

# THE REGISTER



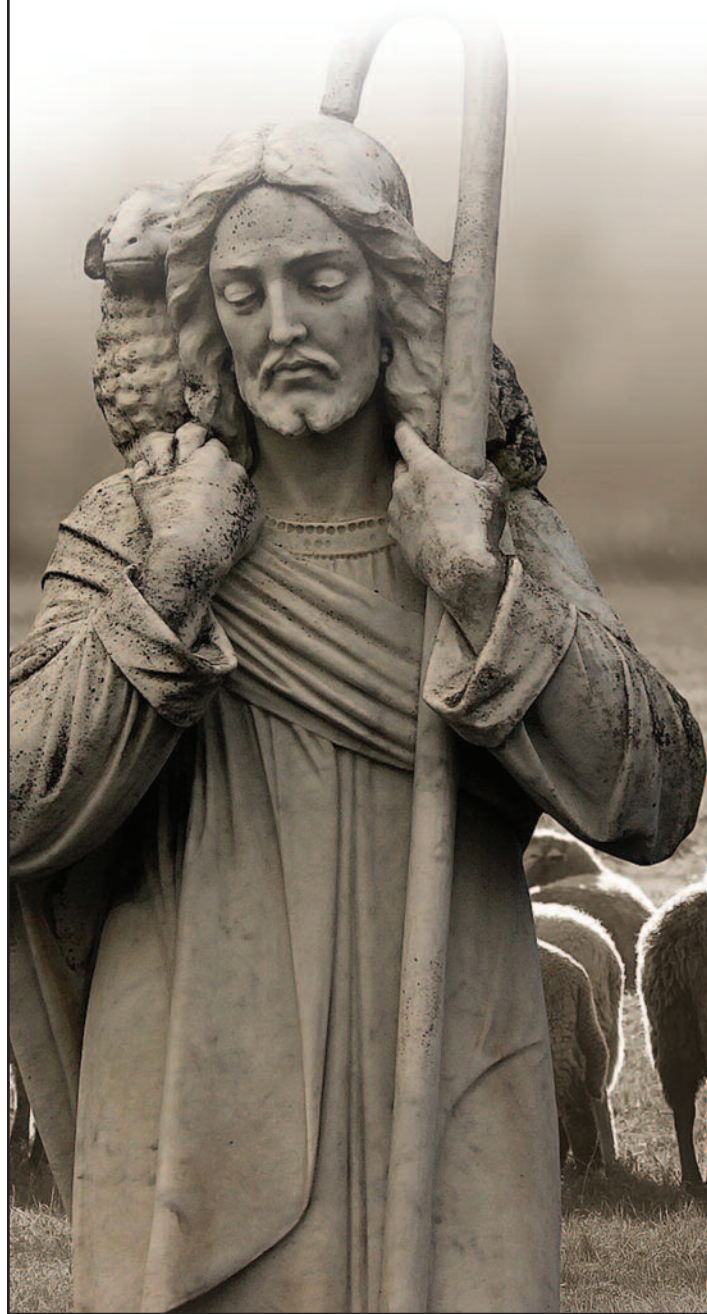
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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

January 22, 2021

## The Search: God seeks you first

*Series begins on Ash Wednesday*



If I took a poll of grandparents throughout the diocese and asked them what weighs most heavily on their hearts, I think many of them would answer it is the fact their children and grandchildren have either left the Catholic Church or do not practice any Christian faith whatsoever.

Why do people leave the Catholic Church or cease to practice the Christian faith? The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “man may forget his Creator, hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God’s initiative of love always comes first; our own step is always a response.” (CCC 2567)

Breaking this down, we find four common themes found in our culture today. First, we forget God is our Creator, that God knew us before he formed us in our

mother’s wombs (Psalm 139).

Second, we hide our faces from God, much like Adam and Eve did after they sinned. Oftentimes, when people fall into sin, the shame can be so prevalent that one may feel like God could not possibly love them anymore. This is not true. God never tires of forgiving us, and he desires to bestow his mercy upon us whenever we turn back to him.

Third, we run after idols thinking wealth and health will fulfill us and will somehow keep us from dying.

And finally, there are times when we feel abandoned by God, especially when difficulties arise in our life or when someone we love dies.

Despite any reason a person chooses to cease participating in the faith, God pursues all of us and desires to be in eternal communion with every person he has created.

Just as Jesus went after the lost sheep, we are called to do the same.

**Bishop Jerry Vincke**

*Diocese of Salina*



Please see SEARCH / Page 12

## Pope declares 2021 Year of St. Joseph

**By Bishop Jerry Vincke**

*“We can have recourse to many saints as our intercessors, but go especially to St. Joseph.”*

**St. Teresa of Avila**

I was excited to hear Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint’s proclamation as patron of the universal Church. The Year of St. Joseph began Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes Dec. 8, 2021.

The Holy Father also wrote *Patris Corde* (With a Father’s Heart) on St. Joseph. He wrote the apostolic letter against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. He says the pandemic has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this way, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who

nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Pope Francis has established a Year of St. Joseph so “every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God’s will.”

I invite all of you to look over the plenary indulgences listed on the following page.

Please see ST. JOSEPH / Page 14



Pope Francis arrives in procession to celebrate Mass on the feast of the Epiphany in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Jan. 6.

*Photo by Paul Haring, Catholic News Service*

### Ash Wednesday

Feb. 17 marks the beginning of Lent, continuing until Holy Thursday, April 1.



### Call to Share

Join in the mission.  
Page 3



### Time to celebrate

Catholic Schools Week kicks off Jan. 31.  
Page 6





# Answers to ethical questions about COVID-19 vaccines

## Special to The Register

The development of vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has received much public attention and raised several ethical questions related to their development and use. This document is intended to provide concise answers to some of those ethical questions as well as links to more in-depth resources.

### Is it true there is a connection between some vaccines and abortion?

Yes. Several decades ago, tissue harvested from the bodies of aborted babies was used to create certain cell lines for research purposes. The cells in these lines are, in effect, the descendants of those cells that were originally harvested. They have been made to replicate themselves, and some cell lines can be reproduced indefinitely. These abortion-derived cell lines are used as a “factory” to manufacture certain vaccines (e.g. rubella, chickenpox, some of the COVID-19 vaccines, etc.). The cells themselves, however, are not present in the vaccines that patients receive.

### What does the Church say about abortion-derived cell lines and their connection to vaccines?

The Holy See, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy for Life, has provided guidance on this topic on four occasions. This guidance has made it clear it is wrong to create abortion-derived cell lines and for pharmaceutical companies to utilize them, that the use of vaccines produced with such cell lines should be avoided if comparable alternatives with no connection to abortion are available, that grave reasons (e.g., serious health risks) may justify the use of vaccines produced with these cell lines when there are no such alternatives, and that everyone concerned for the sanctity of life should protest the use of these cell lines and advocate for the development of vaccines with no connection to abortion.

### Do COVID-19 vaccines use abortion-derived cell lines?

As of the date of this writing, hundreds of vaccines for COVID-19 are in development worldwide, and more than a dozen are in the final stages of testing. Some don't use abortion-derived cell lines at all, some have used such cell lines to test the vac-



Ciro De Luca, Reuters via Catholic News Service

**Health care workers prepare doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 on Jan. 8 at a vaccination center in Naples, Italy.**

cine's efficacy, and some are using such cell lines in the development or the production phases. There are currently two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) being distributed for use in the United States, and there are others that are likely to be made available in the coming months (e.g., AstraZeneca, Janssen, etc.).

Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used an abortion-derived cell line in the development or production of the vaccine. However, such a cell line was used to test the efficacy of both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any use of abortion-derived cell lines, in these two cases the use is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion. The AstraZeneca and Janssen vaccines raise additional moral concerns because an abortion-derived cell line is used not only for testing, but also in development and production.

### Is it morally acceptable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines?

Given the COVID-19 virus can involve serious health risks, it can be morally acceptable to receive a vaccine that uses abortion-derived cell lines if there are no other available vaccines comparable in safety and efficacy with no connection to abortion. If it is possible to choose among a number of equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. If a vaccine with no connection to abortion-derived cell lines is not readily available, vaccines that used such cell lines only for testing would be preferable to those that use such cell lines for ongoing production. Such choices may not be possible, however, especially in the early stages of vaccine distribution. In that case, one may

receive any of the clinically recommended vaccines in good conscience with the assurance that reception of such vaccines does not involve immoral cooperation in abortion.

### Is there a moral obligation to receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has noted recently that “vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary. In any case, from the ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health but also on the duty to pursue the common good.” And it said that “in the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic” vaccination may promote the common good, “especially to protect the weakest and most exposed.” For a vaccine to be effective in protecting society, most people need to be vaccinated in order to break the chain of disease transmission from person to person throughout the community. The Congregation also said those who refuse to get vaccinated must do their utmost, by taking all the necessary precautions, to avoid “becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.”

### What can those who uphold the sanctity of life do to protest against the use of abortion-derived cell lines and advocate for ethical vaccines?

First, inform yourself and others about how some vaccines are connected to abortion through the use of abortion-derived cell lines, and about which vaccines use such cell lines. Second, inform your doctor about this connection and ask him or her to provide ethical vaccines, when possible. Third, urge pharmaceutical companies and medical researchers to discontinue using abortion-derived cell lines, and thank them when they do.

Please see **VACCINES / Page 15**

### Where can I find more information on this topic?

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/biomedical-research).
- National Catholic Bioethics Center, [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org).
- Charlotte Lozier Institute, [www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics](http://www.lozierinstitute.org/category/genetics).



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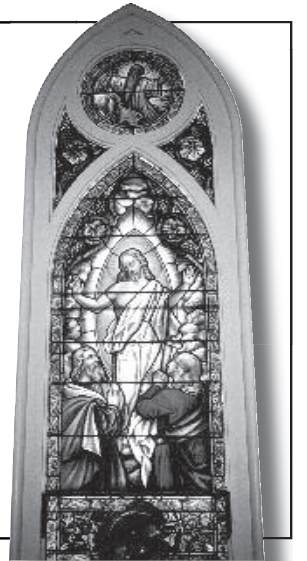
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The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Salina:  
Maria Cheney, LSCSW  
Contact her at 866-752-8855 #1067 or P.O. Box 2984, Salina, KS 67402 or [reportabuse@salinadiocese.org](mailto:reportabuse@salinadiocese.org) or [www.reportandprotect.com](http://www.reportandprotect.com).

