



Showcasing God's blessings

BY KATIE GREENWOOD
THE REGISTER

Creating a prism effect on the floors, the mid-morning light streamed in through the stained-glass windows of St. Mary Church in Downs on Jan. 16.

While it was a normal Sunday Mass, it was also a day of celebration as Bishop Jerry Vincke joined the parishioners to bless and dedicate the 20 newly installed stained-glass windows.

The windows are unique from every other church in the Salina Diocese as they each depict a different mystery of the Rosary. The St. Mary Church is the only church within the diocese to have every Rosary mystery honored in this way.

The initial conversations about updating the windows began in January 2017. The windows at the time were the original windows that had been installed upon the completion of the church building in May 1969.

When Father Daryl Olmstead, pastor, approached the parish council about updating the 50-year-old windows, he suggested they find a way to honor the mysteries of the Rosary. Seeing as how the church is named for Mary and there were 20 windows of the same size to be replaced, it seemed fitting.

"I pray the Rosary at least once a day. I really like meditating on the mysteries and letting them speak to me about the mystery of God's love," Father Olmstead said. "We had 20 windows. It was a no-brainer for me."

Director of liturgy Father Frank Coady recommended they install stained-glass windows to let in more natural light into the church. He suggested Hoefer's Custom Stained Glass in Hutchinson to design, create and install the windows. Scott Hoefer oversaw the project.

Hoefer reflects on the beginning months of the project. One of the initial obstacles was trying to find a way to install the windows to assist with air flow. Upon finding the solution, Hoefer said, "So simple, but so important. It made me smile."

The next step was to figure out the window design. They could either create a design that would be repeated 20 times, or they could do a contemporary flow.

Upon taking ideas to the parish council, Hoefer says local graphic designer Crystal Cline helped bring his ideas to life, and the project proceeded with the plan to create one design that would be repeated throughout the church.

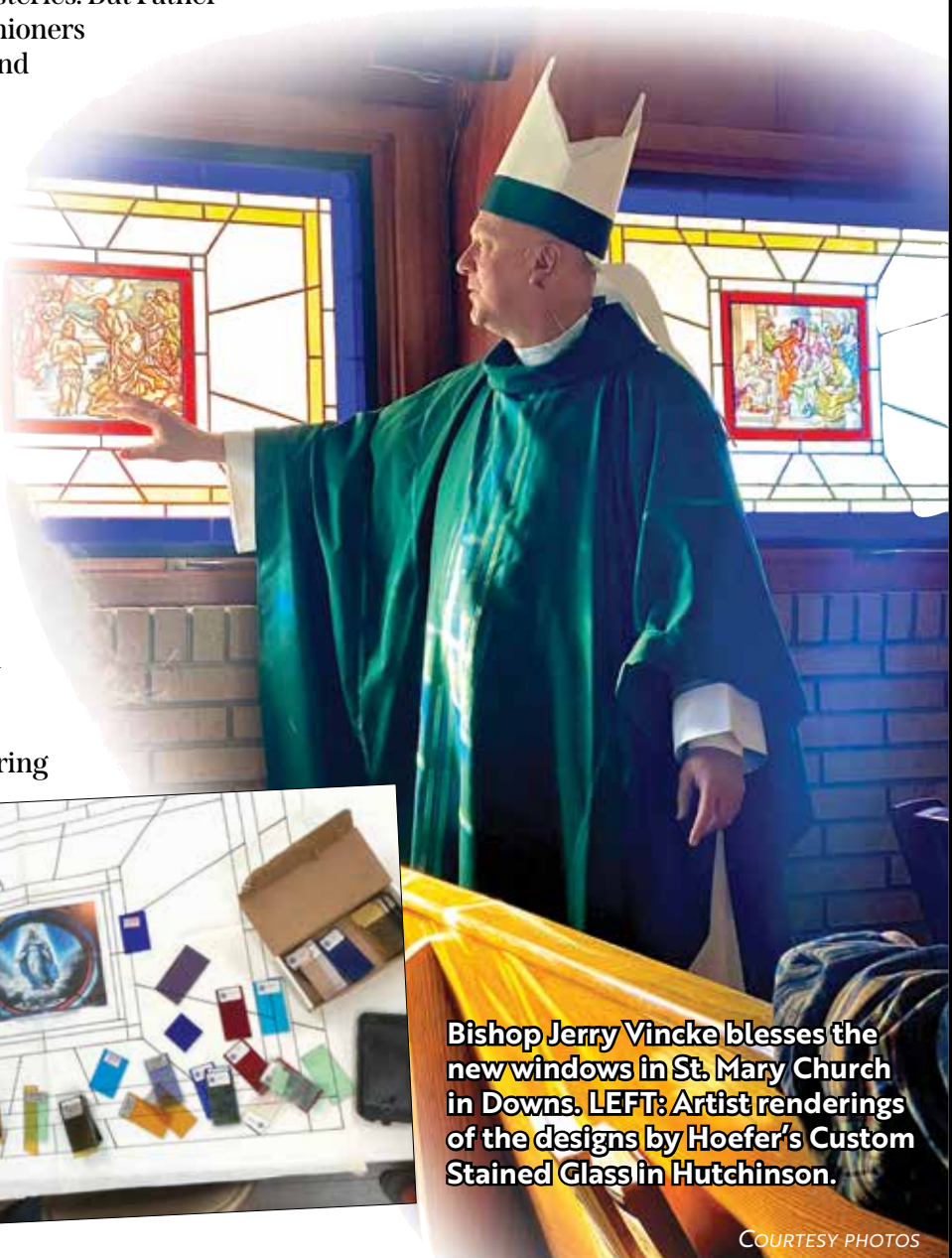
"The project took more time than expected to do each set of five mysteries. But Father Olmstead and the parishioners were always very nice and patient," Hoefer said. "Now, the project has been completed for some time, and it is always so nice to stop by when in the area, sit in the pew and be grateful for other endeavors the Lord allows Hoefer Stained Glass to do."

After several possible designs were presented, the parish council decided. Following, money was quickly raised from individuals, families, organizations and a neighboring parish to bring the dream of new windows to life.

Bishop Vincke was especially

impressed and excited about the Rosary windows.

"I think that the windows in Downs are something people should go and see. They are simple, yet elegant and detailed as they tell the story of Jesus' life with his mother, Mary," he said. "They are teaching windows that show our faith. And I am so thankful for the people of Downs for coming up with this idea to honor our Blessed Mother. I enjoyed being able to share in their joy."



Bishop Jerry Vincke blesses the new windows in St. Mary Church in Downs. LEFT: Artist renderings of the designs by Hoefer's Custom Stained Glass in Hutchinson.

COURTESY PHOTOS

NEW VIEW

Salina church undergoes renovations.

Page 5



ANNUAL APPEAL

Salina Diocese kicks off yearly drive of reaching goal of \$2 million.

Page 6



salinadiocese.org

facebook.com/SalinaDiocese

twitter.com/salinadiocese

instagram.com/salina_diocese

Pilgrimage to the polls

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Pilgrimages are popular in the Catholic faith. When we think of a pilgrimage, we think of people embarking on a long, arduous journey to a sacred or holy place. Oftentimes, a pilgrimage is a physical journey that expresses an internal disposition. A pilgrimage is a way to communicate our faith journey.

And maybe pilgrimages are so popular because we see many of the saints who have embarked on pilgrimages.

A pilgrimage that comes to mind for me is the one of St. Joseph as he guided the expecting Mary to Bethlehem. The road couldn't have been easy. For starters, their mode of transportation was a donkey. And perhaps they were met with bad weather. Or maybe there were animals or marauders that served as threats along the way.

But St. Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem, protecting both mother and unborn child along the way. He carried Mary and Jesus with him.

And now, in a special way, I'm asking all of you to imitate St. Joseph. I invite you to embark on a "pilgrimage to the polls." A pilgrimage to protect the expecting mother and the unborn child.

As you might know, in 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court found that the right to unlimited abortion is protected in the Kansas constitution. Because of that verdict, all legislated safeguards against the abortion industry are considered null, and there is now unlimited and

unregulated access to abortion within our state.

But there's a chance to change that. On Aug. 2, the Value Them Both Amendment is on the ballot. We, as the people of the state of Kansas, have a chance to decide. Please make the pilgrimage to the polls and vote "yes." Bring other "pilgrims" with you.

If we get a majority vote of "yes," it will restore the substantial safeguards for mothers and unborn children.

But how is this a pilgrimage? We are journeying together to fight for the lives of expecting mothers and the unborn. Every

person has the right to life, and it is our duty to protect that right, just like St. Joseph did.

And as we journey, we take Mary and Jesus with us. We can even start the pilgrimage now. Perhaps we can offer our rosary for the Value Them Both Amendment. Perhaps we can tell others how important this amendment is. Perhaps we can say the Value Them Both prayer every day during Lent.

Sometimes pilgrimages can be difficult and arduous. But it's all worth it. So is the pilgrimage to the polls to help pregnant women and babies.

In Christ's service,

+ Gerald L. Vincke

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

**GERALD
Vincke**
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



WHY VALUE THEM BOTH?

Why do we need the Value Them Both Amendment?

A 2019 Kansas Supreme Court ruling removed the legal foundation for virtually all bipartisan laws that protect women and babies from the abortion industry. Kansas pro-life laws are now, in the words of the High Court, "presumed unconstitutional" and as a result are already being overturned when legally challenged.

What happens when Kansans pass Value Them Both?

Passing Value Them Both this coming Aug. 2 will protect laws like prohibitions on post-20 week abortions and taxpayer funded abortions. It will



protect parental notification laws for minors seeking an abortion, informed consent and a women's right to see a sonogram.

What would happen if Kansans do not pass Value Them Both?

Every reasonable regulation of the abortion industry will likely be removed. Abortion up to the moment of birth, paid for with your tax dollars, is almost certain to happen unless Value Them Both passes.

How can I support Value Them Both?

Prayer is our most powerful weapon. Bishop Vincke and all the Catholic bishops of Kansas have endorsed the Kansas Rosary Crusade, www.KansasRosaryCrusade.org. If your parish has not yet hosted a Value Them Both presentation given by a trained speaker, contact Lucrecia Nold at the Kansas Catholic Conference at: Lucrecia@KansasCatholic.org.

The website www.ValueThemBoth.com is an excellent resource. Financial donations can be made from that site, or by sending a check to: Value Them Both, P.O. Box 40501, Overland Park, KS 66204.

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

February

30-5	Catholic Schools Week
2-4	SEEK Conference, Wichita
10	Jesu Caritas, KCK
12	St. Andrew School Mass and Benefit Auction, Abilene
19-20	Bishop's Annual Appeal Kick-Off
21-1	IPF Bishops Retreat

SAINTS, FEASTS OF MARCH

"Let us turn to the example of the saints. They were people like us, flesh and bone, with failings and weaknesses, who managed to conquer and master themselves for the love of God. Let us consider their lives and, like bees who distill precious nectar from each flower, we shall learn from their struggles."

St. Josemaria Escriva

1	St. Brigid
2	Presentation of the Lord
2	Our Lady of Good Success
3	St. Blasé
5	St. Agatha
10	St. Scholastica
11	Our Lady of Lourdes
14	St. Valentine
14	Ss. Cyril and Methodius
18	Blessed John of Fiesole

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

COMPROMISO PARA SANAR

If you have been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church ... Please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out. Our victim assistance coordinator is available to obtain support for your needs, to help you make a formal complaint of abuse to the proper authorities and to arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, if you desire.

