

# WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

*“Two Churches, One Parish”*

*Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus*

**First Sunday of Lent– Feb. 21, 2021**

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](mailto:francis.bakyor@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.sjslparish.org](http://www.sjslparish.org)  
“LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

TUES	Feb. 23	06:00 pm	STL	For the People of Burma
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	Feb. 25	05:00 pm	SJV	For Victims of Abuse
FRI	Feb. 26	06:30	SJV	Stations of the Cross and Mass Parishioners of SJ-SL
SAT	Feb. 27	05:00 pm	SJV	Ernie DeMaranville †
SUN	Feb. 28	09:00 am	STL	Donald “Pete” Gwartney †

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, 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! Collection amount was unavailable for last weekend. Last week's on-line collection was \$254.32. Thank you for your generosity.

**SECOND COLLECTION** will be held this weekend, **Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>** for Black and Indian Missions.

**THANK YOU!** A very special "Thank You" to all of those who helped clean off the snow and ice from the sidewalks, steps and parking areas of our churches during this past cold and snowy week. We truly appreciate all of your time and hard work.

**CALL TO SHARE:** Here we are. Another Lenten season is upon us. This is the year I'm going to make it all 6 weeks. I'm going to give up Coke and candy bars. I'm going to fast on Fridays, and I'm going to pray in the morning before work/school. I'm committed. (By the way, how are your New Year's resolutions going?) Don't worry! We've all been there. Every year. All you have to do is try. All you have to do is try each day. Then, when you forget and eat something you shouldn't have, or didn't pray in the morning, just start over the next day. The biggest thing is to NOT GIVE UP.

Ask God for help this Lent. Ask him to walk with you, to guide you, to strengthen you. Then do your part - One. Day. At. A. Time. - and be sure to pray, fast and give. (Have you made your pledge to the Archbishop's Call to Share appeal?) To pledge/give online – this video explains how:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bblinkid=248371396&bbemailid=28868032&bbeid=1858333292&v=E7UbwuGawus&feature=youtu.be>

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Stations of the Cross and Mass will be held on Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph of the Valley on **Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**, and **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, and St. Lawrence at 6:30 pm on **March 12<sup>th</sup>**, **March 19<sup>th</sup>**, and **March 26<sup>th</sup>**.

**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](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/TZprrU6dvCQ9wa9n7>

## OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

### ABORTION AND POVERTY/CRIME

Abortion advocates often argue that the unborn babies of poor mothers are better off aborted and abortion reduces the crime rate. However, the truth is that the violence of abortion has begot more violence and crime, not less. The pro-choice people have had more than 47 years to weed out all the "unwanted children" yet, we have more child abuse, more spousal abuse, more deadbeat dads, more gangs, more drugs, more homelessness and more crime. The list goes on and on. By stating that the children of poor people are less entitled to have their lives protected than those of the rich, the writer is plainly of the view that the economic status of a family should be what determines whether children are worthy to be born or not. Laws against robbery and drug-dealing might impact the poor more than the rich, but that does not prevent us from passing and enforcing them. The reason is simple: Robbery and drug dealing, like abortion, is wrong, regardless of the socio-economic class of hypothetical people who might commit these activities.

The solution to poverty is not found in killing the children of the poor. We have been doing that since 1973. Our experience proves that it clearly does not work. Killing poor children is only the solution of "choice" for wealthy elitists. Perhaps a hidden agenda is at work here.

**XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL:** Xavier Catholic School has a mission to "Keep Christ at the center of our daily lives as we care for one another in a loving and safe learning environment." Each and every day our staff guides children to live in a relationship with Christ as they prepare for the world around them. We would love to share more details with you about the benefits of Catholic education. Contact our school office at 913-682-3135 or visit our website at [leavenworthcatholicsschools.org](http://leavenworthcatholicsschools.org).

