



# THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

MAR 22, 2024

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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## Journeying through their Faith

*Rite of Initiation leads catechumens and candidates closer to Christ*

BY ALLISON OCHOA  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Each Lent, individuals journeying through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) mark milestones through several Rites of the Catholic Church. This year in the Salina Diocese, a combined 156 catechumens and candidates experienced the Rite of Sending at their respective parishes, followed by larger diocesan ceremonies celebrating the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates.

On Sunday, February 18, Bishop Gerald Vincke welcomed 120 catechumens and candidates, their godparents, and sponsors to Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina for the first ceremony. These participants represented parishes primarily from the eastern half of the diocese. On Sunday, February 25, Fr. Frank Coady, Diocesan Liturgy Director, welcomed 36 additional catechumens and candidates, their sponsors, and godparents to the ceremony held at St. Nicholas of Myra Parish in Hays. Those present at the service in Hays represented parishes from the western half of the diocese.

At each ceremony, the catechumens – those who are unbaptized – were presented and affirmed by their godparents. They participated in the Act of Admission or Election. The candidates – those who have been baptized in another Christian Church,



COURTESY PHOTO

Fr. James M. Thomas, pastor of Immaculate Conception in Grinnell, baptized three children from one family on Feb. 24; Camdyn, age 7; Carson, age 6; and Kynnedi, age 4. Parents are Craig and Daisy Prewo.



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MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke shook hands with catechumens and candidates at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

but who wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church – were also presented and affirmed by their sponsors before participating in the Act of Recognition. All catechumens and candidates were then greeted individually by the presider. The presider signed the Book of the Elect presented by each parish, confirming the names of those to be initiated into the Catholic community at Easter.

In his remarks to those gathered in Hays, Fr. Coady reflected on God's steadfast love of each human being.

"God's on our side," he said. "He's not an angry judge just waiting for us to

trip up. He's pulling for us!"

Fr. Coady also reminded the catechumens and candidates that their presence at the day's ceremony was not accidental.

"God chooses each of us individually. This rite celebrates that truth – that he's chosen us.

"Many of you were in love with someone who was in love with Christ, or you were inspired by the community [who exhibited the love of Christ]," he continued. "Today we celebrate all of you and we're grateful for the grace that has brought you to this moment."



# Filling our hearts during Lent



The following reflection is from Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, who was an Austrian farmer, husband, and father. He was executed for refusing to serve in the Nazi army. I read this in the February 26 Magnificat, and thought it was a great meditation for Holy Week and Easter. The title was called *Living by God's Measure*.

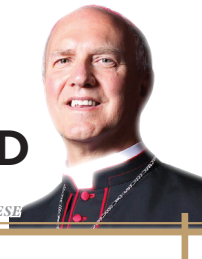
Why has God created us? That we might serve him, love him, and worship him in order to become eternally happy. Is God pleased when we meditate frequently on eternal happiness? It would very much displease God if we were to reflect only a little on heaven. Eternal joy, eternal light, light without darkness, and everything eternal without end. If we meditate often on all of this, then sacrifice in our lives will become easier.

However, heaven was not always open to us. It was closed to us because of the sin of the first human being. But God has had mercy on us... God is so compassionate that the greatest sinner needs no longer to doubt it. Yet we should not take advantage of God's compassion, for death can come to us unexpectedly. The examination of conscience! How have I sinned today in my thoughts? In my words? In my deeds? Through omission?

God's love to us human beings is so great that we can never

comprehend it with our human understanding. Although we often offend God and even seriously offend him, God still persistently loves us. Otherwise, God would not time and again forgive us. Could we imagine a greater love? And we have not yet said enough of this

**GERALD Vincke**  
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



love and forgiveness. Christ has even made atonement for our sins. He has freely taken on himself the greatest suffer-

ing that a human being could bear. And if that were not enough, Jesus Christ also sacrifices himself countless times every day on our altars in order to reconcile us with God the Father. Jesus even offers himself as food and wants to come to us sinful human beings.

Now we must see our love of our neighbor in relation to God's love of us. Shouldn't we Christians become increasingly like to Christ? Although we shall never be offended so horribly by other human beings as we offend God, we are far—in relation to God—from forgiving our neighbors. We would never speak ill of our neighbors if we would truly care for them. Therefore, love of our neighbors is the greatest act of gratitude that we can show God for his love. Love is the first thing that God requires of us, and whoever walks in love remains in God and God in them!

*La siguiente reflexión es del Beato Franz Jagerstatter, que fue un agricultor, esposo y padre Austriaco. Fue ejecutado por negarse a servir en el ejército Nazi. Lo leí en el Magnificat del 26 de Febrero, y me pareció una gran meditación para Semana Santa y Pascua. El título se titulaba Viviendo a la Medida de Dios.*

¿Por qué nos ha creado Dios? Para que le sirvamos, le amemos y le adoremos con el fin de ser eternamente felices. ¿Le agrada a Dios que meditemos con frecuencia sobre la felicidad eterna? Desagradaría mucho a Dios que reflexionáramos poco sobre el cielo. Alegría eterna, luz eterna, luz sin tinieblas, y todo lo eterno sin fin. Si meditamos a menudo sobre todo esto, entonces el sacrificio en nuestras vidas será más fácil.

Sin embargo, el cielo no siempre estuvo abierto para nosotros. Se nos cerró a causa del pecado del primer ser humano. Pero Dios ha tenido misericordia de nosotros ... Dios es tan compasivo que el mayor pecador ya no necesita dudarlo. Sin embargo, no debemos aprovecharnos de la compasión de Dios, porque la muerte puede llegarnos inesperadamente. ¡El examen de conciencia! ¿Cómo he pecado hoy en mis pensamientos? ¿En mis palabras? ¿En mis obras? ¿Por omisión?

El amor de Dios hacia nosotros, los seres humanos, es tan grande

que nunca podremos comprenderlo con nuestro entendimiento humano. Aunque a frecuencia ofendamos a Dios e incluso le ofendamos gravemente, Dios todavía nos ama persistentemente. De lo contrario, Dios no nos perdonaría una y otra vez. ¿Podemos imaginar un amor más grande? Y aún no hemos dicho lo suficiente de este amor y perdón. Cristo incluso ha hecho expiación por nuestros pecados. Ha asumido libremente el mayor sufrimiento que un ser humano podría soportar. Y por si fuera poco Jesucristo se sacrifica innumerables veces cada día en nuestros altares para reconciliarnos con Dios Padre. Jesús incluso se ofrece a sí mismo como alimento y quiere venir a nosotros, seres humanos pecadores. Ahora debemos ver nuestro amor al prójimo en relación con el amor que Dios nos tiene. ¿No deberíamos los Cristianos parecernos cada vez más a Cristo? Aunque nunca seremos ofendidos tan horriblemente por otros seres humanos como ofendemos a Dios, estamos lejos -en relación con Dios- de perdonar a nuestro prójimo. Nunca hablaríamos mal de nuestro prójimo si realmente nos preocupáramos por ellos. Por eso, el amor al prójimo es el mayor acto de gratitud que podemos mostrar a Dios por su amor. El amor es lo primero que Dios exige de nosotros, y el que camina en el amor permanece en Dios y Dios en él!