The victim assistance coordinator for the Diocese of Salina:
Maria Cheney, LCSW
Contact her at 866-752-8855 #1067 or P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402 or reportabuse@salinadiocese.org or 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.reporttobishopabuse.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 980, Salina, KS 67402.

reportabuse@salinadiocese.org or 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.reporttobishopabuse.org.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA • VOLUME 85, No. 1



THE REGISTER
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

Publisher: Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke, BISHOP OF SALINA

Editor: Katie Greenwood, THEREGISTER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

Advertising/circulation: Brenda Streit, NEWSPAPER@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

Business manager: Jennifer Hood, FINANCE@SALINADIOCESE.ORG

P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980

Phone: (785) 827-8746; Fax: (785) 827-6133; salinadiocese.org/publications

Supported by an endowment established by Msgr. Raymond Menard (1912-2006), editor of The Register, 1944-1971 and 1975-2006

The Register (USPS 397-740) is published the fourth Friday of the month by the Catholic Diocese of Salina, 103 N. Ninth, Salina, KS 67401-2503 and is mailed to all registered parishioners in the diocese. A \$25 annual subscription is required for all others. Periodical postage paid at Salina, Kansas, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Register, P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980.

Next issue is dated Feb. 25.

Deadline for news is Feb. 1.

Deadline for advertising is Feb. 1.

Mailing label update

Please make the correction on this form and return to:
The Register, P.O. Box 980, Salina, KS 67402-0980
or online: salinadiocese.org/publications/publications-address-change/
Attach old mailing label here
and print the corrected information below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Parish (if in the Salina Diocese): _____

Email: _____

Stress of planning wedding increases

In case you didn't know, my wedding date is coming up! In two weeks, my fiancé, Nathaniel, and I will be getting married.

And oh, my gracious, the roller coaster of emotions I have been on throughout the entirety of the engagement. Excitement, stress, peace, stress, joy, stress ... there was quite a bit of stress involved.

The stress came from the world. But the excitement, peace and joy all came from God and from the hopeful anticipation of what married life will be like.

But as the wedding draws near, my brain has gone into overdrive. Even though Nathaniel and I are having a simple wedding, there are still a lot of details that need to be ironed out.

Recently I finally admitted to myself that I was burnt out and just

wanted the wedding and the moving process to be over. I had started to focus on the planning and the worrisome details more than the fact that Nathaniel and I would be entering into the sacrament of marriage.

I was ready for the season of engagement to be over, specifically the period of transition to be over.

And then, one afternoon, I was at my parents' house. There was swirling snow, icy roads and freezing temperatures outside, and my baby brother Levi came charging into the living room in a swimsuit covered with dinosaurs.

"Didi! We go to the pool!" (He calls me Didi. Katie is beyond his range of vocabulary at the moment.) Why he

wanted to go to the pool, I have no idea. It was freezing outside.

I told him there was probably no water in the pool. "It's OK, Didi. I'll wait for summer."

I agree with him about liking summer over the winter. But as I geared up to tell him there are beautiful things about winter, I realized I should take my own advice.

The "winter" of our engagement was a time of preparing. We underwent an intense marriage preparation where we learned more about each other and more about the sacredness of the sacrament of matrimony. We learned about sacrifice, self-denial and being a gift of self for the other.

KATIE Greenwood
CREATIVE EDITOR



And those lessons were essential for us to approach the sacrament of our marriage with hearts and minds ready to make our vows to each other and God. It has been a beautiful season, and one we are still in. And as we are still in it, there is still beauty to behold and lessons to be learned.

Please continue to keep Nathaniel and I in your prayers as our season of engagement comes to an end. Especially pray for us on our wedding day, the feast day of our Lady of Lourdes.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Katie

Katie Greenwood is the creative editor of diocesan publications and the annual appeal coordinator.

BLESSED CARLO MIRACLE

Egypt — fourth-fifth century

We are told that when St. Mary was 12 years of age, she left her parents and went to Alexandria. There she led a very dissolute life for 16 years. One day, she came upon a ship about to set sail with different groups of passengers.

She inquired who they might be and where they were going. She was told they were pilgrims sailing toward Jerusalem for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

She decided to join them. When on the feast day, she tried to enter the church, and she was seized by a mysterious force.

Fearfully, she raised her eyes to an image of the Holy Virgin and was overcome with a deep sorrow for the sinful life she had led until that day.

Only then was she able to make her way into the church and worship the True Cross.

She did not remain in Jerusalem.

"If you go across the Jordan, you will find peace" was the message of the Madonna. The following day after her

confession and communion, she made her way across the Jordan to the desert of Arabia.

There she lived for 47 years in solitude, encountering neither men nor beasts. Her skin shriveled, her hair was long and white, but the promise of the Virgin proved true. She found her peace of soul.

One day, she met up with the monk Zosimus and asked him to bring her communion each year.

One year, Zosimus arrived with the Eucharist, but Mary did not show. In great sorrow, Zosimus prayed, "Lord, my God, King and Creator of all, do not deprive me of my desire, but grant that I may see this holy woman."

Then he thought, "Now, what will I do if she appears? There is no boat to get me across. I will not achieve my wish."

While he gave into these thoughts, Mary appeared on the opposite shore, and Zosimus was consoled. Then, he saw her make the sign of the cross over the water and walk on it as though it were dry land.

Reprinted with permission from the Blessed Carlo Acutis Institute

My road to priesthood

I was born in 1982 in Garden City. My parents are Rory and Teresa McCandless. My mom is from Garden City, and my dad is from Nyack, N.Y. They met in Salina where they were both going to college.

My dad converted after meeting my mother. My parents modeled marriage and the faith to me. I saw a great example of married life.

I have two older siblings, Kathryn "Katie" and Matthew. Katie was married and had no kids. She died in 2005. Matthew is married with five kids. I'm the fun father-uncle. So, they often call me fr-uncle.

I grew up in Garden City until I was 7. In my childhood imagination, Garden City is amazing and magical. I have a great love for the Garden City of my youth. The house, the backyard, the fruit trees — it reminds me of innocence and the mystery and order brought about in times of play.

In 1989, we moved to Wichita. It was scary and a lot bigger than Garden City. But my little neighborhood quickly became magical, and the other neighborhood kids became quick friends.

Growing up, I remember having a great love for the priests who were in my parishes. I never really thought about being a priest, but I always loved it when they were present at school. I always wanted to be a cowboy. I always liked drawing, but it wasn't until high school I considered it as a career.

I went to Bishop Carroll and graduated in 2000. I sang in the choir, and I was part of the Madrigals. After high school, I would go to Wichita State University for one year, but then transferred to Kansas State University to dual major in art education and bachelor's degree of fine arts.

At KSU, I dated a young lady who was presbyterian. We both loved the same type of music and would have great conversations about lyrics and share our faith with each other. One evening, I remember having a conversation with her about the real presence of the Eucharist. It was a good conversation about why we believed what we did. That night, I went to bed and prayed very casually, which is how I usually prayed. It was something like, "Hey God. What's up? Today was a great day. I love this girl. I'm going to marry her." And then I fell asleep.

Thirty minutes later, I woke up and started to cry. In that time, I had a dream. I was holding the Eucharist in elevation as at Mass, and I knew the Lord wanted me to be a priest. I told him I wanted to pursue the relationship, but that I would give whatever children we had to him. All of this took place Dec. 8,

2000 — the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

My girlfriend at the time later decided to enter RCIA at St. Isidore's. I was her sponsor and got really involved. I also sang in the choir there. I began to learn so much about my faith. I thought I knew everything, but I was learning so much more.

My then girlfriend became Catholic, and we later became engaged. She went on for more schooling at KSU, and I continued pursuing a bachelor's degree in fine arts and education. We were in new, different worlds. And as a result, we ended up breaking off our relationship.

And then, in 2005, my sister Katie died. Her death motivated me to hurry up and finish my degree. I ended up dropping the art education degree and graduated with a BFA in drawing in May 2006.

MCCANDLESS, PAGE 12

RYAN McCandless
PASTOR



GOSPEL READINGS

Feb. 6
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 5:1-11

Jesus commanded Simon to put nets in the water for a catch of fish.

Feb. 13
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus preaches the beatitudes.

Feb. 20
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 6:27-38

Jesus commands to love one's enemies.

Feb. 27
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 6:39-45

Jesus advises to remove the wooden beam out of your own eye before removing the splinter in your brother's eye.

PRAYER INTENTION

The Holy Father entrusts the Apostleship of Prayer to publicize his prayer intentions for the good of the world and the Church.

For religious sisters and consecrated women
We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for

their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Fund provides educational opportunities

By THE REGISTER

Because of the generosity of several, the Scholarship Granting Fund for the Catholic Diocese of Salina, the diocesan scholarship granting organization (SGO) received more than \$82,000 in the 2021 calendar year. The funds will be used as scholarships for low-income students to attend one of the 16 Catholic schools in the diocese.

Last school year, the fund awarded \$171,000 in scholarships to new low-income students in kindergarten through eighth grade who entered a Catholic school in the diocese. As a result, the diocese wel-



Scholarship Granting Fund
for the
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

comed 29 new students to our schools. This makes a high-quality, faith-filled Catholic education available to those who could not afford it otherwise.

In early December, the diocese was approved to start accepting gifts to the SGO. Donors to the fund receive a 70 percent tax credit that can be applied to their Kansas income tax bill. The tax credit can also be carried forward to upcoming years until the credit is expended. In

addition, donors receive a charitable contribution receipt that can be used for federal taxes. For example, a contribution of \$5,000 to the SGO reduces the donor's state taxes by \$3,500. In addition, the remainder of the gift of \$1,500 can be used as a charitable deduction on federal taxes. The legislation established a \$500,000 maximum annual gift per taxpayer for receiving a Kansas income tax credit. The Salina fund established a minimum gift

of \$1,000 to process a Kansas income tax credit.

The funds raised in 2021, as well as any received in 2022, will be awarded the school year starting in August 2022.

The Kansas Legislature allocates \$10 million per year for the tax credit program. The state tax credits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the limit is reached, credits will be unavailable until the beginning of the next tax year.

Executive Director of Development Beth Shearer encourages those who are interested in tax credits in 2022 to contact her.

HELPING OUT

Interested in a tax credit?

To make a contribution to the Scholarship Granting Fund for the Catholic Diocese of Salina, contact Beth Shearer at (785) 827-8746, Ext. 42, or email beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org.

Interested in a scholarship?

Contact Geoff Andrews, superintendent of Catholic Schools, at (785) 827-8746, Ext. 46, or email geoff.andrews@salinadiocese.org.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Confirmation was celebrated by Bishop Jerry Vincke at St. Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center on Sept. 12. Front row from left, Blaine Pfizenmaier, Laine Sleichter, Caylyn Pfizenmaier and Audrey Blackwood. Middle row from left, Morgan Brumfield, Kara Floersch, Sarabeth Martin and Rachel Friedrich. Back row from left, Cody Sharp, Father Kerry Ninemire, Deacon Mike Robinson and Bishop Jerry Vincke. Not pictured, Tucker Jackson and Emily Hood.



Confirmation for the students from Oberlin, Selden and Leoville took place Oct. 3 at Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Leoville. Front row from left, Kassie Miller, Rayna Taylor, Sidney Taylor, McHaley Carter, Myah Ritter, Jordyn Fleckenstein, Jenna Fortin, Makadyn Ketterl, Taylor Ketterl, Maci Weigel and Aidyn Witt. Back row from left, Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos, Roberto Loya, Jerit Koeperich, Garrett Carter, Will Bruggeman, Ashton Schiltz, Abe Taylor, BJ Rogers, Alex Gonzalez, Joshua Juenemann, Ethan Shea, Michaela Wasson and Bishop Jerry Vincke.



St. Mary's Church in Ellis hosted its 27th Parish Auction, "On the Road Again," on Oct. 23. The auction was online and in-person. There was an amazing turnout. Bishop Jerry Vincke, Superintendent Geoff Andrews and wife, Valerie, attended. Geoff Andrews, left, was one of the finalists, along with school principal Patti Park, in a game of heads and tails. They jointly decided to split their winnings and donate it back to the parish.

Renovations ongoing at Salina church

By KATIE GREENWOOD
THE REGISTER

On Dec. 19, 2021, parishioners of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Church in Salina gathered in the parish hall for Mass.

For the past 20 months, Mass had been celebrated in either the parish hall or the gym of St. Mary's grade school as the church interior underwent an extensive renovation project. Every Sunday, the parishioners could be found among the rows of folding chairs, kneeling on cold, tile floors as they faced the simple altar and crucifix at the front.

