learn patience: To wait, not nervously, but patiently. For sure, things sometimes seem dark, but Advent Wreath says that the light of Christ has come- and that it will grow. We need to learn god's time – to avoid those sins of impatience that cause so much harm. If we wait patiently, he will give us every good thing. Teach us, Lord, to wait patiently until the proper moment. Teach us, Lord, to wait in joyful hope.

Fr. Francis Bakyor.