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: 800-276-1562 or [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

Si has sido abusado o fuiste víctima de alguien que represente a la Iglesia católica ... Cree en la posibilidad para la esperanza, la ayuda y la sanación. Ven y cuéntanos tu problema. La coordinadora víctima estará disponible para atenderte en tus necesidades, para ayudarte a presentar una queja formal de abuso ante la diócesis y para que veas personalmente al obispo o su representante, si así lo deseas.

La coordinadora para la diócesis de Salina es Maria Cheney. Puedes contactarla al 866-752-8855 #1067 o P.O. Box 2984, Salina, KS 67402. [reportabuse@salinadiocese.org](mailto:reportabuse@salinadiocese.org) [www.reportandprotect.com](http://www.reportandprotect.com).

Secretaría de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes, La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos

El Servicio de Denuncias de Abusos de Obispos Católicos: 800-276-1562 or [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).



BISHOP'S CALENDAR

February 2021

- 1-6 Catholic Schools Week celebrated with Masses
- 1 11:15 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.
  - 1 2:15 p.m., St. Andrew, Abilene.
  - 2 9 a.m., St. Thomas More, Manhattan.
  - 2 1:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier, Junction City.
  - 3 8:20 a.m., St. John the Baptist, Hanover.
  - 4 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph, Oakley.
  - 4 10:30 a.m., Sacred Heart, Colby.
  - 4 1:45 p.m., Sacred Heart, Plainville.
  - 5 8 a.m., St. Mary, Ellis.
  - 5 10 a.m., TMP-Marian, Hays.
- 5 SEEK 21 Mass, 6 p.m., St. Isidore, Manhattan.
- 6 SEEK 21, St. Isidore, Manhattan.
- 7 Confirmation, 10 a.m., Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria.
- 9 White Mass, 6 p.m., St. Thomas More, Manhattan.
- 10 Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Andrew, Abilene.
- 14 Confirmation, noon, St. John the Baptist, Beloit.
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 19 Friday Lent Mass, 12:10 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.
- 20 Confirmation, 5:30 p.m., Christ the King, WaKeeney.
- 21 Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph, Oakley.
- 26 Friday Lent Mass, 12:10 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.
- 28 Confirmation, 10 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hill City.

OFFICIAL



The following clergy appointments are effective Dec. 17, 2020:

CHAPLAIN

Father Justin Palmer,  
Chaplain at Salina  
Regional Health Center  
in Salina, with residence  
at Sacred Heart  
Cathedral.

Father Leo Blasi, Chaplain of  
Courage and Encourage  
Apostolates in the  
Diocese of Salina, while  
retaining duties in  
Plainville.

+ *Gerald L. Vincke*  
Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke  
Bishop of Salina Diocese

*Corey Lyon, JCL*  
Witnessed by  
Corey Lyon, Chancellor

FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION

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Please consider joining me in the Call to Share appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our diocese is one family. As Kansas Catholics, we are called to share our gifts with each other as we grow in our one faith. You make a difference in people's lives when you support the Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a special edition of *faith* magazine that will provide more information about the annual appeal. I hope you take the opportunity to look through the magazine and learn about the important work of our appeal.

The annual appeal is a call to share your gifts of treasure in support of diocesan ministries. Your gifts are used to educate our seminarians, provide retirement and healthcare for the clergy who have faithfully served us, support the religious education of our youth, enhance our evangelization and communication efforts, as well as provide various other ministries from the diocese.

Soon, you will receive a letter from me inviting you to join in the mission of our diocese through a financial contribution to the appeal. Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider your capacity to respond generously.

As you discern, I encourage you to



take some time to

- Listen and learn — become more informed about what is needed, why and where the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds will be spent. Take a moment to understand its impact on you, your parish and our diocese.

- Pray and discuss — spend some time in prayer. Ask yourself how you can join us as a missionary disciple. Discuss it with your

family.

- Decide and act — once you have discerned how you can best help, act upon your decision.

As Catholics, as a Church, as a parish, we must recognize Christ's call to be missionary disciples who witness by faith, hope and love. We express our love of Christ through our charity, our compassion and our willingness to grow in our mission. The appeal is an opportunity to celebrate God's good gifts with gratitude and generosity.

I am so grateful for our shared faith and belief in the need of our ministries. I am asking you to prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share. This year, our goal is to raise \$1.85 million. You are important to the ministries this appeal supports and the people it impacts. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

In Christ's service,

+ *Gerald L. Vincke*

The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke • Bishop of Salina

Time to answer call for diocese

By Katie Greenwood

In Bishop Vincke's column, he says "we are called to be disciples of Jesus who are on a mission to bring others to him." One way to bring others to Jesus is through witnessing by faith, hope and love.

The 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal — Call to Share — begins Feb. 6 across the Salina Diocese. The appeal quote is from 1 Corinthians 9:23 "I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

The diocese exists solely to serve the needs of the lay faithful and its 86 parishes, while bringing them to Christ. Just as every individual is called to be a missionary disciple, so too is the diocese. Making a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds the mis-

- To learn more, visit <https://salinadiocese.org/office/development/bishops-annual-appeal/>
- To make an online gift, visit [join.salinadiocese.org](http://join.salinadiocese.org)
- To make a gift through appreciated stocks, IRAs or commodities, contact Beth Shearer, director of stewardship and development, at (785) 827-8746 x 42 or [beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org](mailto:beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org)

sion of the diocese to be a disciple who witnesses by faith, hope and love.

Diocesan leadership established a goal of \$1.85 million for the appeal. The appeal bears witness to faith by supporting the vocational discernment of seven seminarians and the healthcare and retirement expenses of 16

retired clergy and 56 active priests. The appeal bears witness to hope through evangelization efforts such as Family Life, Hispanic and Rural Life ministries. The appeal bears witness to love by providing opportunities for faith education for children, youth, adults and clergy, as well as supporting diocesan operations and national collections.

Together, the lay faithful and the diocese bear witness by faith, hope and love. Every gift, no matter the amount, is vital to the success of the Salina Diocese. In the coming weeks, each registered parishioner will receive a special issue of *faith* magazine that will provide more details. Additionally, every registered parishioner will receive a letter and informational packet from Bishop Vincke.

THE REGISTER

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Our next issue is dated Feb. 26.

Deadline for news is Feb. 1.  
Deadline for advertising is Feb. 1.

Mailing label update

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# Catholics in the public square

**THE CATHOLIC** Church's social teachings, like the Gospel message itself, are intended for all people, not just Catholics. Its priorities don't fit neatly into any political party affiliation. The Kansas Catholic Conference (KCC) is the public policy arm of the Catholic bishops of Kansas, tasked with carrying out their legislative priorities for the common good on the state and federal level.

So, what are the consequences of the 2020 elections for the Church's priorities?

First, most significantly, prospects have improved for the top state legislative priority of the Kansas bishops — adoption of the Value Them Both (VTB) state constitutional amendment for life.

VTB is necessary because a State Supreme Court ruling



**Chuck Weber**

Kansas Catholic Conference

means abortion in Kansas is virtually unlimited and unregulated. Passing VTB effectively reverses the court ruling and once again allows enforcement of reasonable Kansas laws protecting mothers and babies. VTB takes on added significance because the incoming presidential administration favors federal taxpayer-funded abortion.

Other threats loom. Pope Francis has consistently warned the faithful about the harms of the so-called "gender ideology" way of thinking

that seeks to undermine the proper understanding of marriage as well as human sexuality.

**THE INCOMING** presidential administration is using "gender ideology" to justify legislation deceptively called the "Equality Act." If adopted, this policy would add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as protected classes, creating a number of harms, including unequal playing fields for women and girls in athletics, education and business.

This way of thinking about the human person is a direct contradiction to Catholic teaching on marriage, the family and human sexuality.

There is also deep concern about continued threats to religious freedom in today's

COVID environment, such as limiting church attendance or other religious gatherings.

Here are some of the other legislative priorities of the Kansas Catholic bishops:

- We will continue to lobby Kansas' federal officials for greater justice for the immigrant. The KCC decried the outgoing presidential administration's rhetoric and position on immigration reform. We continue to call for resolution of issues like DACA ("Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals").

- The KCC has consistently opposed and testified against federal and state-sponsored executions and will continue to do so.

- The KCC was front and center in Topeka during the last legislative session pressing for reform of the so-called

"payday loan" industry that we deem to be predatory and hurtful to the dignity of families under financial duress. We will continue to do so.

- The political reality is that Medicaid Expansion in Kansas is in all likelihood dead on arrival for 2021. Undeterred, the KCC is promoting legislation leading to greater healthcare access at lower costs.

- Promoting educational opportunity for low-income families who too often get short-changed in the classroom continues to be a KCC priority.

Please pray for our elected officials as they seek the common good in 2021. Mary, Untier of Knots, pray for us!

*Chuck Weber is the executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the four Kansas bishops.*

## Finding your childlike faith for the new year

**A MESSAGE CONVEYED** by Father Rob Hausladen during his homily on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception has been lingering in my brain, especially as we begin a new calendar year.

My takeaway from his sermon that day was clear and concise. Mary genuinely trusted. When the angel departed from her, he didn't leave her with a play-book outlining the next 30-plus years of her life.

Even as the mother of Jesus, she didn't receive inside information as to how everything would unfold for the glory of God and the salvation of humankind.

When she was about to give birth, there was no room at the inn, so she birthed a king in a manger in the company of livestock. As if that wasn't enough of a surprise, then she and Joseph trusted an angel,

instructing them to flee to Egypt. We know that, several decades later, Mary watched her son be beaten, mocked and left to die on a cross with nail marks through his flesh.

We recently celebrated the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on the first day of January, and I can't think of a better way to embrace a new year, reminded to trust like Mary. That same day, I opened a 2021 calendar, and

began to write in birthdays, appointments and other important events in the year to come. As much as I'm ready to close the books on 2020, the uncertainty of what's to come left me uneasy, and I felt a wave of anxiety.