**CHRIST'S PEACE HOUSE OF PRAYER** has adjusted many of the ways we operate in order to create a safe environment for our retreatants. The layout of our facility naturally lends itself to social distancing with separate guest cabins and rooms each with private entrances and self-contained kitchen and shower areas. We have altered many of our operating procedures including how we clean, serve food and interact in the public spaces together so as to eliminate the spread of the virus. The transform CDC pandemic guidelines are carefully followed. We want our guests to be safe and know that they can trust the steps we have taken to make that possible. It is a privilege to serve each of you in these challenging times. Schedule a time for a personal retreat, organize a group retreat or join one of our monthly preached retreats. Send an email to: [info@christspeace.com](mailto:info@christspeace.com) or call 913.773.8255 to schedule a retreat. Visit us at [christspeace.com](http://christspeace.com).

### 2021 RETREAT SCHEDULE FOR CHRIST'S PEACE:

March 26-28: Palm Sunday with the Shroud of Turin  
April 9-11: Divine Mercy - The Father's Love  
May 15: St. Isidore Mass - Blessing of Seeds and Soil  
May 21-23: Freedom in the Spirit  
June 25-27: St. Joseph – With a Father's Heart  
July 9-11: Theology of the Body w/ Fr. Thomas Loya  
August 13-15: Consecration to Mary  
September 17-19: Living in the Present Moment  
October 15-17: Discovering the Wisdom of Saint Pope JP II  
November 19-21: Unlocking Difficult Scripture  
December 3-5: Advent Silent Retreat  
January 7-9: New Year Spiritual Reflection and Planning

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**(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF BURMA** Our Archdiocese has a vibrant Burmese Catholic community, and many of our brothers and sisters in Christ are concerned for family and friends of their homeland. On February 1, 2021, a military coup ousted democratically elected officials in Myanmar, also known as Burma. Thousands of Burmese have taken to the streets to peacefully protest. The military have begun to use live ammunition to disrupt protests and have declared a state of emergency for a year.

Pope Francis spoke of this coup February 8 in his State of the World speech, “In these days, my thoughts turn particularly to the people of Myanmar, to whom I express my affection and closeness,” he said. “The path to democracy undertaken in recent years was brusquely interrupted by last week’s coup d’état. This has led to the imprisonment of different political leaders, whom I hope will be promptly released as a sign of encouragement for a sincere dialogue aimed at the good of the country.” Please pray for a swift, safe, and peaceful return to the work of democracy. Myanmar’s Cardinal Charles Maung Bo wrote on February 3, “Peace is possible. Peace is the only way. Democracy is the only light to that path.” To read more of Cardinal Bo’s statement you can go to <https://spotlight.lcas.news/message-to-the-people-of-myanmar-and-our-internationalcommunities/index.html>. Please Pray: *“For the people of Burma, for a peaceful return to democracy, the release of their elected leaders and for the safety of all those protesting the military takeover. And for our Burmese brothers and sisters here in the Archdiocese that they will feel the support of prayer for their friends and family living in Myanmar and know God’s powerful love during a time of crisis in their homeland. Let us pray to the Lord.”*

**APRIL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States since 1983. The Archdiocese encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making our communities a safe place for children and families. By ensuring that parents and mentors have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect. In April, we highlight these prevention efforts. Unfortunately during the COVID-19 crisis, children may face an increased risk of abuse and neglect. While many schools may still be closed and families are staying home, more abuse cases could go unreported and unnoticed. It is of particular import we continue to be vigilant and work together to prevent abuse. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 913-602-7717 or [ivalenti@archkck.org](mailto:ivalenti@archkck.org)

**CAMP KATERI TEKAKWITHA 2021 DATES** We are excited to announce the dates for Camp Kateri Tekakwitha for the summer of 2021. 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 they remember most. We look forward to spending the summer with you. Visit [www.archkck.org/camp](http://www.archkck.org/camp) for more information.

This summer we will be offering a couple of day camp options in addition to our overnight camps.