But on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the parish hall was empty of any folding chairs. The parishioners stood clustered together as Bishop Jerry Vincke, Father Kevin Weber (pastor), Father Brian McCaffrey (associate pastor) and a handful of other priests walked into the hall.

Father Weber announced that for the first time in months, Mass would once more take place in the church.

Bishop Vincke led the procession of 200 people outside the parish hall and to the front doors of the gathering space. The group paused in the expanded gathering hall as Bishop Vincke entered the newly renovated church and blessed the baptismal font.

Following the blessing, the entrance hymn began, and the congregation processed in. Folding chairs spanned the width of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Jerry Vincke blesses the baptismal font at St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Church in Salina.

floor, lining the path where the future pews will go. While the church is ready enough to celebrate Mass once again, the renovation is not officially completed.

Mass continued as normal with Bishop Vincke giving a homily. He began by jokingly telling the parishioners his favorite part of their new church was the folding chairs.

"My dear friends, my dear aunt Sr. Josephine passed on to me some advice that has stuck with me throughout the years: 'Things that are worthwhile are worth waiting for.' I feel the same way about this renovation project. We waited like children wait for Christmas, but

the wait is worthwhile," Bishop Vincke said.

Following the homily was the dedication of the altar. A very solemn ritual, Bishop Vincke began by pouring chrism oil onto the center of the altar and each corner. Chrism oil is a perfumed oil which is always used in anointings, such as baptism, confirmation and ordinations.

Removing his outer vestments and wearing only a simple, white alb, Bishop Vincke then took his hands and spread the oil over the entirety of the altar, taking special care to cover every inch of the altar surface. In doing so, he anointed the altar.

After he finished, two parishioners, Charles and Mary Haines, approached the altar with towels and wiped the excess oil off the altar. Then, two more parishioners, Catherine Silhan and Romeyn Lauber, approached and draped the new altar cloth over the altar. Finally, a fifth parishioner, Judy Kvasnicka (consecrated virgin) approached the altar with an incense bowl filled with charcoal.

The incense bowl on the center of the altar was to serve as the brazier. Bishop Vincke incensed the brazier, and the incense rose directly from the altar. He then walked around the altar, continuously incensing the sacred space.

The Mass continued, but it was anything but normal for the parishioners of St. Mary, Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. After months of deep anticipation, their advent had finally come to an end. They were finally back in their sacred space of worship celebrating the great sacrament of the Mass.

"I am delighted to be back in our church," said Father Kevin. "It was a much longer process than we anticipated. But it has been well worth the wait."

An upcoming story in *The Register* will feature the renovation project of St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in greater detail. Currently, the renovation project is still in progress. At its completion, an additional article will be published in the newspaper.

Beloit church hosts Alpha weekend

By KATIE GREENWOOD
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit invited the Holy Spirit into their hearts and homes at its first ever Alpha Holy Spirit weekend Nov. 12 to 14. Nearly 20 youth and just as many adults of varying ages participated in the weekend, which was in the basement of the city municipal building.

Alpha is a series of sessions that include a shared meal, a short video presentation and small group discussions which explore the basic tenets of the Christian faith.

"I had heard of Alpha mentioned a few times by respected priests over the past 10 years and have

always thought it would be something I'd like to try," said Father Jarett Konrade, pastor of St. John the Baptist. "At the added request of a couple of parishioners here in Beloit, we felt it was time to test it out."

A group made up of multiple couples took on the responsibility of assisting with setup, cost and providing food. The pilot weekend was hosted, and the participants consisted of high school juniors and seniors.

One of the key tenets of the Alpha series is that at some point a Holy Spirit weekend is provided by the host of the program. While there is not an exact format, it is meant to be a quasi-retreat experience for those going through the alpha series.

TESTIMONIES

Anonymous testimonies from the Alpha weekend:

- "I felt a shiver down my spine and a tingle all over. Sort of a warm and peaceful feeling."
- "I want to experience this again throughout my life."
- "I was overcome with a sense of love, joy and peace. Without a doubt, I knew and realized how much God loves me. That he has pursued me and wants me as his own regardless of my choices."
- "Warmth, tingling in my hands. Burning feeling around my mouth and lips. Peace."
- "I came in distracted by some things troubling me, worries, doubts, fears. The Holy Spirit reminded me not to be afraid. God placed me where I am. He's got this. I don't have to do it all by myself. I can't do it all by myself. But by the power of the

- Holy Spirit, I am strong. I am brave. Fear has no power over me. I was made for this. The Holy Spirit can work through me. In this time. In this place. In my circumstances, I will set the world on fire. For God's glory."
- "When I was prayed with, it was definitely one of the best things I have ever experienced and it was so peaceful. I hope what I heard stays in my heart forever. This day, every part about it, is something I will never forget."
- "I felt the Holy Spirit reach out and touch me. I prayed for my older brother and my friend who recently took his life. I started to cry. I wasn't sad or anything. I felt reassured by the Holy Spirit that my brother will be okay and that my friend is in a better place now. I smiled."

"We knew that some components we definitely wanted as part of the

weekend would be confession, adoration, some praise and worship, journal time,

communal prayer and a time of prayer invoking the Holy Spirit," Father Konrade said.

"We encouraged people to journal their experiences, as well as share the fruits of what they experienced throughout the weekend. Without giving away all the various meditations we did, we had overwhelmingly positive reviews from both youth and adults of how they felt the Holy Spirit in a unique way through the weekend, describing visual, external and internal 'feelings' of the activity of the Spirit through their experience.

"I also experienced a moment of healing in my own relationship with God in relation to the loss of my brother a couple years back. The weekend was a blessing for me as well."

Another Holy Spirit weekend was hosted at the end of January, with additional designs to run the full Alpha series for adults in the future.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



[HTTPS://ALPHA.ORG/CATHOLIC-CONTEXT.](https://alpha.org/catholic-context)

Annual appeal set for Feb. 19 to 20

By KATIE GREENWOOD
THE REGISTER

Fast-approaching is the kickoff weekend (Feb. 19 to 20) for the Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share. Taking place annually, the appeal is the primary way the Salina Diocese funds its mission and ministries. This year's goal is \$2 million.

The mission of the Salina Diocese is to be disciples who go out and make disciples through witnessing by faith, hope and love. The Scripture quote associated with the 2022 appeal comes from Luke 6:38 "Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."

The word "Catholic" literally means "universal." Catholics are a universal faith and a universal people.

And in being Catholic, the faithful are called to come outside of themselves to give and serve the other.

The idea of giving is a concept rooted in the Trinity. God the Father is constantly begetting (giving) to God the Son. God the Son is constantly being begotten (receiving) from God the Father. And the act of perfect love between Father and Son is the spiration of the Holy Spirit.

But it goes beyond that. God the Father gave his only Son for the salvation of mankind. God the Son gave his life for the salvation of mankind.

And as every person is made in the image and likeness of God, we too are called to give. And as we are Catholic, we are called to join in the universal mission of the Church



and be disciples who make disciples. We are called to give outside of ourselves.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal – Call to Share is an invitation to give to something that extends beyond your own home or parish. A gift to the diocese is universal in nature as it goes beyond your own community.

But as Scripture tells us, "Give and gifts will be given to you."

A gift to the Salina Diocese is in turn used to serve the faithful of the diocese in the universal mission to be disciples who make disciples through giving witness by faith, hope and love.

Your gift supports faith

Before they were clergy, they were ordinary men. Then one day, God called them to be more. He called these ordinary men to do extraordinary things. Your gift supports our clergy at each stage of the vocation, from cultivating the vocations of seminarians and deacon candidates, to supporting priests and deacons in active ministry, to providing peace of mind to our retired priests.

Your gift supports hope

We find hope through Jesus. And we give hope by creating opportunities for people to encounter Jesus in an intimate way. The Diocese of Salina has various ministries that further Christ's mission to be disciples who go out and make disciples. Your gift supports that mission and makes it possible for people to encounter Jesus.

Your gift supports love

To know is to love, and the Diocese of Salina strives to teach and educate the faithful of God's love and mercy. The diocese teaches through communications and publication efforts, Catholic schools and religious education, youth programs, and provides further education for adults and clergy. Your gift supports empowering the minds of the faithful with the knowledge of who God is.

The mission of the Salina Diocese is in line with the great commission of Christ. "Then Jesus approached and said to them, 'All power in heaven and on Earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you

always, until the end of the age.' " (Matt. 28:18-20).

Join in the mission. Make a gift today and spread the Good News of the faith throughout the Salina Diocese.

Did you know?

The mission of the Salina Diocese remains the same, and your gift continues to fund the same mission.

However, the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina has absorbed the responsibilities of gift processing. This is to ensure further protection of gifts and assets. Everything remains the same, the only difference is that all checks must be made payable to:

Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina

P.O. Box 1696

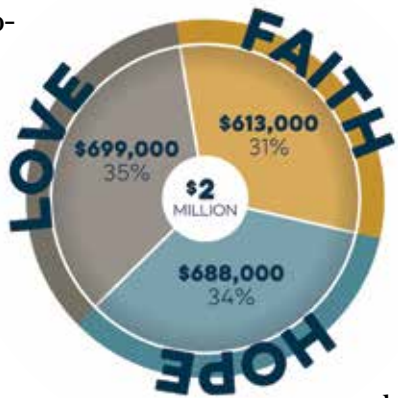
Salina, KS 67402-1696

Or you can make your gift online by visiting <https://salinadiocese.org/office/catholic-foundation-for-diocese-of-salina/>.

If you have any questions, contact Katie Platten (katie.platten@salinadiocese.org) or Beth Shearer (beth.shearer@salinadiocese.org)

Keep your eyes open.

In early February, you will be receiving a special issue of *faith* magazine that goes into further detail in explaining exactly how your gift is put into action.



Catholics asked to take part

By THE REGISTER

The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops.

This synod is titled: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." Pope Francis has called the entire people of God to journey together.

This synod is not just another meeting with oral presentations and written reports. This synod is a process of journeying together by listening, dialoguing, praying, discerning and making decisions together for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis is asking each local diocese to gather – clergy, religious and laity together – to listen to each other. The goal of this journeying together is not to create a new vision or pastoral plan with objectives. Rather, the goal of our journeying together is to be present with one another, to listen and learn with each other, and to grow closer to the Lord and his church.

"This synod offers us the opportunity to be with each other, to invite our family and friends back to the faith, to listen to each other's joys and sorrows, and share our hope and dreams for our parishes," said Cardinal

Wilton Gregory.

Synod is a Greek word, *synodos*, meaning a meeting or assembly. The two Greek words that make up synod are *syn*, meaning together, and *hodos*, meaning way or journey.

Vatican II pointed out the Church is not the Kingdom but it is the people of God accompanying one another on the pilgrimage to the Kingdom. Synodality is a periodic assessment, not of the progress toward the Kingdom, but of our accompanying one another.

Listening sessions will take place in Manhattan, Salina, Hays, Colby, Norton, Tipton and Belleville.

NEW YEAR

NEW NAME

SAME MISSION

The mission of the diocese remains "to be disciples who make disciples through witnessing by faith, hope and love." But now, the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina will process all donations.