Unexpected events occurred in 2020 for all of us, and while it's nice to start a new chapter with 2021, I think we're all a bit weary from these last 12 months.

My thoughts circle back to Father Rob's message about how Mary got by—with pure faith in God and trust in his will, even when she didn't know what the next turn of events would bring.

Mary's trust is what I pray to model and cling to in the New Year. I know I will fail and be startled by curve balls, but my hope is to find the spiritual strength to echo Mary's faith when she said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:38)."

I'm learning that's the kind of faith to which we're ultimately called. It's about believing when we don't understand, as my Aunt Dolores used to say. Trust over circumstances.

An entry from the devotional God Calling says: "It is not passionate appeal that gains the Divine Ear, so much as the quiet placing of the difficulty and worry in the Divine Hands.

So trust and be no more afraid than a child would be, who places its tangled skein of wool in the hands of a loving mother and runs out to play, pleasing the mother more by its unquestioning confidence than if it went down on its knees and implored her help, which would pain her the rather, as it would imply she was not eager to help when help was needed."

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law loaded their three grandkids into the van after Mass. As each was busy buckling a child into a car seat, that left Cooper, a toddler, waiting for his turn. He stood there, bawling, with his arms raised up to my brother, as if to say, "Take care of me, Papa."

Here's to embracing childlike faith, modeled best by our Blessed Mother Mary, in 2021.

*Patti Lamb is a freelance writer from Plainfield, Ind. Her columns appear in The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.*



**Patti Lamb**

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

## Register editor moves to new position at university

**"HOLY SPIRIT, I GIVE** you permission to work in my life."

This is a mantra I have heard Bishop Jerry Vincke repeat over and over since his ordination and installation as our bishop. It's a simple prayer, and one I didn't give much thought to. Until 2020.

I had no idea when I began to pray, giving the spirit permission to act, that the answer would be for me to depart from my position as editor of The Register. Yes, we all read that correctly. The December 2020 newspaper was the final full issue I completed as the editor. (I worked ahead to have the Catholic Schools Week stories completed, but I did not herald this newspaper to press.)

I began on Jan. 4 as the assistant director of communications for Kansas Wesleyan University here in Salina. It's exciting and nerve-racking all at the same time. I'm excited to help tell their story in words and pictures, similarly to what I've done here. I anticipate I'll spend a



**Karen Bonar**

Register editor

lot of time working on photos, which excites me immensely, since my passion is photojournalism.

At first glance, it might seem odd for a Catholic editor to move to a United Methodist university. Believe me, it surprised me, too! I repeatedly prayed, telling God where I felt my heart being called, and asking if this could really be what he is asking of me. Over and over, the path was affirmed. I was being asked to move away from the diocese, and specifically to KWU.

As I began the transition, I was stunned to learn that as many as one quarter of the student population is Catholic! It's exciting to think I'll be working in an environment with a religious founda-

tion, which encourages its students to grow not only academically, but spiritually.

**AS I AM CLOSING ONE** chapter and embarking upon a new one, it feels impossible to avoid looking back. I simply pray God doesn't turn me into a pillar of salt, a la Lot's wife!

I was humbled when the previous editor, Doug Weller, asked if I would be interested in assuming the duties as the editor of The Register in 2016. He modernized this newspaper, and I strove to build upon the strong framework he created.

While I was excited, I was nervous, too. I was the second non-clergy editor of The Register, and the first woman. Thankfully, I was received with much warmth from readers and religious alike.

One highlight as I look back is the effort to include many of our small towns and tiny parishes. My first job out of college was as a photojournalist in a small community,

and I know how much pride towns take in their identity. Being able to showcase some of our smaller parishes was a priority for me.

I have also been excited to utilize the newspaper to help expand and deepen prayer experiences for our readers. You might remember in December, when we published our second annual Advent Calendar. This is a beautiful invitation to prayer.

Another example is the Stations of the Cross, which I began including several years ago. Initially, my intention was that home-bound readers might enjoy reading them. To my surprise, parents with young children reached out, expressing gratitude to have a tool to use to share the passion and death of Christ with their children. My own son has even enjoyed learning and praying the stations over the years!

One aspect of the Stations project was traveling around and photographing stations and stained glass windows in churches across the diocese.

While I didn't manage to hit every single one of the 86 churches, I think I managed to visit 55 of them. The good news is that my family and I are staying put in Salina, and once COVID-19 related issues calm down, I do intend to visit the final churches on my list.

As I shared the news of my departure with colleagues, a chorus I heard repeatedly was, "Thank goodness you're not leaving Salina, we can still see plenty of you!" ...

Which is the exact sentiment I have for you, my dear readers. When I began as the editor of this newspaper, I never realized the relationship and bond that would be forged with many of you. I've been so enriched by the generosity, kindness and trust you have shown me over the years. I realize what an honor it is to earn this trust, and please know it is something I will take with me as I move forward.

*Karen Bonar was the editor of The Register from 2016-20 and is a parishioner of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe in Salina.*

# Life

Simple.  
Sacred.

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in God’s own image, destined to live for ever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

— POPE FRANCIS  
to the Bishops of Ireland,  
Scotland, England and Wales,  
July 17, 2013

*Please join the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia  
in prayer for the sanctity of all human life.*





## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

## Oakley / St. Joseph Grade School



On Oct. 7, which is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, students at St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley gathered outside to pray the rosary. The students gathered around a fire pit, and their prayer intentions from the current and previous school year were burned as part of the service.

By Karen Bonar

**OAKLEY** — On a bright afternoon in October, students at St. Joseph Grade School gathered in the afternoon sunshine to pray the rosary.

During the rosary, the prayers the students had compiled during the current and previous school year were bundled and burned, as a visual reminder of the prayers rising to God.

"The kids really enjoy it," said principal Michelle Selzer. "We get a lot of positive feedback from the kids."

The school gathers as a community daily for prayer.

On Tuesday and Thursday, it is for Mass as a school. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays are for a prayer service.

During the prayer service, students have an opportunity to write prayer intentions on small pieces of paper and place them in a basket; the school community will pray for the intentions.

"The students know that their prayers count," Selzer said. "They know everyone is praying for who or what they wrote down."

**IN ADDITION TO** gathering regularly as a schoolwide community to pray, she

*St. Joseph Grade School • Oakley*  
**Year founded:** 1962  
**Grades:** Pre K-5  
**Enrollment:** 60 students

said, some classes expand the idea in their classrooms.

"In fourth grade, they write it on paper, hook it to the chain and hang the prayer chain around the room," Selzer said.

Once a year, she said, a teacher brings a fire pit. The school community gathers to pray the rosary as the prayer chain and prayer intentions from the school-



From left: Jennifer Bretz and principal Michelle Selzer prepare the prayer chain from the fourth grade class to be burned as part of the Oct. 7 prayer service.

wide prayer services are burned.

"It's a good schoolwide activity because we are a Catholic school, and we pull

together," Selzer said. "Praying together shows unity. It's a luxury that we can express our faith together as a school."

## Hays / Holy Family Elementary

By Allison Ochoa

**HAYS** — Ministering to their fellow students by supporting their weekly nutritional needs is the goal of the Dominic Savio Stewardship Club's Blessing Bag project at Holy Family Elementary School in Hays.

"The project helps meet the nutritional needs of our students over the week-ends," said Madison Quimby, sixth-grade teacher and Dominic Savio Stewardship Club sponsor.

The project began as Christ's Cupboard in 2016 when the school's evangelization committee identified a need for nutritional support for some members of the student body during weekends and breaks from school. The committee sought internal and external donations to stock the cupboard and then began filling bags — called Blessing Bags — with easy-to-prepare or ready-to-eat foods for the students in need to take home with them each weekend.

Quimby said each HFE family receives a flyer at the beginning of the school year that explains the program and allows the family to indicate whether they would like to receive support in the form of the Blessing Bags. Families can also indicate if they would like to assist with the project through financial contributions or prayers. Each week throughout the school year, students from the Dominic Savio Stewardship Club and an adult volunteer work to pack the bags — one for each child in the family — that are then delivered discreetly to the students' homeroom classrooms.

*Holy Family Elementary • Hays*  
**Year founded:** St. Joseph School, 1963; Holy Family, 1998  
**Grades:** Pre K-6  
**Enrollment:** 348 students

"This is all confidential," Quimby said.

Participation numbers for the Blessing Bag program vary from year to year, but Quimby estimates 20 to 25 students are served per year.

"The donation of our sixth-grade students' time is the biggest part of stewardship for this project, but we are also thankful for the treasure entrusted to us," she said. "We have several consistent donors and have had support from parishes throughout Hays."

"We are also thankful for the people who've pledged prayerful support," she continued. "We add those people to the prayer board in our classroom."

Quimby believes the take-away lessons for the students are many, but chief among them are gratitude and a deeper understanding of stewardship.

"At the beginning of the year when I introduce it, the (sixth grade) kids aren't always super excited because they aren't sure what it is or what it entails. But after they've helped a few times, they're more excited because they see what it means and how it's going to help other students," Quimby said. "I think it makes them more appreciative of what they have."

## Manhattan / Manhattan Catholic Schools



Paula Murphy works with her third grade students on a craft project Dec. 17 at Manhattan Catholic Schools in Manhattan.

By Karen Bonar

**MANHATTAN** — For two decades, Paula Murphy has been teaching grade school at Manhattan Catholic Schools.

"I wanted my children to attend Manhattan Catholic Schools, and I wanted to teach where my children were attending," she said.

She's been a fixture at the school ever since, teaching in third-, fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms.

"I love third grade," she said. "The students love their teacher, they love their mom and dad, they're happy, they like school, but they're a little bit independent."

Experiencing the school as both a parent and teacher was a blessing.

"I love the school, not only to teach but for my own children," Murphy said. "The families here are wonderful, supportive."

With a myriad of teaching experience, she's been recruited by other schools, but said MCS has been the right fit.

"I never looked back," she said. "I love where I work. I love the atmosphere."

The close-knit aspect of the school community is one she values, as well as the religious basis of the education the school provides.

"It seems like we all join together to support people who need the help," Murphy said. "The children see it in action. Their parents are the first ones to say, 'Do you need anything? Can I help you?'"