Sr High is for campers entering 9th-12th Grade Fall 2021. Online registration begins Monday March 1, 2021:  
 HS Max \$440 June 21-26 (Overnight Camp)  
 HS Extreme \$510 July 23-31 (Overnight Camp)

Jr High is for campers entering 7th/8th Grade Fall of 2021. Online registration begins Tuesday March 2, 2021  
 J-high 1 \$360 June 8-10 (Day Camp)  
 J-high 2 \$435 June 11-16 (Overnight Camp)  
 J-high 3 \$435 July 12-17 (Overnight Camp)

Kateri is for campers entering 5th/6th Grade Fall of 2021. Online registration begins Wednesday March 3, 2021  
 Kateri Session 1 \$240 June 6-7 (Day Camp)  
 Kateri Session 2 \$280 June 28-30 (Overnight Camp)  
 Kateri Session 3 \$280 July 19-21 (Overnight Camp)

**FAMILY CAMPS.** Registration begins on March 1, 2021 by Email to [camptekgreg@gmail.com](mailto:camptekgreg@gmail.com) with each campers' name and DOB.  
 Cost - \$140 per camper 2yrs of age and older/\$ 0 under 2yrs  
 Family Camp June 18-20  
 Special Needs Family Camp July 9-11

**FERTILITY CARE SYSTEM - NFP** Make Valentine's Day last all year! Attend a FertilityCare™ System (Creighton Model) Introductory Session! Sessions are offered monthly at a variety of area locations and long distance. This fulfills your marriage policy requirement, it's helpful for achieving and avoiding pregnancy, it has medical applications and it's better than IVF for infertility. Register online at [www.fertilitycarekc.com](http://www.fertilitycarekc.com), or call the FertilityCare™ Center of Kansas City at (816) 858-0198.

**PROJECT CHRYSALIS** is a ministry offering hope through Sacred Scripture and community to parents/grandparents who have lost a child or grandchild. While this ministry is not a bereavement group, our mission is to offer support and hope through scripture in a time of transformation. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday **February 23** from 7:00- 8:15 p.m. via Zoom. Deacon Bill Graveman will be our guest speaking on the dangers of seeking mediums and psychics. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Deacon Ken Billinger at 913-634-4210 or email [kbillinger@archkck.org](mailto:kbillinger@archkck.org). The group is open to parents or grandparents who have lost a child.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASS:** This Lent, learn **Natural Family Planning** and see how our Heavenly Father blesses your marriage. Classes in the Couple to Couple League's Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP begin at St. John the Evangelist extra building, 200 W. 13th St., Lawrence, KS on Wed., **Feb. 24**, 6:30pm. Reasonable course fee charged. Call Shannon or John Rasmussen at (785) 749-1015 for more info. Visit [live-the-love.org](http://live-the-love.org) to pre-register as required for these or **online classes**.

**“A GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE” – A LIVE ZOOM WEBINAR**

The Office of Stewardship and Development is excited to offer the first Archdiocesan wide live planned giving webinar to encourage the faithful to plan a gift of life insurance to benefit your parish or archdiocesan school or ministry. **SAVE THE DATE:** A Gift of Life Insurance – A Live Zoom Webinar Sponsored by the Office of Stewardship and Development Tuesday, **February 23, 2021** – 6:30 pm or Wednesday, **February 24**, 11:30 am Register for the date and time of your choice at [archkck.giftlegacy.com/seminars](http://archkck.giftlegacy.com/seminars). Presenter • John Caton, President of the Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas • Member, St. Paul's parish in Olathe. • Catholic Legacy Society member and has served on parish finance councils • Served 48 years in the benefit and insurance industry What You Will Learn • Types of Life Insurance • Benefits of Gifting a Life Insurance Policy to Charity • How others have made gifts of Life Insurance No life insurance products will be sold. For educational purposes, only.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** is coming to your house! . . . Great marriages are made when husbands and wives make a lot of everyday choices that say “I love you” rather than choices that say “I love me”. Now is the time to tell your spouse “I love you” by giving them the gift of an intimate retreat right in the comfort and security of your own home. Join us for a Virtual Weekend Experience, **Feb. 26th - 28th**, 2021. For more information, or to apply for the weekend, visit our website at [www.wwme4youandme.org](http://www.wwme4youandme.org) or call/email Deacon Tony and Barb Zimmerman at 816-741-4066, [tonybarbz@prodigy.net](mailto:tonybarbz@prodigy.net). And don't forget to follow us on Facebook for the latest updates about WWME Greater KC!