## APRIL PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

### Pope's prayer intention:

We pray that the dignity and richness of women be recognized in all cultures, and for an end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world.

### Diocesan prayer intention:

April Prayer Intention: Jesus Christ, Our Savior, journey with us this Holy Week so that we may experience the pain of your crucifixion and the joy of your resurrection. Help us to follow your example and be willing to die to the things of this world so we may spend eternity with you in heaven.

Intención de Oración para el mes de Abril: Jesucristo, Nuestro Salvador, acompáñanos en esta Semana Santa para que podamos experimentar el dolor de tu crucifixión y la alegría de tu resurrección. Ayúdanos a seguir tu ejemplo y estar dispuestos a morir a las cosas de este mundo para poder pasar la eternidad contigo en el cielo.

### A Prayer for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord:

(Note: Observance was moved from March 25th to April 8th due to Holy Week.)

Most glorious and ever-virgin Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to you to announce the coming of God within your virginal womb, you inquired with humility how this could be. The Archangel spoke further, and you assented to this divine mystery with all your heart. Please pray for me, that I may always consent to the will of God in my life so that your divine Son may also be conceived in my soul to continue His saving work of redemption. Mother Mary, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Lord God, you call us to be saints. The plan you have for our lives is far greater than anything we could desire for ourselves. Help us be open to the particular vocation you have planned for us. May those you are calling to priesthood, the diaconate, consecrated life, marriage, or generous single life respond to your call with the words of our Blessed Mother, "May it be done to me according to your Word." Bless the Diocese of Salina with an abundance of disciples who desire to be the saints you are calling them to be.

Jesus, we trust in you. Amen

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA • VOLUME 87, No. 2



# THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

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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 \$35 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 March 22.  
Deadline for news is March 1.  
Deadline for advertising is March 1.

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## Our lifetime stats

I have always been a numbers guy. And, as a sports guy, I have always been fascinated with stats. One of the things I am looking forward to seeing is my final “stats” at my final judgment. How many minutes did I spend praying, how many Masses did I attend, and how many Rosaries have I prayed? How many people did I help or encourage during my life? I even want to know how many Signs of the Cross I made.

I also want to know some not-as-important stats like what my total shooting percentage was in life, how many times I bounced a basketball, how many steps I took, how many stairs I climbed, and how many times my heart beat during my life.

I know there will also be the stats that I am not so proud of, like how many times I sinned, how many times I hurt others, and how much time I wasted on things that don't matter instead of spending that time with God. I'm pretty sure that

**BILL  
Meagher**  
DIOCESE OF SALINA



when confronted with my “stats,” I will be ashamed of what I placed ahead of God. It is so easy to put things that seem valuable ahead of God. I read a story the other day about how fast Coach Saban (University of Alabama) and Coach Belichick (New England Patriots) were replaced when they retired. Both were arguably the two best coaches of all time, and within twenty-four hours, they were replaced, and life went on without them.

It was a great message and an opportunity for me to think about how I spend my time. Unfortunately, I think there will be a great deal of shame for me at my judgment. I don't even know how I will begin to try to explain to God how golf, fishing, or that important game on TV was a better use of my time

## BISHOP'S CALENDAR

### April

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Easter Monday-Chancery Closed                                    |
| 2-4 | Year of Mercy-Beloit, Mankato & Cawker City                      |
| 6   | Transitional Deacon Ordination, Cathedral, 10 a.m.               |
| 10  | Confirmation-St. Francis Xavier, Junction City, 5:30 p.m.        |
| 11  | Ellsworth Prison Easter Mass, Ellsworth, 6:00 p.m.               |
| 13  | Confirmation-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Salina, 10 a.m.            |
| 13  | Confirmation-St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, 5:30 p.m.        |
| 14  | Confirmation-Lincoln & Glasco in Lincoln, 11 a.m.                |
| 14  | Confirmation-S. H. Cathedral, Salina, 3 p.m.                     |
| 17  | Confirmation-St. Andrews, Abilene, 6:30 p.m.                     |
| 19  | “Becoming Light Together,” Comeau Campus Center, Hays, 4:30 p.m. |
| 20  | Confirmation-Seven Dolores, Manhattan, 4:30 p.m.                 |
| 21  | Confirmation-St. John's, Hanover, 10:30 a.m.                     |
| 21  | Confirmation-Immaculate Conception, Minneapolis, 3:30 p.m.       |
| 24  | Confirmation-St. Fidelis, Victoria, 6 p.m.                       |
| 28  | Confirmation-Sacred Heart, Park, 10 a.m.                         |
| 28  | Confirmation-Sacred Heart, Colby, 2 p.m.                         |

than going to Mass. As I try to justify my choices, I know it will hit me that I let some false gods

take priority in my life, and I will feel foolish.

**(Continued on pg. 9)**

## Reflecting on the falls of Jesus

The following meditations are taken from “The Way of the Cross in the Company of the Saints” that was produced by the Congregation for the Clergy in 2000.

### The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the first time

You, oh Lord, “fall for the first time”; you will fall to the ground three times and arise with difficulty before reaching Calvary.

I have often pointed out this exhaustion to the faithful, so that they may take it as an example.

“Jesus too fell—I have said—, even the son of God has experienced the weakness that overcomes our scare strength!” But I said this as if basically one could have expected from you a more indomitable energy.

And I forgot that your falls were the last, decisive steps of your Incarnation.

You descended from heaven for us; you descended to a poor cave in Bethlehem, you descended among a crowd of sinners and the sick.

You descended ... but this would not be enough without these last steps of obedience which brought you near to the heart of the earth, to your new sepulchre.

Falling, you start to come close to the earth with your whole body.

You kiss the earth like a missionary coming to a foreign country that becomes his country.

You bow down and kiss the earth as we priests did on the day of our Ordination.

*I remember the words said by St.*

*John Bosco's mother to her son on the day of his first solemn Celebration (it was the feast of Corpus Domini!): “You are a priest; say the Mass, you are therefore nearer to Jesus Christ. Remember, though, that to begin saying the Mass means to begin to suffer.”*

*We inevitably begin to suffer because we must bring the Body and the Word of God to all, and the way is uneven and often rough.*

### The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the second time

Halfway along, Jesus, you fall again, as if the road opened up and fell on you from both sides.

And this is an even more humiliating fall, because the Cross is on the shoulders of Simon. You thought you could resist. But you fall because you carry the infinite weight of human misery, and this is a load unseen by the eyes.

You fall because you are a Creator who has become a creature, and the creatures have roped you like a prey.

You fall because your place is that of the slave flogged until he is bleeding and left to sigh uselessly in a corner.

You fall because you have become similar to a beast of burden, falling to the ground, with the load crushing it.

And while you fall, grant us not to be distracted from contemplating your poor prostrate body; help us not to look away from your injured face among the stones.

Lord, may we gladly accept falling, but beside you, you want to make us rise again renewed every time.

