

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Third Sunday of Advent – December 13, 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
“LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

TUES	Dec. 15	06:00 pm	STL	For Vocations
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	Dec. 17	06:00 pm	SJV	Parishioners of SJ-SL
SAT	Dec. 19	05:00 pm	SJV	Irene Schmidling † Donald and Edith (Sam) Erzen †
SUN	Dec. 20	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 sign up online for one of our Christmas Masses.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4aa9ab2aa1fa7-stjosephst>

Please pray for the sick, especially: Phil Bell, Susie Beying, Jennifer Brushwood, Carl Davidson, George Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, 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 \$3240, including \$500 for STL Cemetery, \$110 for CCD, \$80 for Utilities and \$100 for Hall Rent. Last week's on-line collection was \$303.86. Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION: Will be held this weekend of Dec. 13th for Retirement Fund for the Religious. We appreciate your generosity.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Will be held at the Christmas masses for Catholic Charity.

ENVELOPES: The weekly donation envelopes for 2021 are in the back of each of the churches for pickup for whoever wants to use them.

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>

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.

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. 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 OR Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: 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.

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 to request the link. LINK: <https://forms.gle/TZprU6dvCQ9wa9n7>

CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE:

We hope this finds you safe and healthy. Christmas Mass schedule is below. Christmas Mass attendance will be limited per Archdiocese guidelines (50 at SJV and 100 at SL) with precautions in place to help keep our parish members safe. To allow as many parish members to attend as possible Father has added an additional mass. Parish members are encouraged to sign up early to allow people to plan as necessary. To sign up for Mass, visit this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4aa9ab2aa1fa7-stjosephst> or call Jason Nichols (913-683-2661) or Sharon Wagner (913-683-4495) to reserve a spot. As a reminder the COVID precautions put in place to help keep our members safe are listed below. We wish everyone good health. We hope you can join us! Blessings to all, SJ-SL Parish Council

Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24 th	4:00 pm	SJV
Dec. 24 th	7:00 pm	SJV
Dec. 24 th	10:00 pm	STL
Dec. 25 th	9:00 am	STL
Dec. 31	5:00 pm	SJV
Jan. 1	9:00 am	STL

PLEASE NOTE: There will NOT be a 5pm mass at SJV on Christmas Eve – it has been changed to 4pm, in order to accommodate another mass later that evening.

COVID Precautions

- Mask must be worn at all times, except for reception of Holy Communion.
- Single line for Holy Communion (6ft Spacing).
- No communion from the cup, if taking on tongue please wait until the end.
- Congregational singing is suspended.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering/exiting.
- Bathrooms will be closed.
- Seating is front to back.
- Exiting church is back to front (6ft spacing).

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas continues to develop programming that removes barriers and supports people on the road to self-sufficiency. This past fiscal year we have provided skills training, employment and financial education to 8914 people. Your donation to the Christmas Second Collection will help Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provide programs and services to people in need throughout all 21 Counties of our Archdiocese.

BABY SHOWER: The Knights of Columbus, Immaculate Council # 900 will be conducting their 21st annual Pro-Life Baby Shower throughout the month of January 2021. Donations of new and used clothing, diapers, baby formula or cash donations are very much needed and appreciated. Baskets will be located in the entries of area churches. The donations will then be given to Birthright of Leavenworth. For more information or questions, call Marty Moreno 913 702 4168, or Timothy J Lednicki 913 240 4122. Thank you in advance.

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
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Dec. 6, 2020

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(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)

CHRISTMAS: Christmas is the Feast of the Incarnation and Christ takes on a human body precisely so as to offer the sacrifice of that body that saves the world. “A Savior is born for you.” He is a savior precisely because he bears our human nature, and has a human body like we do – a body offered on the cross and in the Eucharist. As we see in readings and the Gospels, the details of His birth are carefully planned by God and foretold by his prophets. His birth is all about hope fulfilled and hope inspired. That hope outlasts his birth, and extends to us today as we work to build a world in harmony with the vision of peace, life, and love that Christmas inspires. Abortion is diametrically opposed to this vision of peace, life and love. May all believers and their clergy, take renewed strength and courage to speak out against abortion, consistent with the vision of Christmas and the proclamation of the Gospel.

STEWARDSHIP: “Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

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.