**THRIVE! Foster/Adopt Ministry Opportunity** Have you ever considered fostering or adopting a child? Or, do you want to help foster/adoptive families? The Archdiocesan THRIVE! Ministry will be hosting a Foster, Adopt & Respite Training & Licensing Information Session via Zoom on Sunday, **Feb 28th** from 4:00-5:00 pm. This informational session is for couples and/or individuals interested in learning more about caring for vulnerable children or supporting families who already do by providing respite childcare. Cornerstones of Care, a local foster agency, will share information about the training program required by the state of Kansas and other steps needed to become a licensed provider in Kansas. Go to: <https://archkck18.wufoo.com/forms/foster-adopt-respite-information-session-to-register>. In addition, other foster agencies host similar sessions. Go to [www.archkcks.com/foster](http://www.archkcks.com/foster) for a list of the agencies and their websites. Contact Deb Niesen in the Pro-Life Office at [dniesen@archkck.org](mailto:dniesen@archkck.org) for more information.

**PROJECT RACHEL RETREAT:** Need healing after an abortion? We offer Compassionate, Confidential and Free services. Our next Saturday retreat is on **March 13th** from 8:30am - 5:00pm, in KC, MO. Lunch and snacks provided. Please contact Ann Marie Alvey @ 913-621-2199 for further details.

**RETREAT WITH THE HEART OF ST. JOSEPH** Come and retreat with the heart of St. Joseph. On Saturday, **March 20th**, you are invited to encounter the overflowing love of the Father's heart as you reflect on the life of Saint Joseph. Take a day to step away from your pandemic routine, pressures, and worries. Take a day to enter into the Year of St. Joseph. Prairie Star Ranch is offering a one-day guided retreat entitled Cor: Retreat with the heart of St. Joseph. With options for both in-person retreatants as well as live-stream participation, we hope all can take advantage of this special event. The retreat includes a vigil Mass, powerful and dynamic meditations offered by the Holy Family School of Faith, lunch, and perhaps most importantly, time for greater prayer. To find our more, register, and review our COVID-19 precautions, visit our website at [archkck.org/ranch](http://archkck.org/ranch)

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH RALLY:** The Jr. High Rally will be held at two different locations on two different dates: **Feb 28th** at Prairie Star Ranch and Sun **March 21st** at the KofC Hall in Seneca, KS. The rally will run from 9:30- 3:15pm each day. PSR will feature Mikey Needleman Band, Mike Debus & Dcn Jody Madden as our keynote speaker. Mass will be with Archbishop Naumann. March 21st will feature Mikey Needleman, Mike Debus and Dcn Jody Madden as our keynote speaker and Mass with Fr Zarse. For more information click here [JHR](http://JHR) Due to COVID restrictions PSR will be limited to 180 and KofC Hall 275.

## 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.

**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/](http://kcascension.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>

**“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! Please visit the 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).

**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.

**PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: CARES ACT – TAX BENEFITS FOR CHARITABLE GIVING EXTENDED THROUGH 2021**

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. For more information visit the Archdiocesan website, [CatholicPlannedGiving.com](http://CatholicPlannedGiving.com).

**THE LEAVEN** is available in audio format Do you know someone who is blind, low vision, or has a reading disability? Do you prefer to listen to an audio book rather than read one? If so, there are three ways to access an audio version of each issue of The Leaven. The University of Kansas Audio Reader Service offers a telephone reader service or an audio reader service for people who are blind or low vision. For more information, contact [www.reader.ku.edu](http://www.reader.ku.edu). An audio version of the Leaven is also accessible on the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas home page at [www.archkck.org](http://www.archkck.org). For questions or for more information contact the Special Needs Ministry at 913.647.3054 or [tracunas@archkck.org](mailto:tracunas@archkck.org).

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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.