*For many years your priest St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo lived the priesthood pursuing a rich path of luxury and honors, until you made him “fall” before the bloody bed of a poor woman giving birth, to whom assistance had been refused.*

*He just had time to give the last sacrament to the mother and Baptism to the girl child, before seeing them die. But he got up again full of grace. He had become—as he liked to say—“the workman of Divine Providence.”*

### The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for the third time.

This is the third time you fall, Lord, and according to traditional iconography, they force you to get up again by beating you, as if you needed a little more suffering to give you the strength to suffer again.

But you know the hidden truth. Before being raised between earth and heaven, before being

able to return “to the right hand of the Father”, you must, for the last time, manifest your complete devotion to our earth and the dust of which we are made.

You fall because you want to be able to embrace us all, taking us from below in your arms while we fall.

You fall for the third time, just as three times you were tempted by Satan to avoid your true “incarnation”.

You fall three times, just as the first of your apostles fell three times when he denied you.

You fall three times, because the third time is always the definite one, and if you get up again it is because the Father is “strongest of all” and will also enable you to rise again “after three days” from your mortal fall.

Lord, let us understand that certain falls are only a presage of resurrection.

*And so your blessed servant Daniele Comboni—who had dreamed of embracing the whole of Africa in his mission—was, at the end of his life, overwhelmed by calumny and saw the destruction of his work approaching.*

*He died at the age of 50, exhausted by vigils and apostolic works, but faithful to that which he had initially promised to his beloved Africans: “The happiest of my days will be the one when I can give my life for you.”*

## HAPPY EASTER!

He is Risen! May God bless you in these next 50 days of the Easter season and fill you with the joy of the Resurrection.



## OCIA brings peace and healing to candidates, sponsors

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

**P**eggy Coldicott was born and raised in a long time, well established Protestant church. She is very familiar with volunteering as a liturgist, eucharist minister, bible school teacher, Sunday school teacher, visiting the sick and homebound, etc.

Coldicott has two daughters. Her youngest daughter, Sara and her husband, Clint Merritt live in Chapman. They have three children, Grace, 18, attending K-State, Cora, 15, and Landry, 12, of the home. Her oldest daughter, Jennifer Higgins and spouse Luke, reside in Salina. Luke attended St. Mary's, Salina back in the day.

As life-long volunteers do, Coldicott is a volunteer at the local school. She noticed some very positive things at her granddaughter's school (St. Mary's, Salina). She mentions one very special moment. Well over a year ago, while attending a school Mass, granddaughter, Amelia, 11, approached the altar to do the first reading. Coldicott clearly recalls that she "felt a sense of peace and calm."

One of her friends, John Worland, is a conservative, devoted Catholic. Coldicott has attended Mass with John on numerous occasions both in Mexico, Mo. and in Salina. She states, "It's the same, young people and old, are welcomed."

Becoming more aware that she needed a change in her life, Coldicott reached out to a local Catholic pastor to inquire about the process of joining the Catholic church. He assisted in answering her questions and ultimately, she enrolled in the OCIA program.

As she nears the completion of her OCIA classes, Coldicott's



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

**Karen Jurgensmeier, John Worland, and Peggy Coldicott stand with Bishop Vincke at the Rite of Election in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.**

observations are, "the youth and the future of this church is something very beautiful. It's obvious the pastor came from a very loving family; it shows in how he welcomes us all. This is where I feel at home."

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

“Don't say no.”

The family farm was in Fairview, Kansas. Karen Jurgensmeier was raised in a devout Catholic home. She left the family farm, finished school at

Brown Mackie College (Salina) and at age 22, relocated to Colorado.

Jurgensmeier was a member of the Catholic church in Longmont, Colorado, in the early '90s.

In 2021, Jurgensmeier retired from a long career with the State of Colorado Judicial Court system and relocated back to Salina where some of her family resides. Today, Karen Jurgensmeier is an active volunteer with her local parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Salina.

As a child, Jurgensmeier recalls having eye issues. This past summer and fall, Jurgensmeier again worked through very difficult eye and vision issues. After a second eye surgery in five weeks and being told another was needed in three more months; unable to drive or work and with very limited vision, she described herself simply. "I wasn't in a good way." She describes falling to her knees in prayer. Her petition within the prayer was to ask God, "What am I supposed to be doing? I know you have a plan, but literally I can't see it. Can you show me?"

Within a day or two, the phone rang. Her sister, Kathy (Merritt, Salina) said passionately, "Don't say no until you hear me out." Merritt describes "an acquaintance is in need of an OCIA sponsor."

Jurgensmeier said "Ok, I can do this. This is what I'm supposed to be doing." After visiting with her sister and contacting Peggy Coldicott, Karen agreed to be a sponsor and together they began their journey in the OCIA program at St. Elizabeth's.

As the journey continues, Peggy holds Jurgensmeier in very high regard, "She's kind, patient and she answers a lot of questions that I have. She's a very special person, I'm very blessed that she is my sponsor. She's knowledgeable about the church and she and Fr. Keith are great teachers.

Karen feels her story may be a lesson for others. "In your darkest moments, trust in God's perfect plan for your life. You never know what He's got in store. And just maybe your big sister is right."

## What is God calling me to do?

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

**D**iscerning our own dreams and listening to what God wants for us is truly a journey. Often, the journey comes with a test question: Can the vision God has for us connect in harmony with our deepest desires? (Can we substitute our own personal vision for God's vision?)

To Mandy DeDonder, Abilene, her journey and vision included being part of a blended family in 2010. While attending weekly Mass with her family, over a period, she noticed a presence on her heart and with that came the desire to know more about the Catholic faith. This yearning, with the support of her family, eventually led to her participating in RCIA and ultimately joining the Catholic faith in 2012. She started volunteering in the PRE program at St. Andrew's Parish in Abilene. Fourteen years later, she's still teaching in the PRE program. DeDonder is also a second time sponsor in the OCIA

(Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) program.

"To be a teacher and an OCIA sponsor is so worth the time and effort," DeDonder said. "Helping my family and others who are interested in the Catholic faith and watching them grow closer to God, is a really special time."

Chrisxavier Cease (22), Abilene, recalls feeling like something was missing in his life. Growing up he remembers his mom repeatedly telling him, "Once you find God, let him be near you." Cease remembers growing up hearing about God, but he shares the fact that he was "feeling unconnected; missing the structure." A year ago, he experienced the very difficult loss of his father and states clearly, "I wanted a relationship with God and didn't want it to be too late, like it was for my dad." Cease describes the feeling of fighting for his path in life vs the path God has for us.

Today, his OCIA sponsor is Mandy DeDonder. He feels free to

ask her a lot of questions about the church and the faith. His pastor, Fr. Peter O'Donnell, works hard to make class attendees feel safe in asking questions. A good question has great value and opens up a discussion. Cease credits both DeDonder and his pastor, for not judging him and for helping him get closer to God. He freely admits that he's learning what it means to be Catholic. Cease has observed his whole class becoming closer, more comfortable, and he acknowledges that it's truly a team effort. He gives high praise to the religious education teachers for their commitment and to Fr. Peter, when years ago, this pastor met a young, non-Catholic; soon to be Catholic, with a genuine warmth and welcoming spirit.