"They see their parents do that, and it transfers over to them. They live what they're taught, which is to help others. We get to live that in practical ways."

Before teaching at MCS, Murphy worked in a few

*Manhattan Catholic Schools • Manhattan*  
**Year founded:** 1908  
**Grades:** Pre K-8  
**Enrollment:** 259 students

public schools. She loved teaching, but she said the religious foundation at MCS sets a different tone.

"I think it's because of the prayer, the Mass and religion," she said. "The emphasis is on God and learning about the Bible and learning how to treat others, thinking of others. We are able to teach that, if you need help, you can pray. We can talk about prayer."

The environment is a supportive one.

"You don't teach at a Catholic school unless you want to," Murphy said. "The staff is here because they want to be here. Teaching is not easy, no matter where you teach. Teaching at a Catholic school is because you want to."



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Hays / Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School

By Allison Ochoa

**HAYS** — Students and teachers at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior/Senior High School in Hays are using new technology to facilitate learning and instruction this year, thanks to money received through Ellis County’s COVID SPARK (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas) initiative.

“We went through an application process for funds that were available as part of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act,” said Scott Brown, the school’s technology director. “With those funds, we were able to equip each classroom, as well as our cafeteria, with mobile smart boards.”

Each of the 30 smart boards, which Brown likens to a giant 75- to 86-inch tablet, includes numerous features that aid teachers who are instructing onsite and remote learners.

“We equipped ours with webcams for Zoom video conferences, and there are apps and web browsers they can use,” he said. “The teachers also have accounts that allow them to access the boards if they teach in different classrooms.

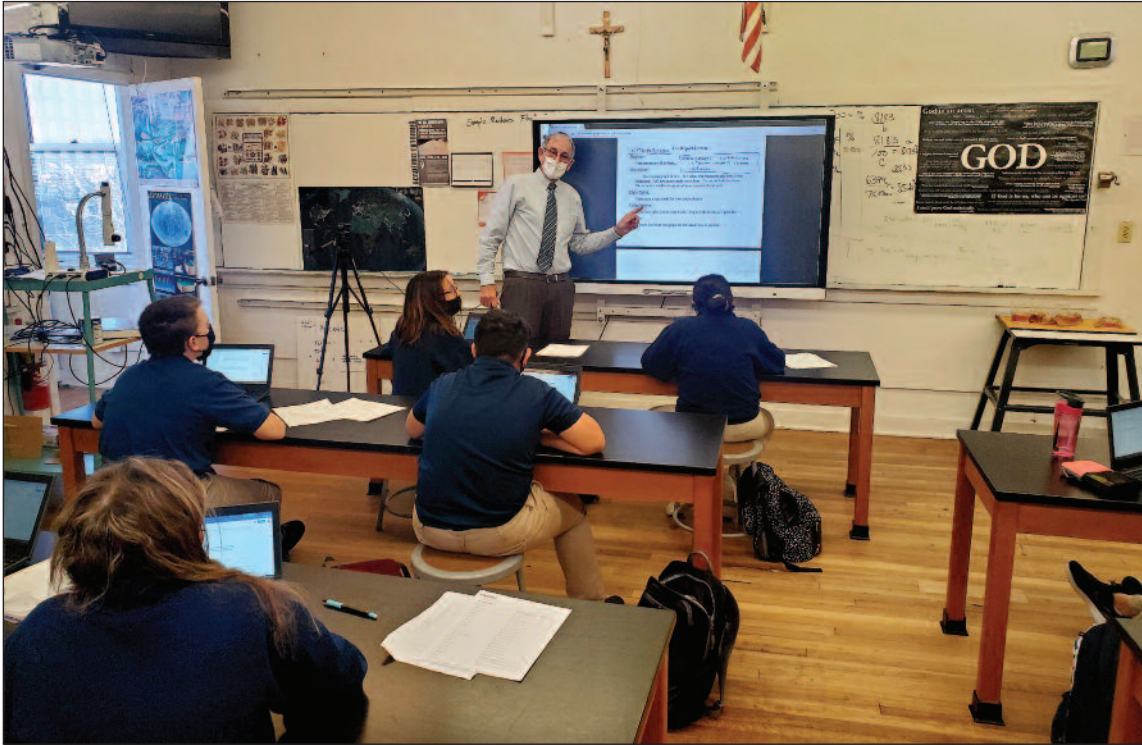
“For the in-person learner, the smart boards can be

*TMP-Marian Jr./Sr. High School • Hays*  
**Year founded:** St. Joseph Military Academy, 1908; TMP-Marian, 1981  
**Grades:** 7-12  
**Enrollment:** 265 students

a hands-on tool since they include touch-screen technology,” Brown said. “The teachers can also share their screens (from their computers) with the smart board and use it as a projector or a TV. We’re just scratching the surface this year with what we can do when students have to be out of school due to COVID-19 or quarantine.”

TMP-Marian administrators applied for the funding for the new technology early in the summer of 2020. Upon receiving notification from Ellis County officials that the school would be receiving \$283,000 in funding, the smart boards were ordered, and installation began during the first week of school. The installation process for the entire school was complete by mid-September.

Brown said TMP staff received training from the company to get everyone acquainted with the smart boards so they could begin using them right away. Ongoing training will take



Courtesy photo

**Students and teachers at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior/Senior High School in Hays are taking advantage of new smartboards in classrooms. The teaching tools were purchased with funding from a COVID SPARK initiative.**

place for everyone to become more proficient in the use of them and broaden the scope of how they can benefit the students in the classroom and those learning from home.

“Our hope is that the teachers will see the power of this technology and see the engagement aspect of it,” he said.

TMP-Marian Principal Chad Meitner said opportunities for ways the smart

boards can be used in the future are being considered.

“There is some discussion about how this technology may be able to provide classes from a Catholic school to students in other diocesan schools, parishes or even home-school families in the diocese,” he said. “There is no formal plan to launch these offerings, but if there was a demand, TMP-Marian would be able to provide the services.”

Brown believes the primary goal this year is to keep students on track with their learning, regardless of the challenges that might lay ahead, and the addition of smart boards aids in that endeavor.

“The technology is really beneficial when students have to miss school, as it adds another layer of opportunity for them so they don’t fall behind,” he said.

Tipton / Tipton Catholic High School

By Allison Ochoa

**TIPTON** — With 14 students and a total of six teachers, Tipton Catholic High School is the smallest Catholic school in the Diocese of Salina. But English and journalism teacher Cheryl Germann quickly points out the small numbers can result in a large impact on each student’s academic journey through the school.

“We have a unique situation because we’re so small and we don’t have a large staff, so when we know a student is interested in exploring a certain career path or area of study, we can adjust easily,” she said.

Some adjustments come in the form of changes to parts of a teacher’s curriculum for a class. Others are in the form of adding an online college course to the schedule of a student who has an available hour for a class of their choosing. Class offerings also might change from year to year.

“How well we know our students really helps,” said Germann. “We can change the novel we’re reading that semester, or we can tweak the social studies project. We can also make sure we’re offering the classes the students need.”

*Tipton Catholic High School • Tipton*  
**Year founded:** 1919  
**Grades:** 9-12  
**Enrollment:** 14 students

“We have a unique situation because we’re so small and we don’t have a large staff, so when we know a student is interested in exploring a certain career path or area of study, we can adjust easily.”

**Cheryl Germann**  
English/journalism teacher

Germann said many students take at least one college course during their time at TCHS. College courses are offered through Cloud County Community College in Concordia and North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit.

Some students have taken online courses through Colby Community College. The courses completed by TCHS students primarily fall under the heading of general education requirements.

Please see TIPTON / Page 9

Plainville/Stockton / Sacred Heart Grade School

By Allison Ochoa

**PLAINVILLE** — Mystery Science. The phrase might sound ominous, but for students at Plainville’s Sacred Heart Grade School, it is a program that helps students examine science concepts in a fun way.

“It’s a website we’ve been using that has a lot of different ways to focus on kindergarten through fifth-grade science,” said Sacred Heart Assistant Principal Scott Brown. “We use it primarily in our first- and second-grade classrooms.”

With many Catholic schools spending more time emphasizing STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math) elements in their curriculum, Brown said the Mystery Science approach at Sacred Heart works well in explaining science concepts in a fun and engaging way.

“It fits nicely into our STREAM efforts and it aligns to all the required standards,” he said. “The program asks a question — like, why are polar bears white? — and then the teacher guides the students to the answer through additional questions, hands-on activities and reflection.”

First-grade teacher Andrea Smith has experienced great success utilizing Mystery Science in her classroom.

*Sacred Heart Grade School • Plainville/Stockton*  
**Year founded:** 1910  
**Grades:** Pre K-6  
**Enrollment:** 63 students

“Starting last year, I teach cross-curricular in STREAM units,” she said. “Mystery Science has been an excellent tool to use with this, as it often incorporates not only science but also technology, reading, engineering, art and math. The activities involve a variety of learning types that meet all students’ needs — kinesthetic, auditory, visual and tactile.

“As a teacher, I love that the lessons focus on inquiry and problem-based learning rather than a lecture. We then go further in depth on the topics through research projects, reading, writing, art projects, STEM challenges and discovering social studies connections.”

**SMITH SAID EACH** science unit lasts four to six weeks, and she incorporates Mystery Science frequently during each unit. Mystery Science explorations take approximately 20 to 40 minutes per day and are stretched over one to two weeks.

“My first-graders greatly enjoy the animal unit,” she said. “Their favorite lesson this year would probably be

“The activities involve a variety of learning types that meet all students’ needs — kinesthetic, auditory, visual and tactile.”

**Andrea Smith**  
First grade teacher

animal structures and survival. They got to make different bird beaks out of paper cups and straws and tried to pick up little pieces of food as would be found in a natural environment.”

The reaction of her students has been one of the most meaningful benefits Smith has seen from using this approach to science while teaching.

“All of my students absolutely love Mystery Science,” she said. “It is interesting, interactive and applicable to their lives. They jump up and down with excitement when I tell them we get to do a Mystery Science lesson.

“This program has inspired many of my students to be future scientists. Those students who normally find science boring or not relevant have found that it can be very interesting and relevant. I have had no trouble keeping students engaged. I will forever be a user of Mystery Science.”