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina
P.O. Box 1696
Salina, KS 67402-1696

OR MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25			26	27			28		
29	30	31							32		33			
34				35		36	37	38						
39			40			41					42	43	44	45
			46	47	48				49	50		51		
52	53	54							55		56			
57				58		59		60						
61			62			63	64			65		66	67	68
69					70				71		72			
73					74						75			
76					77						78			

- ACROSS**

1 Pacify

5 Sports shoe projection

10 Baby powder

14 Buckeye State

15 Cowboy John

16 Region

17 South American country

18 Last letter of Greek alphabet

19 Colored horse

20 Break

22 East southeast

23 Type of cheese

24 Transgressions

26 Constellation

28 Ocean

29 Swiss city

32 Saloon

34 Gone by

35 Visor

39 This is my ___ given for you

41 Expression of surprise

42 Biblical weed

46 Ultras

51 Sun's name

52 Ancient empire

55 Wife of Ahasuerus

57 Avenue

58 No room for them in the ___
- 60 Sister of Rachel

61 Radiuses

63 Wrath

65 Kingly

69 Aroma

70 Broker

72 Corn syrup brand

73 Comedian Jay

74 Talks

75 Middle East Ruler

76 Adam and Eve's garden

77 Sharpen a razor

78 Precede
- DOWN**

1 Lawmen

2 Excuse me!

3 Italian money

4 Hair ___

5 Cash with order (abbr.)

6 Tinselled cloth

7 Potato sprouts

8 Heavenly being

9 British drink

10 Tropical edible root

11 Waken

12 Person in charge

13 Fourth son of Ham

21 Bee's home

23 Instrument to guide oxen

25 No
- 27 Airport abbr.

29 Chitchat

30 Self-esteem

31 Cain fled to this land

33 Animal doctor

36 Hearing part

37 Her

38 Youngest son of Noah

40 Affirmation

43 Tree

44 Deteriorate

45 Samuel's mentor

47 Baker's dozen

48 Beige

49 First woman

50 France & Germany river

52 Let out of prison early

53 Dodged

54 Done over

56 Monetary unit

59 Silent ___

60 Slow

62 Cast metal

64 Raise

66 Match

67 Opera solo

68 The ___ is my shepherd

70 American Cancer Society (abbr.)

71 Teaspoon (abbr.)

Answers on Page 14



COURTESY PHOTO

A speaker discusses the Value Them Both Amendment during the Jan. 9 event in Salina.

Event in Salina well-attended

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

The Salina Diocesan Council of Catholic Women hosted a special ladies event for all women of the Salina Diocese on Jan. 9 at the Cathedral.

Two speakers presented topics of interest. The Value Them Both Amendment history and provisions were explained. This amendment which will be on all the ballots at the Aug. 2 primary election will help assure the pro-life laws passed and signed in the past will be upheld. Even if the US Supreme Court overturns legalized abortions, Kansas will still need to pass the amendment.

Everyone is encouraged to spread the word in their parishes and communities,

and to vote yes in August.

Mother Miriam with the Daughters of Mary located in Beloit told about her conversion from a young Jewish woman to a Catholic nun with humor and conviction. The sisters are working in the diocese to help strengthen families as the foundation for the Catholic Church and for all communities. Mother Miriam also hosts a radio program five days a week, which is nationwide.

More than 60 women recited the rosary to open the event, and closed with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Salina women furnished refreshments during the time for fellowship and visiting between speakers.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Food for the Soul is the first of a three-part series of biblical reflections from one of the most prominent spiritual writers of our time

For many Catholics, engagement with the Bible is often limited to what's heard at Mass — but a brief sermon on a Sunday morning might not be enough to sate one's appetite for the richness of the Word of God.

In this new book, Peter Kreeft, celebrated philosopher and



author, invites the faithful to a heart-to-heart relationship with Christ through Scripture in this insightful commentary, "Food for the Soul."

In the first of this three-part series, "Food for the Soul: Reflections on the Mass Readings (Cycle C)," the Liturgy of the Word comes to life with Kreeft's trademark blend of wit and wisdom, which challenges readers to sharpen their minds with the sword of the Spirit.

This elegantly designed hardcover edition, which includes a ribbon bookmark, features reflections on each of the Sunday readings (the first and second reading, and the Gospel passage) throughout Year C of the liturgical cycle, beginning with Advent, and includes additional reflections during Holy Week and the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Whether you are a layperson searching for additional insight on obscure passages, or a priest or deacon looking for inspiration for a homily, "Food for the Soul" is a gift to the whole church. It can be purchased at wordonfire.org/food.

Kreeft, PhD, professor of philosophy at Boston College, is one of the

most widely read Christian authors of our time. He has published more than 85 books on a vast array of topics in spirituality, theology and philosophy.

Word on Fire Catholic Ministries (wordonfire.org) exists to support the evangelization efforts of Bishop Robert Barron by drawing people into the Body of Christ, which is the Church, and thereby giving them access to all the gifts Jesus wants his people to enjoy.

To be most effective in this mission, Word on Fire places an emphasis and urgency on the use of contemporary forms of media and innovative communication technologies.

God, bless each and every person affected by this storm and surround them with your love, protection and angels. Let them know there are thousands of us out here praying for them and their loved ones. We give you all the praise and glory forever, Lord, and know that even in the darkest hours, you are always with us. Amen.

Safety in the storm

CHURCH PROVIDES REFUGE FOR TRAVELING COLLEGE STUDENTS

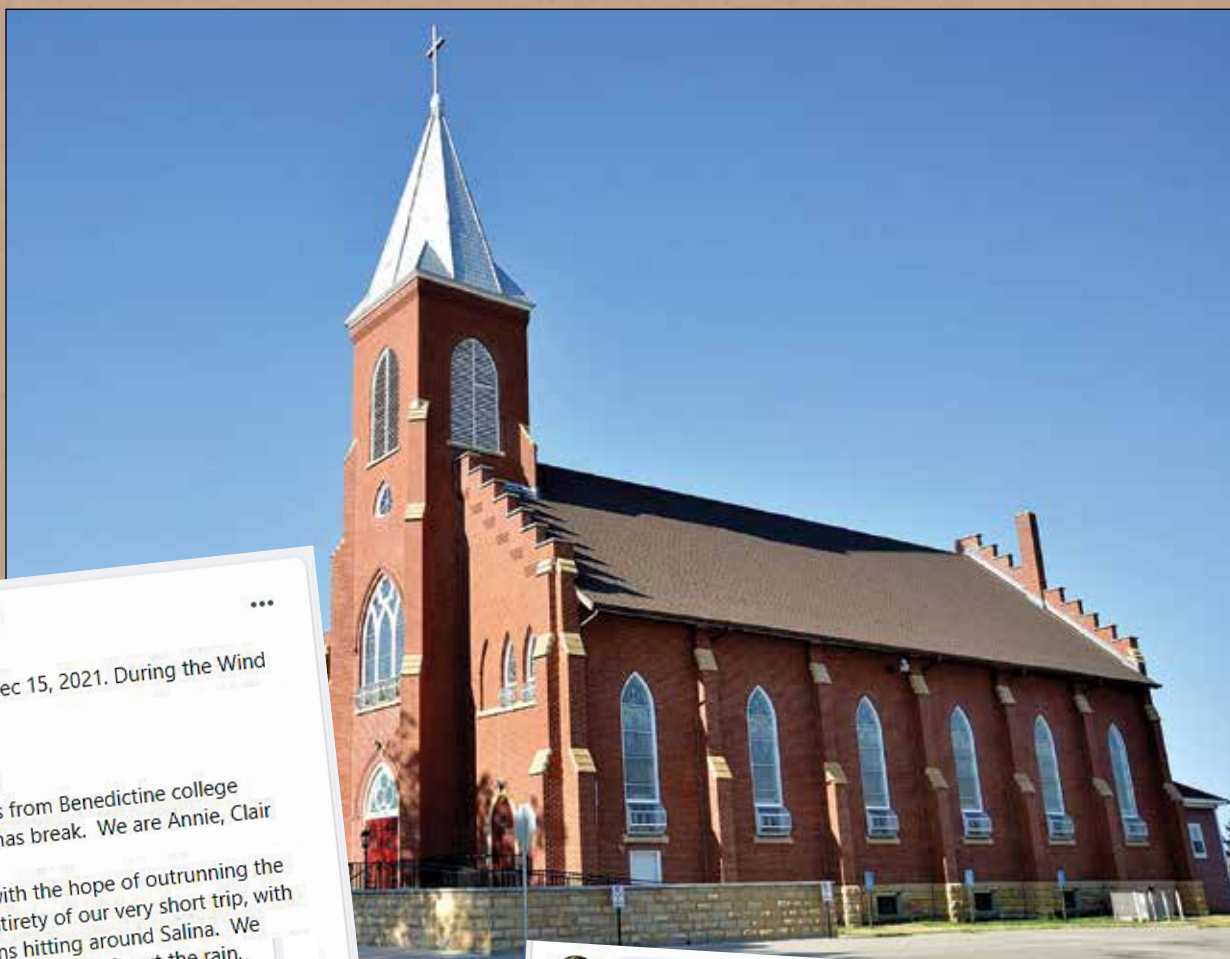
By KATIE GREENWOOD

THE REGISTER

On Dec. 15, three Benedictine college students were trying to get home to Colorado during the middle of the windstorm that threatened western Kansas. Seeking safe haven in Wilson, they stumbled across St. Wenceslaus Church. The doors to the church and sanctuary were being tossed about in the wind, so the students ran to the church to try and keep the doors shut. They then opted to stay inside the church until the wind subsided.

Here is the letter they wrote to the people of the parish. They claim it is Divine Providence the doors to the church were open and granted them safety.

It just might well have been, as Father Tony Kulandaijesu, pastor of the parish, insists that he shut and locked all the doors prior to the storm.



St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
December 20, 2021 at 9:18 AM · 📍



Letter to St Wenceslas Parish, Left on Dec 15, 2021. During the Wind Storm...

St Wenceslas Parish:

Boy, have we got a story for you!!!

Some Context: We are three students from Benedictine college driving home to Colorado for Christmas break. We are Annie, Clair and Calvin.

We left Atchinson This morning with the hope of outrunning the storm. It was pretty windy for the entirety of our very short trip, with some pretty scary rain/thunderstorms hitting around Salina. We pulled into a gas station around 2:30 p.m. to wait out the rain, we could make it to Russell. Visibility was zip-zero-nada, dust was EVERYWHERE, and the wind was very bad. Very, very bad.

We pulled into Wilson, Kansas, with the idea that maybe there would be a place to find shelter. Driving passed the Worlds' Largest Czech egg, we saw a sign for the Catholic Church. Huzzah! Even in our plight we could still visit Jesus!

However...Driving passed, we noticed that the door to the church was flapping open in the wind. The doors to the sanctuary were also flapping. Parking the car next to the church, we booked it to the inside. We shut and locked the door after multiple attempts, (Locked because the wind blew it open even when shut), and then prayed in the sanctuary for a short second.

The wind and weather advisory then convinced us that we should seek shelter in a windowless place. After looking around for the staircase to the basement (Which we knew of from the windows seen outside). Making sure to be respectful of the Eucharist and His presence, we found the stairs behind the altar. As I write this now, it is by the light of one of your battery powered candles, since there is no power 🙄 (Frowny Face Here)

Thank you so much for having candles! I Promise that we will return them/returned them to exactly where we found them.

Honestly, I think it was divine providence that flung your doors open when we drove by. Thank you for housing us for the couple of hours we were here. We are eternally grateful. Also, the chair by the window is where we peeked outside to see how the weather was progressing.

Thank you! God Bless!

❤️ (A big Heart was drawn here)

Annie, Clair & Calvin



Danielle Florke Fox
That is an amazing story

Like · Reply · 3w



Author

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
Danielle Florke Fox to make it even better, Father said he had locked the door. So it was divine providence for sure.

Like · Reply · 3w



Lynda Arnhold
God always protecting his children.

Like · Reply · 3w



Jim-Diane Wagner
What a great story!

Like · Reply · 3w



Diane Boyer LaJoie
Thank you St. Wenceslaus Church for offering protection to these travelers 🙏

Like · Reply · 2w



Angie Keener Roth
Benedictine College

Like · Reply · 2w

Record-setting storms leave massive cleanup

By MICHAEL STAVOLA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Wildfires continued to burn the day after the Dec. 15 fires as a vast swath of Kansas worked to clean up and restore power after high winds and dust ripped across the state, setting records for wind speed and causing dozens of

accidents. Three people died.

It's not all that rare to have Kansas storms topple semis, snap power poles and peel off roofs, but it is rare to see damage so widespread. The strength and vastness of the storm was a weather phenomena that even surprised seasoned meteorologists.

"Right now it's at the top of the list of the busiest and most extreme weather events in my career," said Chris Jakub, a meteorologist for 21 years who is now with the National Weather Service in Wichita.