Fr. Peter gives credit to the team



COURTESY PHOTO

**Chrisxavier Cease (middle) stands with his sponsor, Mandy DeDonder, and Fr. Peter.**

at St. Andrew's in Abilene, who work together each week to accompany the OCIA catechumens and candidates. They are honored to serve Chrisxavier and Mandy, his sponsor.

Cease said, "I'm looking forward to giving my life to God. I'm already amending my life. My needs, wants, and perspectives are changing; I'm taking my prayer life more seriously. I want the Lord in my life. My older brother is proud of me, I hope I can continue to invite my family to be part of the faith as well."

## Fr. Henry Saw Lone celebrates 30-year anniversary

BY ALLISON OCHOA  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Fr. Henry Saw Lone's personal motto comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you." This phrase seems appropriate as he prepared to celebrate his 30th Jubilee anniversary on March 20 and looked back at his journey to the Salina Diocese.

Born in Lorado Village, Than-taung Township, Myanmar, Fr. Henry was the youngest of U Joseph Sei Wa and Maria Remo's four children. He received the call to his vocation at the age of 14 and soon after entered the seminary to continue his education. He was ordained to the priesthood on March 20, 1994, and began serving at a local parish as an associate pastor. His primary role was serving the young people of the parish.

Five years after his ordination, Fr. Henry's bishop sent him to Rome for further study where he spent four years.

"When I was in Rome, some Italian students asked me to join them in attending World Youth Day in Canada," he recalled. "After

World Youth Day, the young people wanted to visit New York City and Ground Zero. I did not have a U.S. visa but when we were crossing over to the U.S., the officials scrutinized me and then gave me an R1 visa – a religious visa that I could use for study or work."

That gift turned out to be providential. Soon after his visit, Fr. Henry returned home to Myanmar. Within a few months of his return, then-Bishop George Fitzsimons of the Diocese of Salina, contacted Fr. Henry's local bishop to invite two priests to serve as priests in north-west and northcentral Kansas.

"They could not get their visas for America. At the right time, I had an American visa in my hand and my bishop asked me if I wanted to go in place of those priests. I said, 'if you want me to do so, I am ready to go!' My bishop approved and the rest is history."

In his 21 years in the Salina Diocese, Fr. Henry has served at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, as well as assignments in Oberlin, Selden, Leoville, Hill City, and Damar. Currently he is serving the parishes in Atwood and Herndon.

The past three decades have

brought numerous changes to the world, as well as to Fr. Henry's personal life. His home country of Myanmar has experienced political revolutions, and in 2021 a military coup took place, triggering a humanitarian crisis.

"It is still impossible for me to visit my family in Myanmar," he said. "Most of my siblings and relatives in the country have been displaced ... They have nowhere to go and no help can reach them. I am heavily concerned and distressed about my relatives and friends living there."

"The political turmoil that happened in 2021 was at the end of my term here in the Salina Diocese," he continued. "I realized I could not return to my country in that situation, so several parishioners encouraged me to apply for U.S. citizenship. I discussed this with



COURTESY PHOTO  
Fr. Saw Lone at his naturalization ceremony, April 8, 2022.

ed in the naturalization ceremony at Wichita State University on April 8, 2022, which happened to be Holy Week. I am grateful for Bishop Vincke giving me the green light, so to speak."

While he will never forget his roots or his memories of Myanmar, Fr. Henry knows this step was all part of God's will for his life.

"We never know what plan God has for our journey. In God, we live, move, and have our being as it says in Acts 17:28. We trust, we adjust, and we appreciate our stations as they evolve."

Now, reflecting on his 30 years as a priest and looking toward the future, Fr. Henry said he knows battling the culture and celebrating the joys of the faithful will both be part of his future. He hopes to help bring lapsed Catholics back to the sacraments, reach out to the young and old, and support mission efforts at home and around the world. Most immediate are his plans to help celebrate the centennial anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood later this year.

As he serves the people of his parishes, Fr. Henry continues to live out his motto of thankfulness daily.

"These 30 years have been joyful indeed and I have never once regretted my decision to become a priest," he said. "I love being with the people. I love celebrating Mass. It gives me joy and I thank God for the priesthood and the people I serve who are so wonderful."



COURTESY PHOTO  
Fr. Saw Lone visits with the CCD students at Sacred Heart Parish in Atwood.

## Diocese conducts listening sessions

BY FR. FRANK COADY

The Worldwide Synod, along with the U.S. Catholic Bishops, have asked that each diocese conduct another round of listening sessions in preparation for the final meeting in Rome this October. The questions, which have been formulated by the Synod committee and the bishops, key in on the structures and organization of the Church. Unlike last year's listening sessions, which were open to comments about any concerns, this year the bishops want us to get more specific about the way the

Church is organized and how it functions.

Are the parish and diocesan structures organized in the best way for the current situation? Given the shortage of priests, how can a more inclusive lay involvement make each community function better? If the mission of the Church is to actively convey the message of God's love, how can its organization and structures best accomplish that?

Is the current formation of priests and deacons working for the Church's mission? Is the selection

of bishops adequate for today's Church? Are we actively forming lay people to share in the mission of the Church? Are bishops getting sufficient input from both priests and laity? Are parish pastoral councils a good way for pastors to involve parishioners in the mission of the parish? Are they being used effectively?

These are just some of the topics that might come up in discussions around the world. The situation in Kansas may be different from New York. Structures in the Third World may need to be different

from the western industrialized nations. A truly global Church includes significant variables, and everyone may need to stretch their imagination to embrace the needs of communities different from their own.

Listening sessions for the diocese took place in Colby, Hays, and Manhattan. Thirty-five people participated in Colby, 8 in Hays, and 80 in Manhattan. A Spanish language session will be scheduled in Salina. Bishop Vincke conveyed his personal desire to listen to people's ideas.

## Official priest assignment changes

### Effective March 1, 2024:

Fr. Joseph Kieffer: Appointed Priest Supervisor of St. Edward Parish of Belleville, KS; St. Isidore Parish of Cuba, KS; and St. George Parish of Munden, KS.

Fr. Henry Baxa: Appointed Priest-in-residence at St. Edward Parish in Belleville, KS.

Fr. Ryan McCandless: Appointed as temporary Priest-in-residence at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

in Concordia, KS, with pastoral ministry support to the parishes in Aurora, Belleville, Cuba, and Munden.

### Effective March 9, 2024:

Fr. Emmanuel Mensah: Appointed Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Hill City, KS, and St. Joseph Parish in Damar, KS.

# TMP-M welcomes Argentina visitors

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Families and students at Thomas More Prep-Marian welcomed 10 new visitors earlier this semester. The international students from Argentina visited Hays for five weeks, starting in January, as part of a trip through a student exchange program with Nacel Educational Travel.