*Lent--no better time to welcome God  
more deeply into your marriage...*

## NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING COURSE

- MEDICALLY SAFE
- HIGHLY EFFECTIVE
  - MORALLY ACCEPTABLE
- MARRIAGE STRENGTHENING
- ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY



*True love is sacrificial.*



**WHERE:** St. John the Evangelist extra building  
200 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence, KS

**WHEN:** Begins Wednesday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.

**MEETINGS:** Three

**COST:** \$135 (Includes all materials)

**Pre-registration required at [live-the-love.org](http://live-the-love.org).**  
*Financial assistance with fee available.*

Call: Shannon or John Rasmussen at (785) 749-1015

*Offered by the Couple-to-Couple League*

[live-the-love.org](http://live-the-love.org)



Save A Date

A Live Zoom Webinar

*A Gift of*  
Life Insurance

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - 6:30 pm

or

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - 11:30 am

Visit [archkck.giftlegacy.com/seminars](http://archkck.giftlegacy.com/seminars) to Register to receive the Zoom link

**Sponsored by the Office of Stewardship and Development**



# Catholic Engaged Encounter Inc.

A WEDDING IS A DATE, A MARRIAGE IS A LIFESTYLE

## What is Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE)?

CEE is a weekend designed for couples who are preparing for a Sacramental Marriage in the Catholic Church. While it is spent with other engaged couples, the focus is on private time for the couples to build on a closer relationship. The weekend gives the couple time to discuss their future lives together. This includes their strengths, weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals, as well as their attitudes about money, children, family, intimacy and their role in the church and society.

## CEE is a Diocesan approved program.

However, you should consult with the priest supervising your marriage preparation to determine the exact requirements in your parish and diocese.

## What happens on the weekend?

Through a series of presentations by two married couples and a priest, the engaged couple is encouraged to privately discuss all aspects of their forthcoming married life. Their discussion is always from the viewpoint of their own relationship. The couple's personal reflection and dialogue time becomes the focus of the weekend.

## When is the weekend held?

Our 2021 Engaged Encounter Schedule is as follows:

February 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

March 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

June 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

July 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

September 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

We encourage you to make your reservations at least four months prior to your wedding date, as many weekends are filled quickly. The weekend begins Saturday morning and concludes Sunday afternoon, following mass. The couple must stay the entire time to derive the full benefit of the weekend and to receive a certificate of completion.

## Where is the weekend held?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 weekends will be held virtually through Zoom.

## What is the cost?

The cost is \$85 per couple and it includes all supplies needed for the weekend.

## How do you register for the weekend?

Registration can be completed through our website: <https://kansascityengagedencounter.com>

## Comments from Couples who have experienced CEE

*"It was an unforgettable experience for both of us. We heard about marriage in a positive way."*

*"We became more certain of our decision to marry. We were able to concentrate on our relationship without everyday distractions."*

*"We've grown to love each other more, yet when we arrived on Friday night we hadn't thought that would be possible."*

*"We gained a better understanding and appreciation of the church's views on the sacrament of marriage."*

*"We drew closer as we realized how important God was in our marriage."*

*"It brought out feelings we didn't know we had, and we benefited from hearing the team couples talk openly about their experiences."*

## Contact Information

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## Ten Tips for Protecting Children and Offering Outreach to Victims/Survivors

- 1 Sexual abuse is about the victim.**  
Many people are affected by abuse but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life.
- 2 The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime.**  
The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Those who have been abused can heal, but it often takes time, therapy, and the support of loved ones.
- 3 No one has the right to have access to children.**  
No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the Church without proper screening and without following the rules.
- 4 Common sense is not all that common.**  
Dioceses, schools, parishes, and especially families, must educate themselves and others on how to protect children.
- 5 Child sexual abuse can be prevented.**  
It is critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm—such as protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.
- 6 Feeling heard leads toward healing.**  
Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one's pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor's suffering, pain, and anger are acknowledged.
- 7 You cannot always predict who will be an abuser.**  
Experience shows that most abuse is committed by someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family.
- 8 There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers.**  
Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling.
- 9 People can be taught to identify grooming behavior.**  
Grooming behaviors are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.
- 10 Background checks are important.**  
Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children.