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](https://scrc.org/Christmas). The Christmas Concert is a 1-hour celebration that includes a dozen performances and a message of Christmas Inspiration

PRAY FOR YOUNG MEN ON RETREAT

You are invited to pray for young men who are on a vocation retreat. The annual Quo Vadis discernment retreat is next weekend, December 18-20, at Savior Pastoral Center. This retreat is for single men high school juniors and older, who have been invited to immerse themselves in liturgies, prayer, and time with Archdiocesan seminarians who are discerning their own call from the Lord. There will be a panel of priests and seminarians to share their discernment stories and experiences, and time with Archbishop Naumann. Fr. Dan Morris, Vocation Director, is expecting 50 attendees. He is inviting parishioners to pray for the young men attending, and for those presenting during the retreat. You are encouraged to set aside time in the adoration chapel or at home to pray during the weekend. However, there are three important times Fr. Morris would appreciate your prayers: Friday, Dec. 18, 7–7:45pm; Saturday, Dec. 19, 9–9:45am and Sunday, Dec. 20, 9–10am. Thanks to all who will be using the power of prayer to support vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese.

“PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: END OF THE YEAR TAX PLANNING”

Congress enacted two tax provisions to encourage charitable donations before the end of 2020. These include: 1. Increase in tax deduction for cash gifts: For donors that itemize their tax return, before the new legislation, the annual income limit was capped at 60% for cash gifts. The new legislation allows for charitable donations up to 100% of a donor's annual income. 2. New deduction: If you do not itemize when filing your tax return, to reduce your tax liability, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction of up to \$300 for charitable donations. Visit the Archdiocesan planned giving website, CatholicPlannedGiving.com to learn more ways to maximize your financial resources to benefit your family, charitable giving, and make a grateful response to God for the abundant gifts in your life. As always, contact an attorney or tax advisor to learn what is best for your life.

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@christspeace.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.sunflowertec.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 website for continued updated information and details on the day's event.

 **RESOURCES** 

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://kcascension.org/>
 - Queen of the Holy Rosary, Wea - Sunday Mass at 8:30am - <https://ghrwea.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>

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 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

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.

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 or Jenifer Valenti at 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 to learn how to accept this invitation.

Bulletin Items: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 Or Email 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	LH Lindsey Heim
Family#1; Boy - age10; Youth History Books	KB Kati Bryan
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	LP Lori Payeur Will do both
Family#1; Girl age 6- Princess books	TW Tracy Wagner
Family #1- Girl age 3; likes Frozen and Peppa Pig	SH Samantha Hendrix
Family #1; Girl age 3- shirt/pants sz 4T or shoes size 11 Toddler	LO Linda Oertel Will get both
Family #1- Girl age 3; Book about Unicorns	CF Chelsea Fletchall Chelsea Fletchall
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 Fallfx Makeover doll	LO Linda Oertel
Family #2, Girl- age 8- snowboots (size 5-6 girls)	CF Chelsea Fletchall Chelsea Fletchall
Family #2, Girl age 8- Dog Man book	CF Chelsea Fletchall Chelsea Fletchall
Family #2, Boy age 3- Ryan's World Giant Egg Mystery or PJ Masks Dino Trouble Deluxe Figure Set	CF Chelsea Fletchall Chelsea Fletchall
Family #2, Boy age 3- snowboots (size 2 boys) and socks	LP Lori Payeur Will do both
Family #2, Boy age 3- books about PJ Masks	MS Mary Lee Sullivan

Family 3 & 4:

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

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	LH Lindsey Heim
Family #3, Girl age 8- pink winter Coat (size 8/9)	CM Cassie Miller
Family #3, Girl age 8- book about horses or unicorns	SH Sandra Heim
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

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B (12/13/2020)

Texts:

First Reading. Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11.

Second Reading. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

3rd Reading. John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Theme: "There stands among you" "Rejoice in the Always"

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

Dear friends and brothers and sisters in Christ, Warm greetings to you again.

This day, the Church celebrates the *Guadete Sunday* or the *Sunday of joy*. One of the candles surrounding the Christ Candle in the Advent wreath is rose colored for *Guadete*, the beginning of the third week in Advent. Having come thus far in our journey, the Church says to us that the prophet Nehemiah said to the Israelites: *Go and enjoy...Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength*" (Neh. 8:10).