"These (international) students are eager to learn, and our kids get a jolt from that," said TMP-M Principal Chad Meitner, whose family also served as a host for one of the students. "Our teachers really like it. You never know what questions you will be asked."

The Brian and Amy Church family offered to house one of the female students this year after their daughter Alyssa, a TMP-Marian sophomore, enjoyed her interactions with the visitors last year.

So the Churches welcomed Sofia Vera Barros into their home with open arms – and open minds.

"We did this to gain some knowledge of her country and to be helpful because they were still needing a couple of families to host the students,"

Amy said. "It didn't take long before it felt like Sofia was part of our family."

This is the summer break for the Argentinians, who also visited California and Florida, Boston and New York and Washington, DC. on their three-month trip.

TMP-Marian was the Argentinians' only experience in a school setting, and the local students showed their visitors the time of their lives.

There were dances, wrestling matches and basketball games, bowling and birthday parties. They toured Fort Hays State University's world-renowned Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Historic Fort Hays and the Ellis Railroad Museum. They even successfully tackled one of the the 29-inch "challenge pizzas" at Arthur's Pizza in Ellis.

Some even got to see the world's largest Czech egg in Wilson. The visitors enjoyed watching American football. And the Kansas City Chiefs gained a few more fans after winning the Super Bowl while the Argentinians were in Hays.

One thing the Argentinians will all probably never forget was a snowstorm



COURTESY PHOTO

Argentina student Sofia Vera Barros, left, and her host family: Brian, Alyssa, Anthony, Aydan and Amy Church.

just a few days after they arrived in Hays. Sofia was delighted when she awoke one morning in the Churches' rural home and looked out the window to the winter wonderland.

"It was shocking, so white," she said. "It was so pretty and peaceful."

Sofia is an only child, so it was an adjustment living with Alyssa and her younger brothers, eighth-grader Aydan and fourth-grader Anthony.

"I was not used to having so many people in the house," she said with a laugh. "It made the house more alive."

Sofia was so impressed

with the area that she toured Fort Hays State University. She wants to attend college in America after graduation. And while Stanford University and Harvard University were also on her list she said she will definitely return for a visit someday.

"TMP was such a wonderful school, a wonderful community," she said. "I've even enjoyed going to school on my summer break. I learned so much more about the culture here, and the best part was the experience with the families."

Amy Church said Sofia's parents have already



COURTESY PHOTO

Hays host family Chad and Sarah Meitner made the Argentina students feel right at home with a birthday party for Andrea Velazquez, who turned 17 during her stay.

invited them to visit Buenos Aires sometime, and she is looking forward to that trip.

For now, she is just thankful for what the experience meant to her family.

"I think my favorite part was how we returned to our family lifestyle, dinners at the table every night," she said. "Sometimes you get so caught up in activities that you get away from that. Our table became more of a catch-all again. We returned to the core of family life, and we got closer as a family again."

"That," Amy said, "is something I'll always be grateful for."

## Early Childhood Center breaks ground in Salina

Love N' Learn Early Childhood Center on the Salina Catholic Schools campus hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off the renovation project! The center plans to open its doors in August and will offer care for infants as early as 8 weeks of age. This is to meet an incredi-

ble demand in the community for high quality child care services.

With a mission to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for young minds to flourish, LNL is excited to announce the availability of 120 slots to accommodate families seeking

reliable care for their children. To learn more about the center, visit Love N' Learn Early Childhood Center on Facebook.

To inquire about enrollment, visit [stmarysalina.org](http://stmarysalina.org) and select the Love N' Learn tab.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS



By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Students in the Catholic schools in the Salina Diocese continue to excel in and out of the classroom.

Four diocesan basketball teams advanced to the sub-state title games of their respective classes, with three of those coming out victorious and advancing to the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) State Championships. Leading the way were the Salina-Sacred Heart boys with their third-place state finish. The Knights advanced to state by winning their

2A sub-state at Alma.

They beat Erie in the first round at the 2A state tournament in Dodge City but fell to then-undefeated Lyndon in the semifinals. The Knights bounced back to beat Sterling in the third-place game and finished the season with a 22-4 overall record.

It was the second top-three finish at a KSHSAA state event in as many months for Sacred Heart, which won the Class 2A Schol-

ars Bowl title in February.

The Blujays of the Beloit-St. John's/Tipton program qualified both their boys' and girls' teams for the Class 1A, Division II season finale for a second straight year by winning the Stafford sub-state.

The Blujay teams were unable to make it past the first round at state but finished the year with an impressive combined record of 30-14.

Hays' Thomas More Prep-Marian boys' team also had advanced to its 2A sub-state title game at Oakley, where the Monarchs saw their season come to an end after an impressive finish.

TMP-Marian's young team, which often had all sophomores and freshmen on the floor in 2023-24, had upset No. 1 seed Hill City in the semifinals but fell to Plainville in the title game.

## CHANCERY PICKS POSTER WINNERS

The Apologetics Class at St. John's Catholic High School in Beloit held the first annual Pro-Life Poster Contest. This year's theme was Building a Culture of Life. The three finalists were the following:

Building Blocks by Elizabeth Knappert (left); Family by Johanna Clark (bottom right); and Tetris Blocks by Clare Meyer (bottom left).

Bishop Jerry Vincke and Chancery staff selected the winner, Building Blocks by Elizabeth Knappert. Her parish will receive a \$250 check from Adoratio Foundation for their Religious Education Program.



## SUPER TIME AT SUPER BOWL FOR TMP-MARIAN SENIOR



BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Emma Basgall has been involved in dance since she was 2 years old and plans to attend the Theater Arts Preparatory School in Las Vegas next year.

It will surely bring back fond memories of her trip to Las Vegas last month.

Emma, a senior at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays, danced at the half-time show of last

COURTESY PHOTO

**TMP-Marian senior Emma Basgall successfully auditioned to dance at Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas.**

month's Super Bowl LVIII.

She was chosen after a successful audition from a video she sent in a month earlier. She then spent two weeks on site in preparation for the big day when more than 123 million people watched the broadcast.

Emma has dreams of owning her own studio someday. Imagine the stories she will be able to tell her students about her Super Bowl experience back in the day.

## SWEET REDEMPTION AT SPELLING BEE



BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

Evan Staab was disappointed when he lost out early in the Ellis County Spelling Bee as a seventh-grader at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior High last year.

His performance was a lot sweeter a year later.

The Hays eighth-grader outlasted the field at the 2024 county competition in February by correctly spelling the word sucrose, a sugar produced naturally in plants and is the main constituent of white sugar.

That earned him the honor of representing Ellis County at the Sunflower State Spelling Bee, which was held on March 23 in

Salina. It also gave him the distinction of being the first ever county spelling bee champion for TMP-Marian Junior High, which was started in 2012.

March was a busy month for Evan, who also is a member of his school's chess team that was scheduled to compete in the state tournament in Emporia on March 9.

Evan's dad, Nathan, was on hand to watch him hoist the first-place trophy at the county bee, but Mom Cindy was home with two of Evan's younger siblings, who were ill. The entire family planned to accompany Evan to the State Bee for support.