The storm started in western Kansas on the morning of Dec. 15

and roared across the state into the night.

Here is a small overview of some of the aftermath from the mid-December storm:

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported 73 accidents: 51 non-injury accidents and 20 with injuries.

Organization brings family together

By OLIVIA AYRES

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

For any parent, the thought of not being able to live in the same house, let alone country as their young child is an unimaginable scenario. For Maria*, it was a daily, nightmarish reality.

Maria, who was born in the United States, moved back to her family's native city of Fresnillo, Mexico, when she was just 4 years old. Maria spent most of her childhood and young adult life in Mexico, eventually marrying and welcoming two daughters, Andrea* and Alexa*.

However, Maria said her life in Mexico was not an easy one. She was entangled in a toxic marriage with her then husband, leading her to get a divorce.

"I was in a very toxic marriage with my ex-husband," Maria said. "I felt alone and hopeless for the future."

In 2018, Maria decided she wanted to make a change and moved back to the United States to give herself and her children a better life, one full of opportunity and possibilities. However, there was one significant setback — while she was a natural-born American citizen, her two daughters were not. This would mean for Maria's daughters to live in the United States with her, they would need to be granted permanent legal status by the U.S. government, which can be a lengthy and expensive process.

"When I came to the states, I had to leave my two children in Mexico," Maria said. "I was also pregnant with my third child, so I was able to stay with my ex-husband's family, but I still had very little

support."

Maria, who had limited financial means at the time, said hiring a private immigration lawyer was out of her realm of possibilities.

"A lot of lawyers want to charge you so much money, and there was no way I could afford it," Maria said. "I just wanted to have my kids in the states with me as soon as possible, but I did not have any money to hire a lawyer."

Although Maria was discouraged, she was not going to give up hope on getting her children to the United States. She started investigating and discovered Catholic Charities through a distant relative.

In desperate need of guidance and support, Maria set up an appointment with Yessenia Baquera, immigration and Hispanic services specialist.

"When I first came to Catholic Charities, there was so much going on in my life," Maria said. "I knew I was in America. I knew I wanted to make something of my life, but I was lost without my kids."

During the course of several months, Baquera and Maria worked through the process of getting her two daughters' permanent legal status. Amid this long, grueling process, Maria received devastating news from her family in Mexico. Her youngest daughter, Alexa, 6, had passed away unexpectedly due to complications from undiagnosed juvenile diabetes.

Losing her daughter under such tragic, unexpected circumstances was a heartbreak Maria never expected.

"In the midst of the process of

getting my kids to be able to live with me in the states, I was dealing with the death of my youngest daughter. It was so hard," Maria said. "While I was incredibly heartbroken and devastated, I was grateful I at least had the chance to see her after she passed and give her one last hug and one last kiss. There are people who cannot even go back to their countries when a family member passes away."

That mindset of gratitude is what carried Maria through her darkest days after Alexa's passing, as she still had her eldest daughter, Andrea, to fight for. A few months after Alexa's untimely death, Andrea was granted permanent legal status by the U.S. government and was able to live with her mother in the United States.

While Maria said it was bitter-sweet Alexa was not able to be there, she was incredibly thankful to be reunited with Andrea in the same country.

"I went back to Mexico to bring back one daughter, when it should have been two," Maria said. "Through everything I do, I try my best to be positive. I still have two other kids that need me."

Through all the adversities Maria has faced, one thing has remained constant, her abiding and unconditional love for her children.

"Everything I make in my life, every decision I make, is all for them," Maria said. "The foundation I built here is America is all going to be for their future."

Baquera said Maria's strength and resilience throughout this process speaks to the greater mission Catholic Charities' immi-

gration program.

"Maria is a mother who wants her children to be safe and have a good life, as any parent would. She went through a long and trying journey to try to get her two daughters to the United States of America — a country she was born in," Baquera said. "Our Immigration Services at Catholic Charities aided Maria's family journey. We interviewed, researched, filled forms, along with other tasks to try to get two young children to reunite with their mother. These services provide support in navigating, educating and supporting families through this process."

Maria expressed that if it were not for the guidance and support she received from Baquera and Catholic Charities immigration program, she would not have the life she does today

"If it were not for Catholic Charities, I would not have my kids with me," Maria said. "If I were not able to get my kids, I would not be here."

Since receiving support through Catholic Charities, Maria is living with her two children and working full-time to support her family. She is grateful she can give her children the opportunities and life she was deprived of.

"I have always had a difficult life, but my kids are what bring me hope," Maria said. "Catholic Charities cared about me as a person, and it is because of them that I have my family back."

**For the sake of anonymity, the names in this article have been changed.*

Olivia Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Help comes during difficult journey for mother

By OLIVIA AYRES

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

When Samantha* found out she was expecting a child, she felt she had nowhere to turn. She learned of her pregnancy amid an already turbulent time in her personal life.

Additionally, Samantha's small business had gone under due to the pandemic, leaving her with no financial stability for her family.

"My life at that time was

like a storm inside of a storm," Samantha said.

"When I hit rock bottom, I had started reaching out to community resources, and that is when I found Catholic Charities."

Samantha came to Catholic Charities with the hope of receiving the resources she needed to support herself, as well as prepare for the upcoming birth of her child.

"I needed to get my life

together and provide for my family," Samantha said.

"Catholic Charities was one of the best resources I was given."

Samantha received essential food and hygiene items, as well as pregnancy and baby supplies through the Catholic Charities Pregnancy Support Program. Samantha said the support she was given by Catholic Charities was the safe haven her family

desperately needed amidst all the turmoil.

"I was never judged. I was never questioned. It was always a loving environment," Samantha said. "I got so much support."

After receiving assistance from Catholic Charities, Samantha gave birth to her daughter. Since the birth, Samantha has established a home and is working to provide a fruitful life for herself and her family.

After the hardships she has faced, Samantha's outlook on her life is one filled with hope and optimism.

"The dust has settled, and we are all healing," she said. "And we are healing in a loving environment."

**For the sake of anonymity, the name in this article has been changed.*

Olivia Ayres is the communications coordinator for Catholic Charities.

STORM, FROM PAGE 8

Three people died in two accidents.

Winds quickly spread multiple wildfires across the state.

The largest, which left a burn mark visible from space, burned in Russell, Ellis, Rooks and Osborne counties. A Russell County 911 dispatcher said seven of the nine

rural fire departments in the county were still fighting fires the next day, most of which appeared to be rekindled flames.

The Kansas Forest Service estimated approximately 366,000 of the roughly 391,000 acres that burned that afternoon occurred in the four-county fire. Satellite

images are used to make the estimate, which is only based on what burned Wednesday.

"Which is a big number for that short amount of time," Kansas Forest Service spokesperson Mark Neely said.

The National Weather Service in Wichita said the Russell County

sheriff reported at least 10 homes were destroyed in fires that stretched over 150 square miles.

In Trego County, at least four homes were destroyed along with numerous outbuildings, equipment and old homesteads, emergency management director Kathleen Fabrizio told the AP.

Diocese celebrates marriages

By ALLISON OCHOA
THE REGISTER

From its grassroots beginning in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, to its now-annual recognition on the second Sunday of each February, World Marriage Day is a salute to the commitment of husbands and wives in their married life. With its common theme, "Love One Another," the command Jesus gave in John 15:12, the event has grown to span multiple countries and faith expressions.

With the Diocese of Salina celebrating an average of 243 weddings each year, couples across the 31 counties of the diocese live out World Marriage Day's theme and Jesus's commandment daily and help nurture their marriages regularly in multiple ways.

Bob and Pamela Schroeder of Colby celebrated their first year of marriage in July. The couple, members of Sacred Heart Parish, said they've learned a great deal about themselves and the institution of marriage in this first year.

"We've learned a lot about forgiveness and when you make a mistake, the importance of saying, 'I'm sorry,'" Bob said. "We talked a lot about this during marriage prep, but now we really get to put it into practice."

Inspired by the examples of their respective parents' marriages, the couple said their faith has played an integral role in their own marriage.

"It all comes back to prayer — spending time in prayer together as well as individually," Pamela said. "It's about trusting God, and Bob is there to remind me of that."

"I don't know what we would do without it," Bob said. "We've both grown in our faith, and it's been a huge blessing to have that in our marriage, knowing that it's about us and God."

Faith and participation in parish life has also been a priority for Jason and Carrie Ellis, parishioners of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Manhattan. The couple, who celebrated their 10th anniversary in November,



Pamela and Bob Schroeder

believes while regular date nights enrich their marriage, prayer is the single most important element in their life together.

"The No. 1 thing is having daily prayer," Carrie said. "I've heard it said over and over that praying together is life changing, and it is. It has elevated our faith."

Jason described the couple's prayer life as a mixture of study and discussion.

"We've got the daily readings to give us that peace to start our day," he said. "We've listened to the Bible In A Year podcast with Father Mike Schmitz, and we've listened to homilies or presentations by Bishop Robert Barron and Jeff Cavins. These are great because they give you a new interpretation or understanding of the Bible."

"We'll talk about how these things apply to our life or we'll text each other about them during the day, and it's great being on the same page because we've read or heard the same thing," Carrie said.

For Dan and Mary Kay Schippers of St. Ann's Parish in Walker, faith and its role in married life has developed and matured during their 46-year marriage.

"We got married when we were 19, and for a 19-year-old, faith isn't



Jason and Carrie Ellis

the same as it is for a 65-year-old," Mary Kay said. "Dan and I have grown up together, and as we grow older, we change and our marriage changes with it."

"With the aging process, things come to make more sense and you learn to appreciate what you have including your marriage and your faith, and life (together) just keeps getting better."

All three couples agree spending time together enriches the marriage, but that time in each other's company might look different in each marriage.

For the Schroeders, a weekly date night helps them set aside time where they can talk and focus on more than just the everyday obligations of life. The Ellises set aside time as often as possible to shop for groceries or make dinner together. The Schippers tackle various projects together.

The three couples also recognize marriage is under attack in many ways and all marriages will face challenges. However, they believe in the importance of the institu-



Dan and Mary Kay Schippers

tion and the hope it brings to communities as well as to those preparing for the sacrament.

"It's becoming a rarity to see people married 50 or 60 years or more today," Carrie said. "But it gives a sense of hope because you see people who are committed to each other through the good and the bad."

"I think the world in general recognizes the goodness of couples who stay together in marriage and being a good example of that can hopefully draw people in and lead others to Christ," Pamela said.

For those preparing to enter the sacrament of marriage or for those who have only recently begun their married lives together, Mary Kay offered this advice: "Hang in there. There will be hard times and anyone who thinks there won't is wrong. But once you're through it, you'll look back at the experience, and you'll be glad you got through it together."

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

By KATIE GREENWOOD
THE REGISTER

World Marriage Week 2022 will be celebrated Feb. 7 to 13, culminating with World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 13.

In honor of celebrating marriage, enjoy a series of stories on the joys and crosses of the sacrament of matrimony.

The cross of infertility

In 2000, Gina and Jeremy were married and looked forward to starting their own family.

Three years passed, but no pregnancy occurred. The couple began to wonder if something was wrong. Ultimately, it was determined Gina had polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS). PCOS is a hormonal imbalance found in women, and oftentimes, it is the underlying cause of infertility in couples.

The couple know of three different instances when they had become pregnant, but lost the baby to miscarriage.

They never really "reacted"

to the news they were infertile. Instead, they took the process of fertility treatments and miscarriages as they came. In that time, they heavily relied on each other, their family, their parish and God. Infertility was hard for Jeremy because he wanted more than anything to make it OK for Gina. Whereas, Gina felt so let down by her body for not being able to take care of a baby.

Their journey with infertility caused the couple to question God's plan for

their life. Jeremy said he began to turn to prayer more and more. Gina struggled tremendously and questioned God, asking why he would give her a baby and then take the baby away.

Additionally, their marriage was subject to more ups and downs due to the emotional issues Gina experienced from taking fertility drugs.