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

## Ellis / St. Mary Grade School

By Allison Ochoa

**E**LLIS — Students entering the sixth grade at St. Mary Grade School in Ellis each year know that, in addition to being the oldest students in the school, they can look forward to participating in an activity that is uniquely their own: the Dominic Savio Club.

Born in northern Italy in 1842, St. Dominic Savio was a student of St. John Bosco. According to the Salesians of Don Bosco in the United States (USA West Province), Dominic was known for his simple but deep faith and his desire to be a saint.

He died of a suspected respiratory infection in 1857 at the age of 14 and was canonized nearly a century later, in 1954.

"The incoming sixth-graders get very excited about the club," said St. Mary Principal April Pfeifer. "They've seen the sixth-grade students of past years doing these fun projects, and now it's their turn."

The club, comprised this year of all seven sixth-grade students, has monthly meetings and performs service projects around the school such as helping serve lunch, washing off tables and sweeping up the cafete-



Aiden Aschenbrenner works on ordering online.

*St. Mary Grade School • Ellis*  
**Year founded:** 1901  
**Grades:** Pre K-6  
**Enrollment:** 70 students

ria after meals and helping with the school's breakfast service.

"Whoever doesn't help in the serving line will go out and help clean up," Pfeifer said.

Additionally, the students live out their faith by visiting with residents from the local Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Pfeifer said in previous years the students would go to the home once a month to visit with the residents. However, this year the students had to adapt and take advantage of technology to facilitate those visits.

"We obviously aren't able



Sixth grade students at St. Mary Grade School in Ellis participate in the Dominic Savio Club. They ordered gifts for the Good Samaritan Nursing home on Dec. 14. Pictured (from left) are Baylor Born, Aiden Aschenbrenner, Adam Bongartz, Colton Metzler, Dominic Fondoble, Cole Yates and Jocelyn Eck.

to physically go to Good Sam, so we did an online spelling bee with the residents," she said. "Technology has been really helpful, and everyone seemed to love it."

The club also hosts an ongoing fundraiser to raise money for special projects within the community.

The club hosts Savio Mart each Friday during the year except during Lent. Club members visit each of the school's classrooms and give students the opportunity to buy healthy snacks. In past years, the group

hosted special Hot Chocolate Fridays during the month of November, when students could purchase cups of cocoa to enjoy during the school day.

With the additional health and safety measures that are in place this year, the students have had to alter some of their plans. Instead of Hot Chocolate Fridays, their fundraiser consisted of three Free Dress Fridays.

"Each student in the school could pay \$1 to wear something other than their uniform," Pfeifer said. "The

club raised \$225, which helped them purchase gifts for residents of the Good Samaritan Nursing Home. They picked names of residents to buy for from the home's Angel Tree.

"Normally, we would take the Dominic Savio Club students on a field trip to Walmart to purchase the gifts, but this year we did our shopping online."

For Pfeifer, the goal of the students' involvement with this club is simple: "We want our students to strive to be like St. Dominic Savio."

## Abilene / St. Andrew Elementary School

By Karen Bonar

**ABILENE** — Kristi Anguiano teaches in two capacities at St. Andrew Parish — as a fifth-grade teacher in the grade school, and also as an instructor for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes.

While the two might seem mutually exclusive, they're not.

"I've watched a lot of students over the years recruit their parents, who are non-Catholic, recruit the parents to go to RCIA," she said.

The school's student population is approximately 40 percent non-Catholic, which provides opportunities for evangelization.

"The kids evangelized to the parents and brought them in through what we were doing in the school," Anguiano said. "Two years ago, one of my fifth-graders decided she wanted to be baptized and become Catholic. Her parents weren't Catholic, but attended RCIA with her. Her dad joined the Church a year after she did. It was really neat to see. Through her influence of going through RCIA and joining the Church, her younger brother also was baptized and will make his First Communion this year."

A teacher in Catholic schools for her entire career,

*St. Andrew Elementary School • Abilene*  
**Year founded:** 1959  
**Grades:** Pre K-5  
**Enrollment:** 114 students

Anguiano said her dedication came from her parents.

"When I was a kid, my mom always wanted my siblings to go to a Catholic school, but the Catholic school in my hometown shut down after my sister finished kindergarten," she said. "My mom wanted it for us but never had that opportunity."

While she grew up in a "cradle Catholic" family, Anguiano said she faced difficulty explaining her faith to her peers at Bethany College in Lindsborg.

"When I went to a Lutheran college, I realized then that I didn't know my faith as well as I should have," she said. "I wanted to make sure the kids I taught in Catholic school knew and understood their faith."

**CATHOLIC** schoolteachers make sacrifices compared with public school teachers, she said, but the freedom to bring God into all aspects of education outweighs any perceived downsides.

"It's not just a separate subject to teach religion," Anguiano said. "I'm tying it



Students in Kristi Anguiano's class participated in the Tiger Day celebration on Oct. 30 by creating their own Arcade style games out of recycled or used materials for the whole school to play. The games were part of a STREAM project.

into things we read and study throughout the day. I love helping them see how God is at the center of everything we do, bringing their education full circle, and connecting the dots.

A teacher for 19 years, she began with third grade at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City before beginning in Abilene in 2001. All three of her children attended St. Andrew

Elementary School.

"I loved seeing them go through the school," Anguiano said. "I got to teach all of them, in a roundabout way."

Her oldest was in small group instruction, and she taught her middle child in second and fifth grades, and her daughter in fifth grade.

"In our school, preschool through fifth grade would interact, so I could see what

my kids were doing and how they interacted with their peers," she said.

Through her work as a Catholic educator, Anguiano said, she sees the positive impact it has on families.

"We've seen kids whose parents aren't religious or are Catholic and don't go to Church," she said. "Through the kids' influence, the parents return to or join the Church."



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

### Hanover / St. John's Catholic School

By Allison Ochoa

**HANOVER** — For Amanda Cook, principal at St. John's Catholic School in Hanover, the term "community strong" is how she sums up the unique working relationship her school has with Hanover's public school district. She also thinks the term best describes both school systems' philosophies on educating the students in their care.

"We are all working together the best we can for the good of our students," Cook said.

Sharing staff members is just one example of the partnership St. John's has with Unified School District 223. Specials teachers — those teaching subjects such as music, art and physical education — from Hanover's public school welcome St. John's students at their facility across the street for their classes. Students from Hanover Junior High walk across the street to St. John's for math classes. Social studies and science classes are also shared between the schools for seventh- and eighth-grade students.

In addition to classes, the partnership between the schools extends to facility usage and the sharing of programs.

"We cooperate in using the public school's lunch program," said Cook, noting that, in a normal year, St. John's students would eat lunch in the public school's cafeteria.

However, with the current need for enhanced health and safety measures, the students pick up their lunches from the Hanover school and bring them back to their classrooms.

**SHE ACKNOWLEDGED** that with services like the lunch program, she regularly sees people step up to do the little things that make a big difference.

"For example, the cooks at the public school make sure that during Lent the meals they serve on Fridays don't include meat," she



Seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. John Catholic School and the public school in Hanover joined together in a modified quarantine this fall.

*St. John's Catholic School • Hanover*  
**Year founded:** 1876  
**Grades:** 1-8  
**Enrollment:** 96 students

said. "They don't have to do that, but they do it anyway."

"Staff from both schools also work together to cover athletic events and practices. During basketball season, practices are held in our gym. The Hanover football team just won another state title, and they use our building to watch films. The PE teacher will also use our gym for classes (involving students from both school systems).

"We both need each other, and it takes a long list of people to make that happen."

Nowhere was the strength of the working relationship more evident than when members of the seventh- and eighth-grade classes in both schools

experienced a modified quarantine during the fall semester. Those students were all able to attend school together for several days in St. John's gymnasium, thanks to the parameters of the modified quarantine and the physical layout of the gym. Teachers from both schools were able to supply materials for their respective classes and provide supervision for the students, who each had a table to themselves in order to spread out as much as possible.

Cook said she thinks the benefits of the schools' cooperative efforts are seen far beyond the walls of either school.

"I think it's important for the kids to see the schools are working together to the best of our ability for the good of all the students in our community. We're showing them we are community strong; we're all in this together."



**GIFTS TO THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL — CALL TO SHARE — PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PARISHES WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. ADDITIONALLY, THE DIOCESE PROVIDES A PER STUDENT SUBSIDY TO KEEP CATHOLIC EDUCATION AFFORDABLE.**

### Salina / Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School



Cameron Yohe, front, takes his turn with the joint compound putting a final coat on their "damaged" drywall repair at Sacred Heart Junior/Senior High School in Salina.

By Allison Ochoa

**SALINA** — Since the mid-1970s, students of Sacred Heart Junior/Senior High School in Salina have been taking advantage of the industrial arts programs available at the school, a program that is a rarity in Catholic education.

"The Easterday family made a donation to Sacred Heart to establish a shop, which was located in the rear of our building until the mid-1990s when a Morton building was built that allowed us to make the shop more productive and more user-friendly," said Sacred Heart Principal John Krajicek.

In the 40-plus years since the program's inception, students have used the various industrial arts classes to develop problem-solving skills, experience the opportunity to build a project from scratch, learn how to use a variety of tools and machines and become more confident in their ability to handle maintenance.

Today, Sacred Heart students are learning to use more high-tech machinery, programs and human-assisted technology that are critical to jobs in engineering, construction trades, auto technology, welding and graphic arts, among others.

"This is where theory and real life meet up," Krajicek said. "The students use the math and the science they've learned, and they take away skills they'll be able to use the rest of their lives."

One of the courses in

*Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School • Salina*  
**Year founded:** 1908  
**Grades:** 7-12  
**Enrollment:** 174 students

which students learn "real life" skills is the home and auto maintenance class. During the course of the semester, students learn the basics about plumbing and electrical work, drywall repair, checking auto fluids, changing oil in a car and how to jump-start a vehicle.

Krajicek said the maintenance class and other courses in the industrial arts program build confidence in the students.

"They're learning safety, as well as how to complete projects," he said. "Seeing the level of confidence grow is instant feedback."

"We're blessed to have Salina Tech close to us. Some of our kids can have an associate degree or trade certificate before they even graduate from high school."