## Watch for These Warning Signs of Abuse in Minors

- No longer wants to see a **particular person** they had been close to
- Declining **academic** performance
- Tries to hide use of **technology**
- No longer interested in **activities** they used to enjoy
- Changes in **personality**
- Tries to get **minors alone**
- Demonstrates **aggressive behavior** or constantly angry
- Commits physical and emotional **boundary violations**
- Withdraws** from family or friends
- Keeps **secrets** with minors
- Gives lavish **gifts** to minors
- Allows or encourages minors to **break laws** or rules
- Has **inappropriate** or suggestive conversations with minors
- Is overly interested in **spending time** with minors
- Takes **photos** without approval, or asks minors to send them photos
- Does not believe the **rules** apply to them (or, does not follow rules or protocols)

## ... and These Warning Signs of Perpetrators



## What's happening in your diocese to protect the most vulnerable?

- We report all allegations of abuse directly to law enforcement and cooperate with civil authorities on all investigations.
- Our diocese has a designated Victim Assistance Coordinator whose primary role is to accompany survivors and provide resources for their healing journey.
- We also have an independent review board, consisting primarily of lay members. The role of the review board is to review allegations and make a recommendation to the bishop regarding the suitability for ministry.
- We train adults on how to maintain a safe environment and how to report concerns.
- We train minors in parish religious education programs and in Catholic schools to identify warning signs of abuse and inappropriate behavior, as well as how to report abuse.
- By following all of our diocesan policies and procedures to create safe environments, we can maintain a culture of protection and healing.

## What's happening nationally to protect the most vulnerable?



- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has two bodies committed to the influence of policies regarding child and youth protection: the Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People where all members are bishops, and the National Review Board in which all members are lay people who have elements of expertise in the field of child and youth protection.
- There is a Victim Assistance Coordinator and Safe Environment Coordinator in every diocese.
- The Annual Audit, currently conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, evaluates the success of child and youth protection procedures, and trainings throughout the audit year.
- Diocesan Review Boards are in place in every diocese to review allegations of abuse and advise the bishop.
- All adult volunteers, clergy, and staff must receive safe environment training.
- All children must receive safe environment training.



# 5 FIVE WAYS

to protect your children from sexual abuse

*Parents play the primary role in educating their children about sexual abuse. Here are 5 tips for teaching safety to the little ones God has entrusted to you.*

1

**Keep it practical.** Teach your children the differences between safe touches and unsafe touches.

2

**Tell your children that saying "no" is okay.** Empower your children to say "no" if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or touches them inappropriately.

3

**Give your children a way to alert you.** Tell your children they can use an excuse or share a special "code-word" with you to alert you about an unsafe person or situation.

4

**Tell your children to report an unsafe touch.**

Let your children know they should tell you if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe around any adult or peer. You can also identify other adults they can tell about unsafe touches.

5

**Tell your children you trust them.** If your child makes a report to you, believe him or her. Tell them it is not their fault and that you love them. Immediately bring the allegation to the attention of public authorities.



Promise to Protect

Pledge to Heal

### First Sunday of Lent (2-21- 2021)

*Texts: First Reading. Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7.*

*Second Reading: Romans. 5:12, 17-19.*

*Third Reading: Matthew. 4:1-11*

*Theme: "Jesus was tempted by the devil"*

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

#### 1. Daily life:

Have you ever seen a magnet? Some of you may have seen one. Others among you may have read about it. It is a piece of metal, but is more than just ordinary piece of metal. Inside it, there is something special. We call it a power of attraction. To attract means: to draw to oneself.

This is what the magnet does: it pulls strongly, it draws to itself with force other objects. For example: a woman sewing may have a scissors with a magnet inside. If she has dropped some needles and pins on the floor, she needs to pass her scissors on the floor and all the pins will be drawn to it and cling to itself.

The same with a mechanic. If he has a magnet, it is easy for him to collect quickly the screws and bolts he may have dropped. The magnet will pull them to itself.

#### 2. God's Message:

This example helps us understand what temptation is. Just look at this word in our daily life. At times, we say; "I was tempted to buy this". Or, "He was tempted to go on a journey". Or, again, "she was tempted to take a correspondence course". When we speak these words: "I was tempted", what are we trying to say?

We want to say that we were strongly pulled in a certain direction, we were driven towards something. That can be anything, but it appeals to us. It attracts us or draws us to itself. Like the magnet which attracts other objects. Then, I am placed in front of a choice to go or not to go in that direction, to do or not to do this thing.