Through it all, the couple learned the virtue of patience, but it wasn't always easy.

"We knew we just had to

trust God to lead us in the right direction," Gina said. "But the months of infertility and loss seemed like eternity. While our friends and family continued to have pregnancy news, we were left childless. It was hard to share in their joy, while questioning why God wouldn't want that for us, too."

The couple considered adoption and different fertility treatments. And then they decided to take a "pause."

MARRIAGE, PAGE 11

MARRIAGE, FROM PAGE 10

Jeremy was in his last year of law school, and they had tried for so long. But then, they found out they were pregnant.

"We waited to share the news, hopeful yet unsure if it would be another lost pregnancy," Gina said. "We were able to hear the heart-beat, and our hope increased. God certainly had a plan for us."

Jeremy finished law school and found a job in Manhattan. The day he found out he'd passed the bar exam, Gina went into labor with their son, Hayden.

Hayden was born happy and healthy. When he was approximately 2 years old, the couple were once more going to start fertility treatments and try for a second baby. And, miraculously, they were already pregnant.

During the ninth month of the second pregnancy, Gina's father, Kenny, passed away. Their daughter, Kenley Grace, was born three weeks after his passing.

"There were so many emotions from losing Kenny, yet carrying a baby," Jeremy said. "One life ends and another begins." Gina will never forget someone telling her it was OK to be happy and sad at the same time, as it felt so wrong to be happy after burying her father. "Kenley certainly was sent to us from the grace of God and proved he is holding us in the palm of his hand. He has a plan. We just have to trust it."

For other couples struggling with infertility, the couple say know you are not alone and there are many people, like us, who have gone through it before, and continue to pray for all those going through it now. The road is difficult, but you are not alone."

The cross of disease

Both from Victoria, Jerry and Louise dated for two years before getting married in 1974.

From 1972 to 2009, the couple was constantly found singing together.

"She had a beautiful voice," Jerry said. "I don't know why she ever wanted to sing with me."

Jerry and Louise sang for Mass, along with singing for weddings and funerals.

They had two boys who they loved and raised. When both boys moved out, the couple enjoyed their alone time and began to remodel their home.

It was during the remodel Jerry noticed something was different.

"I started to have to explain the same thing over and over to her," he said.

He decided to wait and see what would happen. And then one day, Louise's boss called. Louise was an insurance agent and had

"IT'S HARD FOR ME WHEN I SEE COUPLES FIGHTING AND ARGUING ABOUT STUPID THINGS. I JUST WANT TO TELL THEM TO BE A TEAM AND LOVE EACH OTHER. WHEN I SING AT WEDDINGS, I ALWAYS PRAY THE COUPLES MEAN THEIR VOWS. EVERYTHING LOOKS GLORIOUS NOW, BUT THERE WILL BE TESTS."

Jerry

been for years. One of her regular clients came in, and Louise could not remember who the client was. They knew something was very wrong.

The trips to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota began in 2007. And it was determined Louise has Alzheimer's.

"I thought that we were young. We'll get through this," Jerry said.

He was able to find friends and family to help with Louise while he was at work. After work, he'd go home, feed her, and get her ready for bed. Then, he'd clean the house, prepare food for the next day and write instructions for the caretakers and notes for Louise.

Jerry and Louise did this for five years before Jerry made the decision to take early retirement in 2012.

Jerry became Louise's primary caretaker. In the beginning, he tried to do her make-up for her. Laughingly, he says, "It was so awful I had to quit after a while."

Jerry said it was a trying and frustrating time.

He remembers a time that broke his heart. They were in the bathroom, and Louise was crying after having an accident. And she looked up at him with tear-filled eyes and said, "I'm trying really hard."

He remembers a time he recognized God's presence. She had an accident, and he was so frustrated. He had always been told that caregivers should step away when it becomes too much. But he couldn't step away, and he was angry. And then, Louise looked in the mirror, saw her reflection, and thinking it was someone else sweetly smiled and said, "Why, hello there." And Jerry laughed.

He remembers dreaming with her. He missed that. He also missed Mass. Louise eventually was unable to attend Mass. So, Jerry would live-stream Mass for her on the TV.

"We would travel everywhere and watch Mass from all over the United States," he said. "Then we'd pray a Rosary. That always calmed her."

Time passed and Louise worsened. She became severely dehydrated and was admitted to the hospital. Jerry helped her settle into the hospital bed.

"She was looking at me with these big, blue eyes," he said. "She didn't look

scared. And then she died in my arms."

Jerry went home that night, numb.

"At the funeral, I made sure she had her socks on. She really wanted to be buried with socks on," he said. "And the last thing I said to her was, 'Okay, dear. It's show time.' That's what we would say together anytime we would sing."

Louise died in 2016. It would have been their 48th anniversary this year.

"It's hard for me when I see couples fighting and arguing about stupid things," Jerry said. "I just want to tell them to be a team and love each other. When I sing at weddings, I always pray the couples mean their vows. Everything looks glorious now, but there will be tests."

And to those in a similar position?

"Always remember... they do not want to be this way. Try and be patient. Louise taught me patience," Jerry said.

"I don't want people to feel sorry for me. I didn't do anything special. I just loved her. I still do."

The cross of losing a child

A happy family, Curt and Jeanna were blessed with children throughout their years of marriage.

But Sept. 11, 2016, is a day that altered their world forever. The couple had six children who walked the earth. But this story is about Matthew, their fourth child, an energetic 3½-year-old who had enough farming toys to cover the entire living room floor. His speech wasn't very clear, but he used his whole being to tell stories. Candy was his weakness, and no matter the secret hiding spot, he always managed to find it. He was an old soul in a small body, and his favorite people in the entire world were his baby twin sisters.

Sunday morning of Sept. 11, the family was going to Mass. Jeanna was to be inducted into the Christian Mothers group at St. Boniface Church in Vincent. She had to answer questions, one being, "Do you accept suffering?"

Little did she know that suffering was only a few hours away.

The family got home from Mass and went about their day. After lunch, Jeanna laid down to rest, and Curt went out to mow.

Matthew followed him, wanting to ride the tractor with his dad instead of finishing his meal.

Curt asked Matthew to go inside, and the young boy walked towards the house. After finishing mowing, Curt went inside. Jeanna was surprised and asked where Matthew was. Curt thought he was in the house. Jeanna thought he was with Curt.

Sometimes suffering is slow and expected. And sometimes, suffering hits you with all its force in a singular, life-altering moment.

That moment happened when Curt found Matthew pinned between the tailgate of a pickup and the garage door. It was a freak accident. Curt carried his son, still alive, into the house. Jeanna started CPR, and Curt called 911.

Matthew was taken to Hays Medical Center, and then life-watched to Wichita. Curt and Jeanna, along with their young twin daughters, went to the hospital. The three older children were taken care of by family members.

Father John Schmeidler, their parish priest, met them in Wichita. Stricken with grief, Jeanna told Father Schmeidler she never should have joined the Christian Mothers group. Maybe this had happened because she said "yes" to suffering.

Father Schmeidler simply nodded and said, "Well that may be true. Or maybe God knew this was coming and knew you would need the grace of this morning to carry you through this."

On Tuesday, a scan showed no brain activity. For the first time that day, Jeanna prayed, "Thy will be done."

"When we walked into Matthew's room, it was clear what God's will was," she said. "And it didn't match ours. But I had said, 'Thy will be done,' and I meant it."

Matthew died early Tuesday morning.

"Anger was the absolute only emotion I had for God," Jeanna said. "How could a loving God take my baby boy away? I was furious with God and had little desire to live my faith at that point. The only prayer I had was, 'I'm mad at you, God.'"

Mass became something she attended out of duty. Most Sundays, she would walk in and say, "Fine, God. I'm here. Your move."

The tragedy also affected

the relationship with her husband. When they got home from the hospital, Jeanna's aunt and uncle, who had also lost a child, told the couple, "The divorce rate of couples that lose a child is extremely high. Want to know how you beat that? You decide right here, right now, that divorce isn't an option."

Jeanna confesses: "I don't think anything can prepare you for the struggles as a couple both grieving in your own ways and still trying to do what you need to for your remaining children. We've had our moments that one or both could have, or at least wanted to, walk away. By the grace of God, we are still together and a strong couple."

Curt adds: "It is important to remember that spouses grieve differently and being accepting and understanding of that helps. However, it is also important to continue to hold each other accountable, and if one isn't healthy in the way they are grieving, it is important to seek help."

The couple overcame the heartache by living out their vows, "in good times and in bad."

"We miss Matthew every day," Jeanna said.

She continues, "For those who have lost a child, you do the next step and then the one after that and so on. You don't look up to try to find the top of the mountain because you would be so overwhelmed, you'd never try to climb."

"This wasn't my plan for my life, but it was what I had to work with, so I had to pull my crap together and be the mom and wife to the other people in my life."

Their son, Levi, had always wanted to be a priest. But after Matthew died, he stopped talking about it. He told Jeanna he was mad at God. Jeanna chuckled and said, "Me too."

She told Levi it's easy to love God when you get your miracle. It's not as easy when you don't. And it's OK to be angry. But you can't dwell in the anger.

Another conversation with Levi occurred a month after Matthew's death. They were going to the lake for the weekend, and Levi didn't want to go without Matthew. Jeanna firmly said, "We are not dead. So, until God calls us home, we have a God-given responsibility to live our lives and make memories. We will not quit."

Seven months later, Jeanna was in a ball on the floor the day before leaving for vacation. She was crying about not wanting to go without Matthew.

And Levi found her and repeated those words back. "Get up and get packed," he said.

Well played, God. Well played.

Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

This past year, the Holy Father announced the Year of St. Joseph, from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, 2020, until Dec. 8, 2021.

Our parish, St. Joseph Church in Hays, was designated by Bishop Jerry Vincke as a site for pilgrimage for the Year of St. Joseph. We had several individuals and some groups make a pilgrimage for the Year of St. Joseph. One group from the Diocese of Wichita had approximately 50 to 60 individuals.

I began as pastor of St. Joseph's Church on July 1, 2021. I hated to leave Sacred Heart Church in Colby, but considered myself fortunate to be named pastor of St.

Joseph's, especially during the Year of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph has always been a special saint for me. There are many things I admire about St. Joseph. I think of him as a strong, silent type man, kind of a John Wayne individual. A man who would talk low, talk slow and not say too much. We have no record in Scripture of anything St. Joseph said.

But, when necessary, he was a man of action. When the Lord's messenger, an angel, directed St. Joseph in his dream, he immediately

ly reacted.

First, in taking Mary into his home as his wife. Second, in leaving immediately to take the Christ child and his mother to

safety in Egypt when Herod threatened the life of our Lord. Third, when the threat had

passed, he returned to Israel, but went instead to Nazareth, as directed by the angel.

He was a strong man of action. He didn't require a lot of deliberation when directed to act for the safety of the Christ child and the Holy Mother.

Our parish offers a prayer to St.

Joseph after every Mass and the Litany of St. Joseph on Wednesdays. Additionally, the parish has prayer cards to St. Joseph, Terror of Demons.

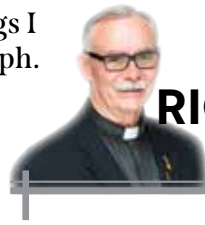
While I had always invoked and prayed to St. Joseph as the patron of a happy death, I wasn't aware of him as Terror of Demons.

"By God's grace, no demon dares approach while you (St. Joseph) are near, so we beg of you, always be near to us. Amen."

A good intercessor to have every day and especially at the moment of death.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Richard Daise is pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Hays.



RICHARD Daise
PASTOR

McCANDLESS, FROM PAGE 3

Throughout high school and during college, I had worked at Dillons, and I continued at Dillons after graduating. I wanted to go on for my masters, but oddly enough, the colleges always reported that there was an item missing from the application process or sent me items back. So, I continued to work for Dillons full-time.

When I started dating again, it was not a healthy relationship. Because of it, I began to turn to prayer more. I went to daily Mass for peace. I began praying the Rosary. The relationship was one of those where I felt like I was giving so much and receiving nothing, and so, I turned to God.