COURTESY PHOTO

**TMP-Marian eighth-grader Evan Staab hoists the championship trophy at the Ellis County Spelling Bee.**

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- K-8 Counselor

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Email Patti Park, ppark@stmarysellis.net or call 785-726-3185

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### Oakley

Email Michelle Selzer mselzer@sjoakley.org or call 785-671-4451

- Elementary Teacher

### Hanover

Email Amanda Cook acook@stjohnshanover.com or call 785-337-2368

- Elementary Teacher, 1st Grade

### Plainville

Email Sara VonFeldt at svonfeldt@schplainville.org or call 785-434-2157

- 5th Grade Teacher
- Kitchen Manager/Head Cook

### Hays

Email Mandy Meagher mmeagher@hfehays.org or call 785-625-3131

- Elementary Teacher
- Classroom Aid

### Salina

Email John Krajicek John@sacredheart-knights.org

- 7-12 Industrial Arts
- 9th Grade English/Speech
- Forensics/Debate Coach
- .5 Spanish

### Hays

Email Chad Meitner, meitnerc@tmpmarian.org or call 785-625-6577

- 9-12 Science Teacher
- Vocal Music

### Salina

Email Amy.hernandez@shknights.com or call 785-827-4422

- Business Office Asst.

### Junction City

Email Shawn Augustine augustines@saintxrams.org or call 785-238-2841

- 7-12 Science Teacher
- 7-12 Social Studies Teacher
- Activities Director
- K-12 Counselor

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# 'Let me remind you of who you are'

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN  
THE REGISTER

When Megan Augustine decided to hold a retreat for high school students in the diocese this winter, she didn't have far to look for someone to help plan it.

Megan, director of youth ministry at Sacred Heart parish in Colby, called on Sister Mary Monica Augustine, a teacher at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior High in Hays.

Sister Mary Monica is an adept retreat planner who just happens to be Megan's twin sister.

"She has put on many retreats in the Wichita area," Megan said of her sister, who moved to Hays at the beginning of this school year from the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Colwich. "So I felt blessed to have her help plan this."

More than 50 area teenagers from seven area parishes participated at the day-long retreat held at the Sacred Heart school and church basement.

Most would probably agree they were treated to an all-star list of presenters. After all, it isn't often you get to hear messages from a priest, a seminarian, a religious

both parts of that quote. The first part had the students consider who the "they" is in their lives and to know the lies of the culture that they are constantly being fed and from Satan himself.

The second part of the quote was to remind students that they are children of God, that our identity comes from God.

Throughout the day, students heard from Father Brian Lager, seminarian Luke Friess, Sister Mary Monica Augustine, and Maureen Schwarz, a FOCUS missionary.

Megan also was one of the speakers, as

was Bob Schroeder, an active parishioner at Sacred Heart.

Megan was especially pleased to bring Sister Mary Monica back to speak at their home parish. Colby – and Sacred Heart – is where they grew up.

Megan said she and her sister wanted students to experience a

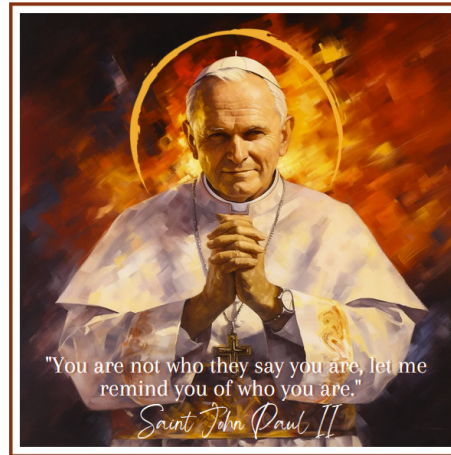


COURTESY PHOTO  
Students listen to instructions during a break at a youth retreat in Colby. From left are: Claire Denny, Colby; Jayde Kahle, Oakley; Sister Mary Monica, Hays; Natalie Wederski, Colby; and Madison Zerr, Grainfield.

sister and a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary all in the same day.

Megan said the retreat was planned around a famous quote by St. John Paul II, "You are not who they say you are; let me remind you of who you are."

The retreat theme centered on



COURTESY PHOTO  
Each retreat participant was given a holy card of St. John Paul II.

retreat where they could "give these young people a chance to live in freedom in and through the power of Jesus Christ."

Megan said she wasn't able to participate such a retreat until she was in college and that "it was life-changing for me."

"It was where I truly met God for the first time in a personal way, and it had a huge impact on me," she said. "That's what we wanted for these students."

The day began with a 10 a.m. Mass, and the retreat also included Eucharist adoration and reconciliation.

Megan said, "We thought it was a great success."

## Catholic Daughters host Lenten Retreat

BY ALLISON OCHOA

On Saturday, March 2, members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Salina Court #1972, welcomed 50 people to a day of prayer and reflection at their annual CDA Lenten Retreat. Held at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish, the retreat featured three presenters who spoke about the power of the Eucharist and ways the attendees could grow deeper in devotion to Jesus.

Jamie Kuhlman, a student at Kansas State University, presented a brief guide to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and answered some common questions people have about the sacrament.

"Jesus left us his real presence as a reminder of his love for us," she said. "The Eucharist nourishes our souls. It is Jesus who consumes us [in this sacrament] more than we consume him."

Speaker Lindsey Gack, a graduate student at Fort Hays State University, offered a biblical perspective on Jesus's true presence in the Eucharist. She also asked the retreatants to consider how they approach Jesus when receiving

him in Holy Communion.

"The way we receive Christ in the Eucharist is of utmost importance and should be treated with utmost respect," she said. "We house Jesus in our bodies every time we receive him in the Eucharist. Is our house ready to receive him?"

The day's final speaker, Jake Schroeder, Young Adult Coordinator for the Salina Diocese, focused on the Eucharist helping to restore hope to what many young folks consider a hopeless world.

"Many of these young people long

for communion and relationships but they are falling into loneliness," he said. "Others feel locked up or riddled with chains. There is an urgent need to know Jesus.

"There are going to be highs and lows in our lives but if we desire to live with hope, we can't live without the Eucharist," he added.

In addition to the presentations, the retreat featured small group discussions, panel discussions, time for prayer, and guided meditation. The retreatants, a group spanning a wide range of ages and stages of life, shared their personal experiences growing in love for the Eucharist and the impact this sacrament has had on their lives.

For Emma Roberts, a parishioner of St. Mary Queen of the Universe and a senior at Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School, the Eucharist has helped her grow in trust and faith.

"Moving from high school to college can be a scary transition,"

she said. "Having Jesus as a constant in a changing life is important. I can always run to him in the Eucharist. It's not a coincidence that during this year of Eucharistic revival I'm in apologetics class at school. So much of Catholic apologetics is about the Eucharist."

A soon-to-be freshman at Benedictine College, Roberts said, "As a senior, it's the best time to learn these things as you prepare to leave Catholic school and the Catholic community you've grown up in."

Retreat co-coordinator Marlene Bonilla hoped the retreat would uplift those who attended and challenge them to dig deeper into their Catholic faith.