In the gospel of today, we see Jesus also placed in front of a choice. We read: "Jesus was tempted by the devil". Matthew, who wrote this gospel, wants us to understand this: as Jesus started His life of preaching God's message, he was pulled in a certain direction. He was drawn to choose a certain way of doing. Let us look for a moment at what he was drawn or attracted to.

We could say He was attracted to follow the way of the three P's. What is this?

Pleasure: to work a miracle for His personal benefit, to satisfy His hunger.

Pride: to show off by throwing Himself down from the Temple and expect a miracle from God so that he may remain unhurt.

Power: to have all the kingdoms of the earth serve him.



Matthew tells us that Jesus has overcome all three temptations. In the first reading, we have seen two other people, Adam and Eve, also being tempted. And in many ways, their temptation was like that of Jesus. They too were attracted to follow the way of the three P's.

Pleasure: to eat the forbidden fruit.

Pride and Power: to be like gods.

But they did not do as Jesus did. They gave in to the temptation, they sinned.

And now, I look at myself, at my own temptations. As I do so, I see that, I too am often attracted to follow the way of the three P's:

-Pleasure: I am tempted to satisfy my own pleasure in eating and drinking too much. I am drawn to satisfy my hunger for love with men or women other than my husband or wife.

- Pride: also pulls me to show off, to pretend I am a big man/ woman, to claim I know a lot of things, to say I am rich, even show myself as a pious person.

- Power: draws me also very strongly. I want to have authority, to be in a position of leadership. I want to tell others what to do, where to go, how to decide. I want to be the one in charge, no matter the ways and means to get to that position of authority.

We have seen what Jesus did when He was tempted. We have also seen what Adam and Eve did. What about myself? What is my attitude when I am tempted? Do I follow the example of Jesus, or that of Adam and Eve?

There are some of us who say: "The temptation was stronger than I, I could not resist". Or, "It was too much for me, I had to give in". The truth is no temptation is beyond our strength, and with any trial he will give you a way out of it and the strength to beat it". (1Cor. 10:13)

In fact, this is what temptation really is: a test or a trial. It tests what? What does it try in me? It tests my freedom. Have you ever thought of this? If we ever had any choices to make, we would not be aware that we are free. Temptation gives us this opportunity, this chance to become more aware of God's gift to us: our freedom.

There are people who think that a temptation is nearly, very nearly a sin. Or, they believe that, if you are tempted, then you will sin. Such people forget that we are free. Sin is NOT something I fall into; it is NOT something I am pushed into; it is NOT something that happens to me. Sin is something I CHOOSE.

Yes, I choose to tell the truth or the lie. I choose to do business honestly or dishonestly. I choose to treat others fairly or unfairly. I choose to forgive or not to forgive. I choose to be helpful or not to help those in need, etc.

Here is the difference between the magnet we have talked about and temptation. When metal things are drawn or pulled by the magnet, when they are attracted, they cannot resist. They are only objects; they are not free. But when we are pulled to something, when we are attracted by something, we can resist because we are free. We can overcome the temptation.

### 3. New life:

Many of us are Christians for a long time already. We are used to going to confession. Used also to preparing for confession. When we speak of preparing for confession, we often think of remembering our sins and counting them. Then, we go and tell them to the priest and get god's forgiveness.

On this first Sunday of LENT, I invite you, God Himself invites us, to do something else. It is good to see our sins and ask for His pardon. But it is good also, and god expects us also, to try not to sin. In other words: to overcome temptation. How will we do this?

By looking, not only at our sins, but also at what causes us to sin. Let us dig deeper than the sins we see and let us find the roots of our sins. What leads me to lie? Why am I pulled to cheat others? On which occasions am I attracted to sleep with somebody else other than my partner? When am I drawn to spoil the good name of my neighbor?

Each of us can make his/her own list. Then, let me and let you tell God that we are ready to avoid those occasions that lead us to sin. Let us also pray to Him. Let us ask Him to do for us what Paul has promised in His name: that he may give us "a way out of the trials and the strength to bear it". Then, we will be more like Jesus who has overcome His temptations.

Fr. Bakyor D. Francis.