God was slowly pulling me back in.

In April 2009, on Good Friday, my then girlfriend and I went to the service. She wasn't Catholic, but said she was interested, and she kept asking me all these questions about why we were doing what we were doing. I gave her quick, short answers.

Then we knelt in silence as the priest laid prostrate on the floor. Immediately, I thought, "That could be me." If I had gone to seminary right after high school, that would have been me. Overwhelmingly, I felt something in my soul. It should be me. I started to tear up, but I didn't want my girlfriend to see, so I angled away from her. But for some reason, she leaned towards me and asked, "Why didn't you become a Catholic priest?" That hit me even harder.

I bawled at the Easter Vigil. And on Easter Sunday, I told her I felt like I needed

to go to seminary. I emailed Father Keith Weber and ended my relationship with the girl.

At first, I began discernment with the Wichita Diocese, but since my vocation was really formed at St. Isidore's in the Salina Diocese, the bishops determined I should study for the Salina Diocese.

When I discovered I was called to be a priest, I told God, "I see it." But I chose something different. And even though I initially chose a different path, I invited God to still be a part of my life and come with me.

Through my vocation story, I really identify with Jonah in the Old Testament. God told Jonah to do something, and Jonah ran the other way. But God didn't leave Jonah. He pulled him back. God waited to pull me back, nine years later, on Good Friday.

I received mercy from God. I learned how to pray, how to welcome the silence. I started to go to daily Mass and live the sacramental life in a way that allowed God to speak to me.

With the other Salina seminarians, I felt welcomed and accepted. They were my peers and offered a communal, fraternal life that I didn't really have while I was in college. It was in seminary that I accepted the idea of me, Ryan, becoming a priest. It took a lot of chiseling away of expectations and ideals. I learned that I was supposed to walk with the people, have an incarnation-theology, where they see in me, Christ in the midst. I am not meant to "fix" people because Christ "fixes" them. Me, I just walk.

I was ordained June 3,

2017. It was a whirlwind.

The transition to priesthood was relatively easy. The greatest difficulty for me has been trying to be relevant in preaching. We are largely social-media driven. At the same time, I want to preach about things to my local community, while also recognizing our global church family.

The greatest joy is seeing people light up when I've taught them something. That's the teacher in me. I love the "a-ha" moments. I don't want Scripture to be a novelty. I want to teach that Scripture is being played out, right in front of us.

For those discerning priesthood, my advice is to get a spiritual director. And

bring God with you, whatever you are pursuing, bring God with you. Marriage and priesthood — both are good. A lot of the spiritual life is about acceptance and obedience to God's will.

Ryan McCandless is pastor of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Manhattan and pastoral administrator of St. Patrick Parish in Ogden.



"Living in a World that Has Turned Away from God"

Pre-Lenten annual retreat,
with Mother Miriam, founder of the Daughters of
Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope

Sat. February 26th, 9 - 3:00 at Sacred Heart Cathedral's Hall of Bishops in Salina (Lunch included in \$20 early registration fee)

Questions or RSVP to Marlene (785-342-0130) or Irene (541-207-4817) or email: salinacda@gmail.com for registration forms.

Church gets historic designation

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

BELOIT — St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit joined Comunità Regina della Pace, Poland, as a “Star on the Mantle of our Lady, Queen of Peace,” with an inauguration Mass on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Comunità Regina della Pace (Community of the Queen of Peace) is a Catholic, international apostolate created in 2008 to foster peace and reconciliation among people and nations of the world through Eucharistic Adoration.

In a recorded message for the parish, Mr. Robert Czekaj, vice president of Comunità Regina della Pace said, “Today’s world is painfully stricken by violence, suffering and hatred towards human life. Peace is a value which is not obtained through military, political or economic force, but only by prayer on our knees.”

St. John’s is the first parish in the United States to hold this designation and will join others internationally in surrounding our world with prayer for peace, especially before the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration. There is only one other star location in all of North America at the Shalom World TV chapel in Edinburg, Texas.

In the inauguration Mass homily, Most Rev. Gerald Vincke, bishop of the Diocese of Salina, said, “We are approaching Christmas. Jesus was born

in Bethlehem. Beloit, to the rest of the country perhaps, is an insignificant place. But so was Bethlehem, and a great light, a shining star shone brightly from there.”

In closing, Bishop Vincke added, “What an incredible blessing this is for the parish, and the whole diocese, and the whole world.”

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is located in Beloit, a town of 4,000 located approximately 50 miles from the geographical center of the United States. Built in 1901, St. John’s was the first church in the United States built with flying buttresses and a ceiling entirely made of stone. It was, at the time, the largest church west of the Mississippi River and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The inauguration Mass, viewed by affiliates of Comunità Regina della Pace from around the world, was held amongst rows and rows of scaffolding as the church strives to recover from a fire on June 27, 2021. The fire, which occurred on the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, patroness of the Diocese of Salina, caused extensive damage to the southeast corner of the church and smoke damage throughout the entire sanctuary.

“There is no more profound intention to be praying than for peace within the context of the divisions in our world, our



MEG MALONE, SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Father Jarett Konrade, left, and Bishop Jerry Vincke show off the declaration of St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit as a Star on the Mantle of our Lady, Queen of Peace.

country, our communities, our families and our hearts,” said Father Jarett

Konrade, pastor of St. John’s.

For more information,

visit www.stjohnsbeloit.org or www.reginapacis.pl/en.

FCLSA Life
of the United States of America
a Fraternal Benefit of Society domiciled in Beachwood, OH
Fraternal Life Insurance and Annuities

PLATINUM ELITE ANNUITY

- 3.0% APY current credited interest rate 1/1/22 - 3/31/22*
- 2.0% APY minimum guaranteed rate
- \$250 minimum initial premium; \$100 minimum subsequent
- \$500,000 maximum lifetime premium
- 10 year withdrawal penalty (9% 1st two years, decreased by 1% each subsequent year)**

* Our credited rate is reviewed quarterly and will not go below minimum guaranteed rate

** A 10% federal tax penalty may apply to certain distributions if taken before the owner is age 59 ½.



**Watkins Realty and
Ins. Agency, LLC**



“Your Crop Insurance Headquarters”

Steven A. Watkins, MBA
Crop Insurance Specialist
901 Trail Ave.
P.O. Box 840
Hoxie, KS 67740
E-mail: watreins@ruraltel.net or watkinscroptax@yahoo.com

Toll Free: 1-800-232-3239
Office: 785-675-3239
Fax: 785-675-3230
Cell: 785-675-1017
Nights & Weekends: 785-675-9966
www.watkinscropinsurance.com

STEVEN A. WATKINS, Agent, MBA • 1-800-232-3239

Should suffering shake our faith?

Premier Christian Radio in the UK sponsored a survey that investigated how the COVID crisis has affected religious beliefs and attitudes. There were three major findings – namely, that 67% of those who characterize themselves as “religious” found their belief in God challenged, that almost a quarter of all those questioned said the pandemic made them more fearful of death, and approximately a third of those surveyed said their prayer life had been affected by the crisis.

Justin Brierley, who hosts the popular program *Unbelievable?*, commented that he was especially impressed by the substantial number of those who, due to COVID, have experienced difficulty believing in a loving God. I should like to focus on this finding as well.

Of course, in one sense, I understand the problem. An altogether standard objection to belief in God is human suffering, especially when it is visited upon the innocent. The apologist for atheism or naturalism quite readily asks the believer, “How could you possibly assert the existence of a loving God given the Holocaust, school shootings, tsunamis that kill hundreds of thousands of people, pandemics, etc.?” But I must confess that, in another sense, I find this argument from evil utterly unconvincing, and I say this precisely as a Catholic bishop – that is, as someone who holds and teaches

the doctrine of God that comes from the Bible. For I don’t think that anyone who reads the scriptures carefully could ever conclude that belief in a loving God is somehow incompatible with suffering.

There is no question God loves Noah, and yet he puts Noah through the unspeakably trying ordeal of a flood that wipes out almost all of life on the earth. It is without doubt that God loves Abraham, and yet he asks that patriarch to sacrifice, with his own hand, his beloved son Isaac. More than almost anyone else in the biblical tradition, God loves Moses, and yet he prevents the great liberator from entering into the Promised Land. David is a man after the Lord’s own heart, the sweet singer of the house of Israel, and yet God punishes David for his adultery and his conspiracy to murder. Jeremiah is specially chosen by God to speak the divine word, and yet the prophet ends up rejected and sent into exile. The people Israel is God’s uniquely chosen race, his royal priesthood, and yet God permits Israel to be enslaved, exiled and brutalized by her enemies. And bringing this dynamic to full expression, God delivers his only-begotten Son to be tortured to death on a cross.

Once again, the point, anomalous indeed to both believers and nonbelievers today, is that the biblical authors saw no contradiction

whatsoever between affirming the existence of a loving God and the fact of human suffering, even unmerited human suffering. Rather, they appreciated it as, mysteriously enough, ingredient in the plan of God, and they proposed various schemata for understanding this. For instance, sometimes, they speculated, suffering is visited upon us as punishment for sin. Other times, it might be a means by which God effects a spiritual purification in his people. Still other times, it might be the only way that, given the conditions of a finite universe, God could bring about certain goods. But they also acknowledged that, more often than not, we just don’t know how suffering fits into God’s designs, and this is precisely because our finite and historically conditioned minds could not, even in principle, comprehend the intentions and purposes of an infinite mind, which is concerned with the whole of space and time. Practically the entire burden of the book of Job is to show this. When Job protests against what he takes to be the massive injustice of his sufferings, God responds with a lengthy speech, in fact his longest oration in the Bible, reminding Job of how much of God’s purposes his humble human servant does not know: “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth ...”

Once again, whether they half-understood the purpose

of human suffering or understood it not at all, no biblical author was tempted to say that said evil is incompatible with the existence of a loving God. To be sure, they lamented and complained, but the recipient of the lamentation and complaint was none other than the God who, they firmly believed, loved them. I don’t for a moment doubt many feel today that suffering poses an insurmountable obstacle to belief in God, but I remain convinced this feeling is a function of the fact that religious leaders have been rather inept at teaching the biblical doctrine of God. For if human suffering undermines your belief in God, then, quite simply, you were not believing in the God presented by the Bible.

I want to be clear none of the above is meant to make

light of the awful experience of suffering or cavalierly to dismiss the intellectual tensions that it produces. But it is indeed my intention to invite people into a deeper encounter with the mystery of God. Like Jacob who wrestled all night with the angel, we must not give up on God but rather struggle with him. Our suffering shouldn’t lead us to dismiss the divine love, but rather to appreciate it as stranger than we ever imagined. It is perfectly understandable that, like Job, we might shout our protest against God, but then, like that great spiritual hero, we must be willing to hear the voice that answers us from the whirlwind.

Bishop Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1	C	A	L	M	5	C	L	E	A	T	9	10	T	A	L	13
14	O	H	I	O	15	W	A	Y	N	E	16	A	R	E	A	
17	P	E	R	U	18	O	M	E	G	A	19	R	O	A	N	
20	S	M	A	S	H	21	E	S	E	22	G	O	U	D	A	
23	S	I	N	S	24	L	E	O	25	S	E	A				
26	G	E	N	E	V	A	27	T	A	V	E	R	N			
28	A	G	O	E	Y	29	E	S	H	A	D	E				
30	B	O	D	Y	31	A	H	A	32	T	A	R	E			
33	E	X	T	R	E	M	E	S	34	S	O	L				
35	P	E	R	S	I	A	36	V	A	S	H	T	I			
37	A	V	E	I	N	N	38	L	E	A	H					
39	R	A	D	I	I	40	I	R	E	41	R	E	G	A	L	
42	O	D	O	R	43	A	G	E	N	44	T	K	A	R	O	
45	L	E	N	O	46	C	H	A	T	S	47	E	M	I	R	
48	E	D	E	N	49	S	T	R	O	P	50	L	E	A	D	



Secure your child's future

with Insurance through the Knights of Columbus.