"This can lead to career opportunities as there's a high demand for skilled technicians, and students realize they don't need to attend a four-year school in order to have a good job."

With an average of five to 10 students per class, Sacred Heart's industrial arts program is small but is making an impact.

"We're one of a few Catholic high schools I know of that has a program like this," Krajicek said. "But in the last four or five years, we've heard from a number of students that these courses have been really beneficial."

## Tipton also offers industrial arts

From page 7

"Because our students are used to smaller class sizes already, it's nice that they can take those gen-eds in a smaller setting, and it's more affordable than if they took the course at a four-year college," she said. "We have students who graduate (from TCHS) and are already considered second-semester freshmen or who are approaching college sophomore status."

In addition to college-level classes, TCHS students can take advantage of

industrial arts classes, such as woodworking and welding, through a partnership the school has with the local school district. Students choosing these courses take them at Lakeside High School in Downs, the closest public school in the district, which is approximately 16 miles north of Tipton.

The personal element in each student's academics, thanks to the small classes, "allows us to spend a lot more time with students, helping them achieve their academic goals and making them college- and career-

ready," Germann said.

She credits that focus for the success TCHS students are experiencing after they graduate from the school.

"We try very hard to help our students reach their goals and support what they're going to be doing after graduating from Tipton," she said. "Every one of our students for the past several years has gone on to post-secondary education — either a four-year college or university or a technical school — or to military service. We are striving to keep that momentum going."



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

## Salina / St. Mary Grade School

By Allison Ochoa

**SALINA** — Coding, programming and engineering concepts might seem out of place in an elementary school setting, but for the students at St. Mary Grade School in Salina, these are just some of the skills they are learning with the help of robot dogs.

“Last year, SMGS purchased a Photon bundle that was designed as a collaborative lab for students to participate in at various levels of learning coding,” said Vice Principal Cindy Compagnone. “It complements the recently adapted STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) program St. Mary’s Grade School has adopted.”

The eight Photon robots were obtained through a \$5,000 Mullen Grant for Science and Technology, a grant offered through the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

The robots, which are designed to look like dogs, can be checked out by teachers for use in their classrooms.

“Many chose to use them for a STREAM activity, while others chose to use them to enrich a specific lesson such as parts of speech,” Compagnone said. “For example, as the Photons were coded to follow a path and then stopped at a certain point, the students would need to identify the part of speech marked at that point.”

Compagnone said the Photon robots allow the staff to integrate technology in grades pre-kindergarten

**St. Mary Grade School • Salina**  
**Year founded:** 1955  
**Grades:** Pre K-6  
**Enrollment:** 319 students

“Many times, learning can have abstract concepts that make it harder to understand. However, by using the Photon, students can actually see firsthand what they have designed to happen and whether or not it comes to be.”

**Cindy Compagnone**  
 vice principal

through sixth and beyond, since they can be used to instruct pre-readers and students with more advanced coding abilities alike. She cited numerous advantages of having the students learn coding, including increased academic motivation, enhanced problem-solving abilities, the development of critical thinking and research skills and gaining a better understanding of collaboration. She also cited the direct benefits the SMGS students are experiencing as a result of their work with the Photon robots.

“They are learning how to work together, similar to situations they may face in their future,” Compagnone said. “They are encouraged



Students at St. Mary Grade School in Salina display the Photon robot dogs. The new teaching technology was purchased with the help of a grant offered through the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

to be risk-takers, to think outside of the box. The students’ communication skills also improve.”

Compagnone acknowledges that while the robot dogs are a fun classroom tool, the staff’s primary focus is on how and what the students are learning in class.

“The world is changing, and students’ learning needs to be more hands-

on,” she said. “Instead of only learning passively by memorizing facts and reciting them, students will benefit more if they are engaged. Overall, the use of the Photons has helped the curriculum focus more on active learning in classrooms, as well as digital learning.

“Technology is critical for innovation in today’s world. By students working with

the robot, they can see how math and science link together. Many times, learning can have abstract concepts that make it harder to understand. However, by using the Photon, students can actually see firsthand what they have designed to happen and whether or not it comes to be. Being able to review lessons in a fun hands-on way is always exciting.”

## Colby / Sacred Heart Grade School

By Karen Bonar

**COLBY** — The hallways and classrooms at Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby are familiar to Mandy Meagher, who is in her first year as principal, for a good reason. She trod the halls of the school from kindergarten through fifth grade as a student.

“Sacred Heart has always held a special place in my heart,” she said. “I was excited to be able to come back. My family, the rest of my siblings went there, and my brother has a kid in there as well.

“My parents are still very involved with the parish, as are my brother and sister.”

The family ties to Colby are what prompted her to apply for the position.

“If you asked me a year or two ago if I wanted to be a principal, I would have said, ‘No, you’re crazy,’ ” Meagher said.

But God has a way.

“My cousin called one day, searching for ideas on who they could get to fill



Mandy Meagher, who is in her first year as principal of Sacred Heart Grade School in Colby, has family ties to the school.

the position as principal, and she was asking if I knew anybody,” Meagher said. “It resonated in my heart and I thought, ‘That might be something I could do.’ Knowing they were in need, God placed it on my heart that it’s where I should go.”

Her interest in the position stemmed from her

experience as a student about two decades ago. Known as Mandy Juene-mann at the time, she was one of the four children of Steve and Sara Juenemann.

Meagher taught kindergarten for 15 years — 14 of those at Wilson Elementary School in Hays — before accepting the position as principal at Sacred Heart

**Sacred Heart Grade School • Colby**  
**Year founded:** 1960  
**Grades:** Pre K-5  
**Enrollment:** 104 students

School in Colby.

“It’s great to be back here,” she said. “Some of the people I went to school with have kids in school here now. It feels kind of like home.”

As an administrator, she deals with many behind-the-scenes aspects of education, but Meagher said she still loves to be in the classroom.

“I do miss being in the classroom, but now I get to visit more than one classroom,” she said. “I try to get into each classroom every day, even if it’s just for three or four minutes, to be with the kids and see what’s going on.”

While she had more than a decade of experience in the public school system, Meagher said her goal was to eventually return to Catholic education.

“It shaped my life when I

was younger, and my children go to a Catholic school,” she said. “I feel Catholic education is important.”

Her husband, Bill, teaches theology, is the campus minister and coaches at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior/Senior High School in Hays, and the couple’s three children attend Holy Family Elementary.

While she is a Catholic school parent in Hays, she said her experience as principal sheds new light on the relationship between parents and the school.

“I had forgotten how amazing the parents and families are,” she said. “If you need something, they are involved. This year, they can’t really be in the school building and come to lunches or help in the classroom, but the parents, home and school and council are willing to help out and to provide and do what they can to help us out. Everybody in the parish is generous with their time and resources to help make the school successful.”



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Beloit / St. John's Catholic Schools



Father Jarett Konrade processes with the monstrance on Aug. 28 at St. John's Catholic Schools in Beloit. The school began the year with a consecration of the grade school and high school.

By Karen Bonar

**BELOIT** — Just one week into school, the students and faculty at St. John's Catholic Grade School, Middle School and High School took to the streets on Aug. 28.

"We did a procession, first to the grade school and did a prayer of consecration, consecrating both schools to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary," said Assistant Principal Joe Holdren.

Leading the procession was Father Jarett Konrade, pastor, with the monstrance bearing the Eucharist held aloft.

"They processed with the Eucharist down the street to the high school. Then father led a group of prayers and again said the consecration prayers, offering this school year in thanksgiving that we were able to come and also for protection for the students and teachers," Holdren said. "The Eucharist is a visible witness of our desire here at St. John's. We want Jesus to be at the front of everything we do. This was a visible way to demonstrate that."

The Eucharistic procession was a slightly different

*St. John's Catholic Schools • Beloit*  
**Year founded:** 1879  
**Grades:** Pre K-12  
**Enrollment:** 137 students

take on last year's, when the pastor took the monstrance to each classroom. Each classroom said prayers and the students were blessed.

With COVID-19, however, the decision was made to take the monstrance to the front of each building.

"It set the tone: This is what we do and this is why we're here and why we have a Catholic school," Holdren said. "We can put Jesus physically at the front of each of our doors. It makes it real to our students. Truly, Jesus is present in everything we do here."

The reminder is essential, he said.

"I think, of all years, coming off the heels of the end of last school year, I think it's important to physically demonstrate to the kids that they're not by themselves," Holdren said. "None of us is doing this alone. We were together as a community. We as a community will walk together. We will not walk alone. We have Jesus in our midst."

**Sophie Breck Bechard**, daughter of Ethan and Elizabeth (Nobert) Bechard, was baptized Nov. 29, 2020, by Msgr. Barry Brinkman at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

**Avila Kay Billings**, daughter of Nolan and Katelyn Billings, was baptized Nov. 14, 2020, by Deacon Steve Urban at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Kendall Reese Bland**, daughter of Garrett and Michelle Bland, was baptized Nov. 15, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Sam Cohen Clark**, Son of Alexandra (Keller) and Collin Clark, was baptized Dec. 13, 2020, by Father Norbert Dlabal at Sacred Heart Church in Atwood.

**Uriahsage A. Cruz**, son of Francis D. B. Cruz and Jan Deshane Anderson, was baptized Nov. 22, 2020, by Father Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

**Oliver Bear Girard**, son of David and Lisa (Fahey) Girard, was baptized Nov. 15, 2020, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

**Blake Wallace Gustafson**, son of Richard and Bria Lily (Hilgers) Gustafson, was baptized Nov. 22, 2020, by Father Father Gnanasekar Kulandai, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

**Conrad Dean Haag**, son of Lucas and Jennifer Haag, was baptized Dec. 12, 2020, by Father Richard Daise at Sacred Heart Church in Colby.

**Kolter Douglas Knight**, son of Kegan and Alicia (Hammeke) Knight, was baptized Dec. 13, 2020, by Father Andrew Hammeke at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

**Clement Stephen Joseph Lyon**, son of Corey and Megan (Sawyer) Lyon, was baptized Dec. 12, 2020, by Father Benjamin Sawyer at St. Peter Church in Aurora.