Daily life:

One day, Simon was walking on the road and he came to the playground. There was a big crowd of people gathered there. They were listening to someone speaking. Simon went nearer to see what it was all about. As he joined the people, he heard the speaker talking about someone who had done something wonderful for the people of that area.

Yes, my friends, this man is a great man. He has put his own life in danger to save many of from death when the hug fire was spreading to the village. He used all his strength and much courage to fight the fire and helped people get out of houses. Some of you have heard of him as a very good engineer. But he is more than that: he is a very generous man.

In the crowd people were asking one another: "Where has he gone where can we meet him?" he speaker went on:

You wonder where he is at the moment. If you look around you will see him. There he stands among you, just there on my right, near the tree.

People were amazed. This great man was among them, so near to them and they did not know.

God's Message:

Something similar to this is explained for us in today's gospel. John the Baptist, whom we met last Sunday is preaching and baptizing people. The leaders of the Jews heard about it and they sent some of their priests to ask him questions. In fact, the one question they want to ask him is: "is he God's special Messenger, is he the Messiah who is supposed to Come?"

John replied: "I am not the Christ". As they kept asking, he added:

"There stand among you- unknown to you- the one who is coming".

Just think for a moment, if John the Baptist were here today and said this to us: "The one you are waiting for, He is here among you, you do not know it, you have not recognized Him, but He is here"!

In fact, these words are true today. Christ is among us, yes here in Easton. But, is it not true that he is unknown to many of us?

Perhaps you ask yourself: "Where can I see Him? How can I recognize Him? In our story, the speaker told those who were listening to him where they could see the good and generous man he was talking about. And, you, in your hearts wish for the same thing. Is it not so? You want to be told WHERE you can see Jesus today.

It is not so much in certain places that you will recognize Jesus, but in certain actions. Let me explain what I mean by this.

In our first reading we have heard the prophet Isaiah. He had already talked to us last week. Today he tells us the kind of things that God's Special Messenger is to do. He says:

"The spirit of the lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

to proclaim a year of favor from the lord".

When He started to preach God's message, Jesus repeated those words of Isaiah. He not only repeated those words, but this is what he did for the people of his time.

- He proclaimed to them God's message, the Good news that God was there among them and loves them. He is a God who cares for the poor and all those in need.
- He brought comfort to all those who are suffering, suffering from pain in their bodies, suffering too from broken hearts.
- He brought liberty, or freedom, to all those who were captives, or prisoners. They were not free from because of sickness, because of evil spirits, because of their sins. He gave them healing, forgiveness, and peace.
- All who came to Him received
- God's favor, God's special blessings through this man, Jesus.

Perhaps you think to yourself: "Those people were lucky, but what about now, Jesus is no longer on this earth?"

Jesus is no longer on this earth for the eyes of our body to see Him, but HE IS STILL ON EARTH. HE IS STILL AMONG US. What He did long ago, He wants to do for us still in our day.

- We are poor: He wants to tell us the Good News that God loves us;
- Our hearts are broken: He wants to comfort us;
- We are prisoners of our bad habits and sins: He wants to free us;

- We are in need: He offers us a year of favor, a year of blessings from God.

Who among us does not want what Jesus has come to bring us? Who does not need love, comfort, freedom, healing, forgiveness, and peace? Who is the person who would say that he/she does not want this coming year 2021 to be a year of blessings?

Of course, we all want this, very much so. Our hearts are very hungry for god's gifts and God's blessings. Jesus is coming to bring them to us. In Jesus, God Himself is coming to us.

This is the meaning of this season of ADVENT. We are waiting for God to come to us in Jesus. What we need to do is to welcome Him- welcome Him into our hearts, welcome him into our lives.

New Life:

This coming week, let us continue to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus. He will come to us in a special way at Christmas. In the second reading, Paul has told us: "Pray constantly". We can prepare ourselves for God's coming by praying every day this short prayer:

Lord, I am poor: come to me.

Lord, my heart is broken: come to me.

Lord I am not free because of my sins: come to me.

Lord, I am in need of your blessings: come to me.

You can be sure that He will hear you. Paul assures us: "God will not fail you". God cannot fail to answer the prayer that asks for His coming. And like Isaiah, you too will "rejoice in God".

AMEN.

Fr. Francis Bakyor.