Adam Bruna
Field Agent
785-562-8913
adam.bruna@kofc.org



Cody Honas
Field Agent
785-650-9387
cody.honas@kofc.org



Shaun Linenberger
Field Agent
785-623-8716
shaun.linenberger@kofc.org



Hector Soler
Field Agent
785-569-1466
hector.soler@kofc.org

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



Dan Reed, FICF
Assistant General Agent
785-531-0135
dan.reed@kofc.org



Contact the Reed agency to learn more:

Darin Reed, FICF
General Agent
785-259-2335
darin.reed@kofc.org



DEATHS

Kenneth Augustine, 66 died Dec. 3, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 11 at St. Mary Church in Ellis. Father Dana Clark officiated. Inurnment followed in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dorothy Beckman, 100, died Dec. 25, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 7, 2022, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial will be at a later date.

Frank James Beer Sr., 82, died Nov. 15, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 11 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Father Frank Coady officiated. Inurnment will be at a later date.

Kathleen Ann Douglas-Zahm, 62, died Dec. 7, 2021. A graveside burial service was Dec. 13 at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde. Father Steven Heina officiated.

Sophia Lynn Henriksen, 3 months and 1 day, died Dec. 31, 2021. Memorial service was Jan. 7, 2022, at Cha-put-Buoy Funeral Home in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial to follow at a later date.

Armin John Herbin, 97, died Dec. 2, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 10 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial was in St. Mary Ceme-

tery in Jamestown.

Colleen Hoesli, 63, died Dec. 29, 2021. Funeral Mass was Jan. 3, 2022, at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Father Steven Heina officiated. Burial was in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Clyde.

Mary Kayleene 'Kay' Jones, 84, of Oberlin, died Dec. 25, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 29 at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin. Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos officiated. Burial was in Mount Allen Cemetery in Hays.

Irene Leiszler, 91, died Dec. 4, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 13 at St. Mary of the Assumption in Clifton. Father Steven Heina and Father Francis Hund

officiated. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery in Clifton.

Jane Ann Lervold, 63, died Dec. 12, 2021. A graveside service was celebrated Dec. 17 at St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated.

James Moloney died Jan. 3, 2022. Funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 8 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City. Father Gnanasekar Kulandai officiated. Burial in Vine Creek Cemetery in Longford.

Molly A. Reilly, 49, of Carrollton, Texas, died Dec. 22, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 30 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Father David Metz officiated. Burial

was in St. Concordia Cemetery in Concordia.

Douglas Curtis Rich, 67, of Hays, died Dec. 8, 2021. Funeral service was Dec. 13 at Hays Memorial Chapel Funeral Home in Hays. Father Damian Richards officiated. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Joseph Richards, 51, died Sept. 13, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 16 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Interment in Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Manhattan.

Charlotte Ann Werth, 84, of Hays, died Dec. 20, 2021. Funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 23 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Father Richard Daise and Father Damian Richards presided. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery in Hays.

Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home

Belleville, Kansas ~ 785-527-2211

www.tibbettsfischerfuneralhome.com

RYAN MORTUARY & CREMATORY



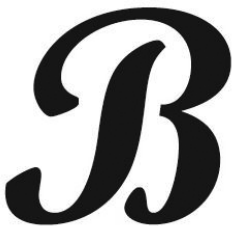
A family serving families for over four generations

Next to Sacred Heart Cathedral



137 N. Eighth, Salina (785) 825-4242 www.ryanmortuary.com

BAALMANN MORTUARY & CREMATORY



Oakley 304 E. 8th St. P.O. Box 204 Oakley, 67748 785-671-1132
Atwood 109 N. 2nd St. Atwood, 67730 785-626-3895
Colby 190 S. Franklin P.O. Box 391 Colby, 67701 785-462-2331

www.baalmannmortuary.com



HAYS MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME

1906 PINE STREET ~ HAYS, KANSAS 67601
PHONE ~ 785-628-1009
haysmemorial.com

A Family Serving Families

Religious Gifts For All Occasions:

Baptism ~ Confirmation ~ First Communion ~ RCLA ~ Wedding



The I. DONNELLY Co., Inc.

6601 TROOST AVE. • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64131

Phone: (816) 363-2828

Nationwide Toll Free Order Desk: (800) 821-5372

Visit our online catalog at: www.idonnelly.com

SEND US YOUR INFORMATION

To submit a funeral, baptismal or wedding announcement, email theregister@salinadiocese.org

Bachelor-Faulkner-Dart-Surber Funeral Homes

Belleville and Scandia, Kansas (785) 527-2222

~ Directors Steven Surber, John Surber and Don Waddington ~



Tractors Combines Farm Equipment
Your Case IH Dealers for Northwest Kansas

Colby Ag Center, LC
785-462-6132
www.colbyag.com

Oakley Ag Center, LLC
785-671-3264
www.oakleyag.com



Hoxie Implement Co., Inc.
785-675-3201
www.hoxieimplement.com



DMA ARCHITECTS, PA

2035 E. Iron, Suite 100 / Salina, KS 67401
Salina: 785 823 6002 / Fax: 785 823 2910
Great Bend: 620 793 3442

Cell: 785-826-0194
cmarrs@dmapa.com
www.dmapa.com

Proudly Serving the Salina Diocese for over 40 years

Job Opportunity Assistant Director

Looking for a creative, self-motivated, humble individual that wants to serve God in the world of Catholic radio.

Full job description at www.dvmercy.com

Position begins June 1

WEDDINGS

Matthew Murrow and Emily Vollbracht were married Dec. 18, 2021, at St. Boniface Church in Tipton. Father Daryl Olmstead witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Phillip and Michelle Murrow. Parents of the bride are Duane and Kristine Vollbracht. Witnesses were Travis Schroeder and Erin Walz.

Bradley Louis Sorell and Sara Beth Shuler were married Dec. 18, 2021, at the old St. Joe Church in St. Joseph. Father Steven Heina witnessed their vows. Witnesses were Justin Bennoche and Kristy Chartier.



TIM LINENBERGER

Painting & Decorating

Specializing in

- Church Interiors and Design
- Statuary and Stations Restoration
- Faux Marble and Granite

2134 Edgehill Road, Salina (785) 826-6949

timjlin@sbcglobal.net
timlinenbergerpainting.com

BAPTISMS

Gabriella Renae Budke, daughter of Jonathan and Christine Budke, was baptized Nov. 7, 2021, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Josephine Marie Cadena, daughter of Santiago and Haley Cadena, was baptized Oct. 30, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Johnathan Thomas Collins, son of Adam and Teresa Marie Collins, was baptized Jan. 9, 2022, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Ashton Wade Dutton, son of Jason Dutton, was baptized Dec. 12, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Jaxson Charles Dutton, son of Jason Dutton, was baptized Dec. 12, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Gregory Isaac Fund, son of Andrew and Kimberly Fund, was baptized Dec. 12, 2021, by Father Frank Coady at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Layne Lucia Gruber, daughter of Jordan and Ambria Gruber, was baptized Oct. 30, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Norah Maye Henrickson, daughter of Justin and Sophia Henrickson, was baptized Dec. 5, 2021, by Father Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Elliott Craig Marlene Krone, daughter of Jake and Molly Krone, was baptized Oct. 11, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at Mitchell County Hospital in Beloit.

Louis Joseph Laflamme, son of Andrew and Katie

Laflamme, was baptized Nov. 14, 2021, by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Fulton Charles Lueger, son of Rusty and Gina Lueger, was baptized Dec. 19, 2021, by Father Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Della Lane Mahin, daughter of Drew and Corinna Mahin, was baptized Dec. 19, 2021, by Father David Metz at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia.

Theodore Gnanasekar Micek, son of Simon and Kassidi Micek, was baptized Dec. 11, 2021, by Father Elias Chinzara at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Jayla Hope Schlegel, daughter of Jake and Jill

Schlegel, was baptized Dec. 23, 2021, by Father Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church, Hays.

Kate Nicole Schmeidler, daughter of Clayton and Rheta Schmeidler, was baptized Jan. 1, 2022, by Father Elias Chinzara at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Roslynn Belle Smith, daughter of Marcus and Kelsey Smith, was baptized Dec. 26, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Sarah Beth (Shuler) Sorell, daughter of Larry Carl Shuler and Kim Elaine VanLeewen, was baptized Dec. 18, 2021, by Father Steven Heina at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde.

Nora Anne Sylvester, daughter of Logan and Andrea Sylvester, was baptized Jan. 9, 2022, by Deacon Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Henrik Paul Taddiken, son of Shawn and Nicolette Taddiken, was baptized Dec. 5, 2021, by Father Steven Heina at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Clifton.

June Templin, daughter of Austin Templin and Darean Lara-Smith, was baptized Dec. 26, 2021, by Father Gnanasekar Kulandai at St. Francis Xavier Church in Junction City.

Summer Hope Whelchel, son of Kenneth Whelchel and Nicole Warrelmann, was baptized Dec. 19, 2021, by Father Soosai Rathinam at Sacred Heart Church in Esbon.

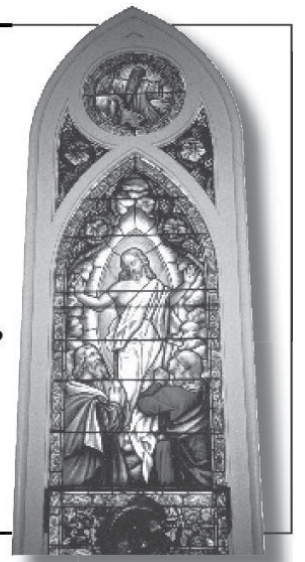
HOEFER STAINED GLASS

- Restoration of Antique Stained and Painted Glass
- Custom Design of New Stained Glass Windows

CUSTOMER CARE AND
QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP

1-800-663-8020

910 S. Main • South Hutchinson
Visit our website; View our job sites
www.hoeferstainedglass.com




Allen Kee Agency LLC
Allen Kee, Agent
Certified Agency in
Customer Excellence
ek@amfam.com
Bus: (785) 738-2990

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I., American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
006441 - Rev. 11/15/2015 - 11133642



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 9, 2022

VISITING: CAESAREA * HAIFA * TIBERIAS * SEA OF GALILEE
CANA * NAZARETH * BETHLEHEM * JERUSALEM



HOSTED BY
**FR. TONY NEUSCH AND
FR. JOSEPH KIEFFER**

\$3699 FROM DALLAS* \$3879 FROM KANSAS CITY*
*Air/land tour price is \$2999 from Dallas and \$3179 from Kansas City
plus \$700 gov't taxes/airline surcharges from each gateway

For a More Information, Please Contact:

Fr. Joseph Kieffer

Tel: (785) 337-2289

Email: frjoseph.kieffer@gmail.com

DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!



"A life Full of Memories"

Call Troy or Missy for all your Monument needs

Email: leducmemorial@att.net

Website: www.leducmemorialdesign.org

701 Lincoln St. Concordia, KS 66901

785-243-4660

WERTH Hays and Leawood
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

**Enhancing
Lives &
Strengthening
Families**

**We've cultivated a rich tradition of
trust and long-term relationships.**

**For decades, we have developed
relationships with families
just like yours.**

1200 Main St. 6th Fl.
Hays, KS 67601

11551 Ash St., Suite 205
Leawood, KS 66211

www.werthfinancial.com
Phone: 785.628.1712

Werth Wealth Management, LLC is not a registered broker/dealer and is
independent of Raymond James Financial Services.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA / SIPC.
Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.

**Divine
Mercy
RADIO**

Along I-70

KMDG 105.7, Hays
Quinter to Ellsworth

KJDM 101.7 Lindsborg/Salina
Ellsworth to Junction City

Other Stations

KRTT 88.1 Great Bend
and

KVDM 88.1 Hays (Classics)



Catholic Charities
OF NORTHERN KANSAS

"Catholic Charities was the best resource
I was given. I was never judged, and it
was always a loving environment."
Kaycee, Pregnancy Support Recipient

Your support makes this possible! Donate at www.ccnks.org