**Maeve Rose Randa**, daughter of Christopher and Tafra Randa, was baptized Oct. 17, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

**Connor Barret Rowe**, son of Josh and Samantha (Ware) Rowe, was baptized Nov. 7, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Hailey Jane Rowe**, daughter of Josh and Samantha (Ware) Rowe, was baptized Nov. 7, 2020, by Deacon Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Marcella Elise Stallbaumer**, daughter of Aaron and Melinda (Parra) Stallbaumer, was baptized Oct. 25, 2020, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Willow Rene Williams**, daughter of Jason and Elise Williams, was baptized Oct. 18, 2020, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Junction City / St. Francis Xavier Catholic School

By Allison Ochoa

**J**UNCTION CITY — Students in St. Francis Xavier Catholic School's Future Business Leaders of America organization are planning for their futures. Meeting business leaders, developing soft skills employers are looking for in quality employees and learning how to put their best foot forward in a professional setting are just some of the experiences Sandra Becker's students are gaining through their involvement in the organization.

"Anyone can enroll in FBLA, but this year we have nine students," said Becker, the school's business education teacher. "In a normal year, we would take field trips, visit the KSNT (television) studios in Topeka and hold an etiquette dinner in conjunction with Junction City High School."

Becker said that while the students have not been able to experience all the same events this year, they have been able to hear from businesspeople and representatives from various organizations who have come in to showcase their work and talk to students about their chosen fields.

"They've heard from the local fire chief, bankers, a representative from the district court, restaurant owners, jewelers, someone from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the military liaison

*St. Francis Xavier Catholic School • Junction City*  
**Year founded:** 1871  
**Grades:** Pre K-12  
**Enrollment:** 124 students

from the Junction City Chamber of Commerce," she said.

The students are hoping to be able to participate in the FBLA district and state conferences later this year, where they will compete in events like interviewing, accounting and business communications.

"Because we're a smaller school, sometimes at these competitions, they're surprised that they place as well as they do," Becker said. "But they really excel."

**THE BENEFITS** AND highlights of their experience with FBLA varies for each of Becker's students.

"The element that I have enjoyed the most is getting to meet the speakers and hearing what they have to say," said Lauryn Peterson, a junior in her first year of FBLA participation. "I think my FBLA experience will benefit me most in the future, knowing that there are lots of career paths and that the things that you want to do in life can and will change."

Senior Mackenzie Girardot believes life skills are one of the biggest benefits of her two years in the organization.

"I have enjoyed learning real-life skills that will help



Craig Bender, director of military affairs for the Junction City Chamber of Commerce, speaks Dec. 14 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Junction City as part of the school's Future Business Leaders of America organization.

me grow in my future career, such as how to excel in the workplace or tips on how to do a job interview," she said. "The part of FBLA that has helped me grow not only in personal life but in academic and work life is realizing that not everything in life will come to you easily. Listening to many guest speakers and hearing their stories has helped me realize that you need to work for everything you want. If you want to be successful, you need to work hard and make sacrifices."

For DJ Shin, a senior with aspirations of working for the United Nations or for the Korean government's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, FBLA has brought both social and educational benefits.

"I get to socialize with many different people from the school who all have different thoughts on any matters like business or career plan, which has enriched my thinking," he said. "(I also) get a chance to listen to many guest speakers from diverse fields of our society."

"Although FBLA stands for Future Business Leaders of America, FBLA isn't just for students who have interests in business fields. Instead, I think the club is open for all ambitious students who want to be successful in their future."



# Search series available online for diocese members

From page 1

The Diocese of Salina is called to be a missionary church that helps guide people to be disciples and missionaries. In other words, we are called to be disciples of Jesus who are on a mission to bring others to Him. Or even more simply put, "be disciples — make disciples."

If you have had the opportunity to look at our diocesan website ([www.salinadiocese.org](http://www.salinadiocese.org)), you will find the following slogan on our homepage: "Witnessing by faith, hope and love." This is one way we can bring others to Christ through the example of our own lives. We are all challenged to be a witness to others by faith, hope and love.

Another way we do this is by providing opportunities for people to encounter Christ and letting people know how much God loves them.

In light of this, I am excited to announce our diocese is working in conjunc-

Why am I here? What is the life I was made for? Is there a God? Does He even care about me? These are questions we all ask ourselves. Are there answers? Can true peace be found? The Search unapologetically reveals that you were made for God, that your home is found beyond yourself, and that Jesus is the way. Join us for The Search and rediscover your better self and your faith in a new light.

**What:** In seven visually stunning episodes, The Search invites participants to journey together as they explore: Why are we here? What is life all about? What happens when we die? This Lent, we are inviting you to journey through The Search



Chris Stefanick

with your own small group (and if you don't have a small group yet, we encourage you to start one. It's easy, and The Search is a great resource to start with). In fact, each week, Chris Stefanick himself will be guiding us throughout Lent on how to use The Search in your own small group during his weekly show The Life You Were Made For. Sign up to join Stefanick weekly at [RealLifeCatholic.com/LIVE](https://RealLifeCatholic.com/LIVE).

**Who:** You and everyone in your diocese alongside Chris Stefanick and the Real Life Catholic Community.

**Where:** You already have free access to The Search through your parish's subscription to FORMED. Or you can purchase it on <https://coaching.reallife>

[catholic.com/thesearch](http://catholic.com/thesearch). The weekly show is available on [reallifecatholic.com/live](http://reallifecatholic.com/live).

**When:** The Search begins Lent 2021, and the show is weekly at 7 p.m. Central time Wednesdays.

**Why:** The Search is one of the best tools out there to bring people together in small groups. If your faith is already solid, The Search will help you to deepen it. If you're feeling unsure, it's for you, too. If you're worried about your kids or grandkids, it's a great series for you to share with them. Plus, each week Stefanick will help you dive deeper into how to use it in small groups.

**How:** Get The Search by Feb. 17 (Ash Wednesday) and join us live each Wednesday night at <https://RealLifeCatholic.com/LIVE>.

tion with the Augustine Institute and Chris Stefanick, founder of Real-life Catholic, in promoting The Search series during the seven weeks of Lent. I am encouraging all of you to participate by inviting people either to your parish or your homes to watch these 30-minute videos.

The intent of the video series is simple: to reach people who are searching for meaning in their lives. Why was I born? What is the meaning of life? What happens when I die? In many ways, we are searching for answers to the deepest questions of our hearts. The answer is God comes to us

and searches us out. As much fun as it is to play hide and seek as a child and not be found for a while, it would be horrible if we were never found. It would be horrible if the person stopped looking for us. God is always pursuing us. He never stops looking. God cares about us.

I pray our diocese becomes a missionary diocese where we witness by faith, hope and love and bring others to encounter the love and mercy of Jesus. I pray many of you will watch The Search series and invite people to join you, especially those who might not know the love Jesus has for them.

## WEDDINGS

**Asa Gottsponer and Sheridan Koster** were married Dec. 12, 2020, at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Mankato. Father Soosaimari Rathinam witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Rockie and Anita Gottsponer. Parents of the bride are Brian and Sherry Koster. Witnesses were Jonathan Heiman and Sierra Bonjour.

**Lance Koerner and Monique Holmes** were married Dec. 5, 2020, at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays. The Rev. Nick Parker witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are James and Arlis Koerner. Parents of the bride are Judith Scheck and the late Gilbert

Scheck. Witnesses were Tom Chapman and Brenda Lager

**Randy Richmeier and Abigail Rohr** were married Nov. 21, 2020, at Sacred Heart Parish in Colby. Father Richard L. Daise witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Edwin and Una Richmeier. Parents of the bride are William and Lisa Rohr. Witnesses were Patrick Richmeier and Kim Sramek.

**Damian Cyr and Emily Stallbaumer** were married Nov. 21, 2020, at St. Joseph Church in Clyde. Father Michael Kerschen witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Todd and Faye Cyr. Parents of the bride are Larry and

Angela Stallbaumer. Witnesses were Cordell Cyr and Abigail Stallbaumer.

**Wesley James and Lindsay Solorio** were married Nov. 20, 2020, at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Witnesses were Brad Solorio and Caitlin Beall.

**Chandler Hoffman and Kaileigh Ummel**, were married Oct. 17, 2020, at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. The Rev. Damian Richards witnessed their vows. Parents of the bridegroom are Kevin and Lisa (Palen) Hoffman. Parents of the bride are David Ummel and Treva (Shaffer) Goodman. Witnesses were Trevor Webb and Morgan Weber.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Don and Lois Martin** of Clay Center celebrated their 60th anniversary with a card shower. They were married Dec. 28, 1960, at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Clay Center. They are members of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Clay Center.

They have six children, Francine Martin of Topeka, Scott Martin and wife Polly of Aurora, Colo., Angela Martin of Manhattan, Steven Martin and wife Charity of Terrell, Texas, Melanie Ramsey and husband Dave of Manhattan and Timothy Martin and wife Roxanna of Clay Center; and 11 grandchildren.



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## FAITH AND REASONS

# The road construction projects in our lives can cause anxiety

**Q** Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

**A** Instead of attempting an intellectually based answer, I invite you to consider what it would be like for you if you were lost, hurt or lonely. When in that position, we yearn for redemption. We look for answers. What if someone came along who, rather than giving you a fortune-cookie answer, was willing to hear your story? What if they were willing to hike with you on some trail, a trail which represents the path towards freedom and connection?

One of my interests is U.S. highways. I marvel at the design and the usefulness of roads that facilitate travelers to reach their destinations while enjoying the beauty that surrounds us. Have you ever been annoyed when there's road construction and it means that delays to your plans are unavoidable? Even worse, what if there's a detour?

Life can be like that. Our journey of faith can overlap with that kind of experience. We look for alternative routes or we simply deal with the delays and detours. Either way, we yearn for fulfillment because we are made to flourish. We participate in a covenant with



**Father Peter O'Donnell**

Diocese of Salina

God that connects us to salvation history which is described in the Bible. That reality is a reason to hope and a reason to celebrate.

Yet there are times when we are overwhelmed. The truths of our faith seem to be far from our grasp or somehow veiled from our view. For example, do you sometimes observe that there is too much skepticism when it comes to God's word? How can we uphold institutions such as marriage when there are so many distortions in the understanding of marriage and in the living out of that vocation?