"Drawing closer to Jesus in the Eucharist isn't just a Lenten event," she said. "It's an opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to give us what we need to go out and be Christ to those we meet and talk to."



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS  
Event coordinator Marlene Bonilla listens to the panel.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

**April 6**

• Transitional Diaconate Ordination, 10 a.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.

• Dinner/Auction, 5:30 p.m., Sacred Heart High School, Salina.

**April 13**

• St. John's Parish and School Fundraiser, 5 p.m., Hanover.

**April 19**

• "Becoming Light Together" and Mass, 5 p.m., Comeau Catholic Center/ FSHU Ballroom, Hays.

**April 20**

• Run for the Roses, St. Xavier Parish/School, Junction City.

**April 26**

• Race for Education, 8 a.m. - noon, Holy Family Elementary School, Hays.

**April 27**

• Ace Auction, 4 p.m., TMP-Marian, Hays

• Annual Women's Conference, sponsored by the women of the 7 Dolores/ St. Thomas More Parish-es, Manhattan.



Mr. Kade Megaffin



Mr. Jesse Ochs



Mr. Adam Urban

## Transitional Diaconate Ordination

Saturday, April 6, 2024  
10:00 AM

The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred by  
**The Most Rev. Gerald L. Vincke**

**Sacred Heart Cathedral**  
118 N Ninth St, Salina, KS

*"We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus."*  
2 Cor 4:5

*If you have any questions about an event listed here, please contact the parish/office/school directly.*

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

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## Our lifetime stats

*(Continued from pg. 3)*

I know I will also be judged as a parent. As parents, we stood before God and promised to raise our kids in the faith and to help them become holy disciples of Jesus. How will I feel trying to explain to God that I didn't take them to a Wednesday night religion class because there was an important dance practice that night? I will be sad to see all the opportunities I had to pray for and with them, but I didn't. I know I will wish I could go back and make some different choices.

The great news is that we are all still alive, and while we can't go back in time, we can learn from the past and use it to improve our current and future priorities. After all, that is part of the Easter message. By Jesus' death and resurrection, we can be forgiven of our sins, and through the sacraments, we are given grace to make the changes we need to become better disciples every day.

Stats can and do change, and if I want mine to look better at my judgment, I need to commit to making better ones. I invite you to join me in praying and asking God to give us the strength, courage, and wisdom we need to become better followers of Christ so that we may make Him our first and only priority!

## Women's Conference Set

**BY ROSIE RUNDALL**

Women across the diocese are invited to the 17th Annual Women's Spirituality Conference, sponsored by the women of St. Thomas More and Seven Dolores parishes, and which will be held on April 27, 2024.

This year, we have invited Sheri Wolfert back. Sheri is a passionate, joyful, coffee-loving daughter of God! She uses her great sense of humor and her deep faith to help others discover the joy of being a child of God. Her roots are in Kansas, but her home is in Westphalia, Michigan.

Sheri has a degree in secondary education from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas and a master's degree in elementary education from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Her faith is authentic, her attitude is contagious, and her approach is down to earth, relatable, humorous, and real. Register before April 20th at <https://bit.ly/WomSpConf24>. You can visit Sheri's blog at <https://www.joyfulwords.org/blog>.

COURTESY PHOTO  
On Sunday, Feb. 4, at St. Xavier Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts of Troop 41, along with Cub Scouts from Packs 260 and 264, celebrated the 12th Point of the Boy Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent."



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Altar servers from St. Bernard's in Ellsworth along with their priest, Fr. Stanly Basil.



COURTESY PHOTO, ALYSIA BAUMANN

Bishop Gerald Vincke confirmed 29 youth at St. Thomas More on Feb. 4. FRONT ROW: Lucas Manly, Sophia Winston, Agnes Choi, Claire Molt, Keylee Schartz, Jada Dibbini, Isabella Butler. 2ND ROW: Chase Lowry, Eli Koeneke, Cade Strother, Lily Bahr, Madalyn Fobes, Claire Steeves, Kelbey Larchick, Emma Blanck, Sierra Larkin, Deacon Larry Erpelding. 3RD ROW: Alec Ogorzolka, Drew Foltz, Madison Legleiter, Brynlyn Brockman, Vince Doering, Nathaniel Irvine, Mason Willard, Brynna Zoeller. BACK ROW: Fr. Don Zimmerman, Fr. Frank Coady, Catechist Rick Smith, Hayes Hall, Carter Goodpasture, Easton Dunstan, Patrick Keenan, Patrick Huser, Bishop Vincke.



COURTESY PHOTO

(Above) Members of the 2024 First Communion Class at St. Bernard's in Ellsworth & St. Ignatius in Kanopolis, sitting in front of the banners they made in preparation for their First Communion. Left to Right: Easton Vague, Finnley Cole, Kendall Obermueller, Kolt Warta, Sadie Worl & Azelynn Laas

KASSIDY JAHNKE, COURTESY PHOTO

(Left) Students at St. Xavier hosted their annual Competition for a Cause Food Drive. The community joined students in the competition to donate 2,639 items to feed the hungry this year.

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**Knights of Columbus**

# Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday

**NATHAN LANG**  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

HAYS - The Year of Mercy declared by Bishop Gerald Vincke on Ash Wednesday in 2023 for the Diocese of Salina will conclude this year on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7. Many parishes throughout the diocese will celebrate with a special prayer service on this day.

A solemn hour of prayer and benediction will be held at 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Hays, at Saint Mary, Queen of the Universe in Salina and Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Minneapolis. All services will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song, as well as prayers, music and meditation. Confessions will be heard beginning at 2 p.m. in Hays, at 2:30 p.m. in Salina, and during the service in Minneapolis.

Other parishes throughout the diocese should check their parish bulletin for a service or attend a neighboring parish that may have a Divine Mercy service.

Devotion for Divine Mercy began in the 1930s when Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, received special communications with Jesus in which he asked her to have this image painted to spread the message of his mercy.

Under the instructions of a spiritual director, Saint Faustina wrote down her revelations with Jesus, which is now contained in her 600-page diary. In these writings, she said all people are to call upon Jesus with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through us to others.

Saint Faustina said in her diary that we “radiate” God’s mercy to others by our actions, our words and our prayers.

The Divine Mercy image is a painting of Jesus with two rays emerging from his heart representing the blood and water which flowed from the side of Jesus as his heart was lanced after he died upon the cross.

One is pale, representing the water which makes souls righteous and signifies the sacrament of Baptism. The other is red for the blood, which is the life of souls and signifies the sacrament of Holy Eucharistic.

Saint Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus said, “These two rays issued forth from the very depths of my tender mercy when my agonized heart was opened by a lance on the cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of my father.

Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.” (Diary number 299.)

Saint Faustina died in 1938 at the age of 33. She was canonized a saint April 30, 2000, in Rome by the Pope at that time, Saint John Paul II. He said that the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, would now be an official feast day of the Church as Jesus asked.

Divine Mercy is not just for Catholics – it is for all souls. All Christians share in Jesus’ mercy, and all are invited in this special hour of prayer.