When you add your present ordeal (whatever it might be) to the cultural landscape, no wonder that we can get lost, hurt or lonely. We cry out to the Lord and wonder why he allows unfortunate events to happen to us. In those times, one step is to find a trusted friend and to see if he or she can provide some needed support. If they are receptive to you, then you might try to tell your story — as they respond with their

feedback. I believe it is possible to take responsibility for our needs while also being grounded in our dependence on God's grace. After all, God inspires us to act, and then our actions inspire us to turn to God in prayer — as we relate our story to the story of salvation in the Bible.

Going back to the image of road construction, while it is annoying to be delayed, the work being done is designed to improve the traveling experience in the long run. In our faith, one way to frame the experience of yearning for fulfillment is to remember that God is at work. He continues to generate, redeem, expand, repair and enliven. Just as we await certain road projects to finish, we await God's work to unfold in our experience.

Psalm 13 asks the question, "How long?" more than once. When we don't know the timeline, that adds an element to what already may be a lot to handle. That's even more reason to look to God for strength and to tell our story to a trusted friend. We might even notice God's beauty while we travel along that road.

*Father Peter O'Donnell is the parochial vicar of Abilene, Herington, Hope and Elmo. He is the Judicial Vicar and the Archivist for the Diocese of Salina. He received a license in canon law in 2017. E-mail questions to him at [faithandreasons7@gmail.com](mailto:faithandreasons7@gmail.com) or write him at P.O. Box 1038, Salina, KS 67402.*

## National Marriage Week is Feb. 7 to 14

**By Rick Binder**

To Have, To Hold, To Honor will be the theme for National Marriage Week 2021, which begins Feb. 7 and culminates with World Marriage Sunday on Feb. 14.

Because of the pandemic, the diocese does not have any events scheduled, but encourages parishes to do something on the local level to recognize the sanctity of marriage. This is an opportunity to spread the good news that marriage, as a Sacrament instituted by Christ, has many values beyond the obvious.

Research shows marriage adds years to your life as married couples

live two to 10 years longer than singles. Statistically, married couples are healthier, both physically and mentally, and are less likely to develop mental problems such as depression.

Married people recover more positively from surgery and injury and even sleep better. Married couples tend to act more responsibly in avoiding risky behavior as they want to stay alive and well for their spouse and children.

Researchers agree marriage has demonstrable benefits for children that grow up in a healthy marriage and for society in general.



## Parishioners attend March for Life

**By Rick Binder**

With courage and fortitude, a small group from the Diocese of Salina is hoping to make a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the 2021 March for Life on Jan. 29. The Covid-19 pandemic presented many challenges for the group to overcome in following established proto-

cols for social distancing in making travel arrangements and procuring lodging. Additionally, many of the extracurricular activities usually enjoyed by the group such as visiting museums located on the Mall and the annual visit to the National Basilica to tour and celebrate Mass are not part of the 2021 pilgrimage because of restrictions in the number of people allowed. This means participants are 100% focused on their mission of advocating for the unborn and marching for life.

All the pilgrims feel privileged to have the opportunity to be physically present for the event, knowing thousands wanting to be there were unable to do so. Please join in praying for the pilgrims from the Diocese of Salina and participate in the March for Life from home online via EWTN.

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## Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach



## Diocese of Salina Food and Hygiene Distribution

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# St. Joseph the focus of new year; monthly podcast on schedule

## From page 1

Please see if you and your family can take part in one of these activities.

As part of the Year of St. Joseph, I will be doing a podcast on St. Joseph each month that can be found on our diocesan website. During Lent, I am celebrating Mass at 12:05 p.m. every Friday in the Cathedral, followed by short reflections on St. Joseph in the Cathedral parish hall.

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.”

I invite and encourage all to partake in one of the special indulgences listed below.

St. Joseph, we need your intercession.

### Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer for the Pope’s intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. “St. Joseph, an authentic man of



Photo by Vatican Media, via Catholic News Service

**A crucifix and a statue of St. Joseph are seen as Pope Francis leads his general audience last year at the Vatican. In a Dec. 8 apostolic letter, Pope Francis proclaimed a yearlong celebration dedicated to St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus.**

faith, invites us,” the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”

- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph’s example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.

- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love

and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”

- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On May 1, 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”

- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tra-

dition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”

### A universal saint

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, “To you, O blessed Joseph” especially on “19

March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph’s Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition.”

The decree recalls the universality of St. Joseph’s patronage of the Church, noting St. Teresa of Ávila recognized him as “a protector for all the circumstances of life.” Pope St. John Paul II also said St. Joseph has “a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium.”

### For the sick

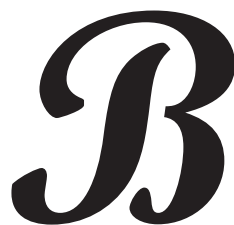
Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

### The role of priests

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests to pastorally facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the administration of Holy Communion to the sick with a willing and generous spirit.

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

Hoxie youth confirmed



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Francis Cabrini Church in Hoxie received Confirmation on Oct. 11. Front row (from left) are catechist Bridget Koster, Father Vincent Thu Laing, Tealynn Schieferecke, Sofie Gourley, Isabella Baier and catechist Patricia Kennedy; back row, catechist Harold Koster, Trent Fenner, Charles Foote, Samuel Watkins, Harrison Meyer, Easton Nickelson, Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Chapman First Communion



Courtesy photo

Youth at St. Michael Parish in Chapman received First Communion on Aug. 22. Front row (from left) are Heather Gavillan and Khloe Gilliland; middle row, Dylan Barnes, catechist Abby Anderes, Father John Wolesky and Hudson Wasylik.

Online auction to benefit church in Concordia

By The Register

CONCORDIA — Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia will host an online auction from Feb. 6 to 13. Due to the COVID-19 virus, Father David Metz and the Church Finance Council decided to host an online auction this year instead of the annual Mardi Gras meal and in-person

auction that usually takes place. Several items will be available to bid on, including: whole beef and hog packages, power tools, bicycles, quilts, handmade wooden items, pies, cinnamon rolls and other food items, trips and vacation sites. More information is available at [hansenonlineauction.com](http://hansenonlineauction.com).

Cursillo weekends on schedule for March

By The Register

Is learning more about your Catholic faith important to you? Do you yearn for a deep relationship with Christ? Do you hunger for closer friendships with your fellow Christians? If the answer is yes to any of those questions, a Cursillo weekend might be a great decision. The weekends bring together

Catholics at a deep spiritual and personal level with the intent of evangelizing the culture where each live, work and play. Plans are being finalized for Cursillo weekends this March, with the men's weekend March 4 to 7 and the women's weekend March 18 to 21. For more information, contact Patricia Dusin at (785) 302-1220.

Vaccines becoming more readily available

From page 2

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective? The bishops are not and do not claim to be authori-

ties on the safety and efficacy of vaccines. People should rely on information from authoritative sources in the field of medicine and public health, such as the Food and Drug Administration and qualified health care professionals. The FDA affirms the vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S. have met all the safety and efficacy standards required for such authorization.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!



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DEATHS

**Thomas “Wyatt” Balman**, 20 of Manhattan, died Oct. 13, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 19 by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

**Tina Louise Bennett**, 52, of Junction City, June 26, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 12 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandi, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

**Joseph Anthony “Joe” Brungardt**, 56, of Victoria, died Nov. 29, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 4 by Bishop John Brungardt at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

**Scottie Eugene Geisler**, 60, of Chanute, died Jan. 19, 2019. Graveside services were held Dec. 9, 2020, by Father Steve Heina at Mount Calvary, Clyde.

**Verona Marie Howley**, 86, of Clyde, died Nov. 26, 2020. Private family services were held Dec. 4.

**Edward H. Kagle**, 83, of Clyde, died Nov. 10, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 19 by Father Steve Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Burial was in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde.

**Marilyn Mills**, 67 of Gorham, died Dec. 22, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 26 by Father Michael Elan, CMI, at Cline/Keithley Mortuary, Victoria.

**Alice Elizabeth Morton**, 78, of Manhattan, died Dec. 4, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 10 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandi, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was a private inurnment at Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

**Gerald F. Ruder**, 83, of Plainville, died Sept. 11, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 16 by Father Leo Blasi at Sacred Heart Church in Plainville.

**Major Lee Smith**, 79, of Milford, died Nov. 5, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 13 by Father Gnanasekar Kulandi, HGN, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Burial was at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Junction City.

**Allen Joseph Sorell**, 59, of Concordia, died Dec. 2, 2020. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 9 by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial was in the Glasco City Cemetery, Glasco.



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and

KVDM 88.1 Hays (Classics)

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Knights of Columbus #2535



Courtesy photo

The Exemplification of Knights of Columbus Council No. 2535 in Damar. Pictured (front row, from left) Douglas Troy West, Chase Hamel, Shane Boiling, Colby Ray Leggett, Darrin James Desbien, (back row, from left) Dan Thyfault, Greg Hamel, John Ruder, Father Henry Saw Lone, Chuck Knipp and Monte Keller.

Cookie donations



Courtesy photo

The Victoria Knights of Columbus Post No. 1867 project for giving this year was to give a gift to residents of Via Christi Home in Hays. More than 60 dozen cookies were packaged into bags with stickers wishing residents Merry Christmas. The post’s Grand Knight is John Braun, who organized the project.

Altar Servers Appreciation



Courtesy photo

St. Joseph Church in Damar recently hosted an Altar Servers Appreciation and training. Pictured (front row from left) are Father Henry Saw Lone, Shiloh Kuhn, AJ Deges, Colby Knipp, Deacon Larry Roberts, (second row, from left) Bryson Bollig, Jolie Kuhn, Carson Knipp, Andrew Deges, (third row, from left) Brooke Hamel and Jacob Kenyon, (back row from left) Ivan Normandin, Caleb Bollig, Natalie Bollig, Joel Kenyon, Kirsten Marcotte, Ben Deges and Chuck Knipp.

At the cross



Courtesy photo

On a warm Advent day, three girls paused and knelt to pray at the foot of the cross while visiting St. Mary Cemetery in Ellis in remembrance of those who celebrated Christmas before them. Shiloh, Sophia and Shaylie are daughters of Ryan and Adrienne Gaschler, all members of St. Mary Parish, Ellis.

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