According to the diary of Saint Faustina, Jesus attached graces to the veneration of the image of the Divine Mercy.

Beginning Good Friday and at 3 p.m. each day leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Gerald Vincke will be praying the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet on the Divine Mercy Radio station.

A plenary indulgence is granted to those who participate in Divine Mercy Sunday as long as all the conditions for receiving this indulgence are applied. The four conditions to receive a full plenary indulgence are: 1.) Having the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin; 2.) Sacramentally confessing sins; 3.) Receive the Holy Eucharist on the day or vigil of the feast; and 4.) Saying prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, which usually is an Our Father and Hail Mary. A plenary indulgence can be offered for oneself or for another soul, living or deceased.



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Couples at Christ the King in WaKeeney celebrate: Arthur & Debra Windholz, Richard & Dina Mohr with granddaughter Laiklyn Howard, Delbert & Donna Bollig, Robert & Mary Jo Hafliker, Richard & Judy Hearting, Mark & Korene Basgall, Ron & Elaine Freeman, and Felix & Catherine Heier.**



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Mrs. Patti Schwartz (center), former National Spanish Director of the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, joins Sisters at the Spanish Marian Eucharistic Lenten Mission in Beloit on March 9. Pilgrims from all over the diocese came for the day of celebration, prayer, and healing.**

COURTESY PHOTO  
**Members of Christ the King in WaKeeney celebrate World Marriage Day. Left to right: Kenny & Renee Neff, Debbie & Gerald Riedel and LaTrisha & Chad Flax.**



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS  
**Around 30 young adults gathered for the February Young Adult Ministry event at St. Thomas More Parish in Manhattan for a pitch tournament and game night. Winners of the tournament were (left to right) Ryan Schuckman, Connor Kuhlman and Tyler Holmes.**

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# A Legacy of Faith

By Corrina Hudsonpillar

Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina

Recently at Mass, there was a couple and their toddler son in front of me. The toddler was well-behaved, but during the Eucharistic Prayers, I noticed that he was on the move. He wanted to be beside his dad and kneel just like him. He folded his hands together, just like his dad. And then it hit me – this is a young child following the example of faith his parents are setting for him.

We have all seen examples of our faith, inside and outside of the walls of a church. But for many of us, that first example of faith that we experienced was from our parents. One example of that here in our diocese is the family of Mae and the late Art Wilkens of Stockton, Kansas. Art passed away on July 7, 2023, at the age of 87, leaving a lasting legacy of Catholic faith that will shape generations within our diocese. This legacy extends beyond financial contributions to his local Catholic school, parish, and seminarians, encompassing the countless ways he exemplified the importance of his Catholic faith in his daily life.

When Art and Mae began dating, Mae was Lutheran. Art had made it known to Mae early on in their relationship that his Catholic faith was something that he would never leave. In typical big-brother fashion, some of Mae's older brothers were a little unsure about this Catholic man whom their sister had fallen in love with. Love and faith held firm as Mae joined Art in his Catholic faith. They were married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Benkelman, Nebraska, and celebrated nearly 67 years of marriage.

During those nearly 67 years, Art and Mae would have many moments where their faith would be tested. Mae had 10 pregnancies, 3 of those resulting in miscarriages. In 1981, less than a year after being married, their daughter Debra and her husband Russell were killed in a fire.

While raising their children, Art and Mae set that example of their Catholic faith – both inside and outside the walls of their parish. Art climbed the ranks in the Knights of Columbus. Mae was active in music ministry, playing the piano, and in the altar society. No matter what their financial

situation was at the time, there was never a time when Art didn't put an envelope in the offertory. He truly understood that everything we have is because of God, and we need to put God first in our lives.

When the family traveled and it was a weekend, the first thing Art would do when they got somewhere was pull out the telephone book and look up mass times. Mae lovingly referred to Art as "fussy" when it came to his diligence in attending mass, regardless of where the family was. Their children saw it as "non-negotiable".

Art and Mae always had strong relationships with priests in their community. The family would come home from the grocery store, a car in the driveway. Upon entering their home, they would find shoes by the front door and their priest taking a nap on the couch. Priests would play guitar with Art and Mae's sons Chuck and Kent. Growing up, they viewed their priest as just part of the fabric of their family.

One of the generous gifts bestowed upon the diocese after Art's passing was a gift to the seminarian fund. Two of Art and Mae's grandsons are currently seminarians for the Diocese of Salina – Kade Megaffin and Max Megaffin. When he was told about Kade entering the seminary, his first concern was the financial burden this might place on his daughter Lisa, and her husband Brad. Art would say "We have got to have more priests" as he firmly understood the important role priests have in our lives. Art would share the stories of his ancestors – having to travel hours by covered wagon on Sunday to attend mass and how blessed we are to have priests that are by our side – from birth to death. Fr. Merlin Kieffer baptized Lisa and later performed the funeral mass for Debra, illustrating how priests stand by

us in both joyous and sorrowful moments.

Additionally, Art left generous gifts to his parish – St. Thomas More in Stockton and Sacred Heart School in Plainville. In 1995, Art and Mae moved to Stockton where they built a new plant for Wilkens Manufacturing south of town. They remained in Rooks County for the remainder of their marriage. Art believed that everyone needed to help support our Catholic schools – including Sacred Heart in Plainville. He was a staunch supporter of their annual auction. Lisa recalls her dad having her brothers Steve and Tony bid against each other for one of the items at the auction – chili supper for Super Bowl with Fr. Al Brungardt.

Art and Mae have also been loyal supporters of TMP-Marian in Hays. The oldest three children graduated from Goodland High School, while Steve, Tony, and Brenda graduated from TMP-Marian. The decision to send the youngest three to a Catholic school helped influence Art's siblings to seek out Catholic education for their kids. This is yet another example of the ripple effect of Art's Catholic legacy.

In his final days, Art appeared to be accepting, even eager, for his passing. He understood the profound impact his gifts would have on many lives and took comfort in knowing this would be his enduring legacy – his faith. Following his passing, Art's family informed the diocese, parish, and school of his gifts and their desire for the use of the gifts. Witnessing the tangible results of his generosity was deeply meaningful to them, reflecting the pride Art himself felt in the impact of his contributions.

There is a line in Art's obituary that says it best – his commitment to his faith, and love and service to his family, friends, and community knew no bounds.



Art and Mae Wilkens with Bishop Gerald Vincke

## Have you thought about leaving a gift in your estate?

By leaving a gift to the Catholic Church in your will, you're extending a helping hand to those in need and ensuring the values you cherish live on. Your legacy can truly make a difference, keeping the spirit of generosity alive for generations to come.



### Meet Marisa Martinez

Marisa will be serving as the accountant for the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina.

Marisa is from Puerto Rico and has lived in Salina for the past 10 years. She is married to Mario Morales and has two kids, Ema and Alan Morales, who attend Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High school.

Wish her a warm welcome at [marisa.martinez@salinadiocese.org](mailto:marisa.martinez@salinadiocese.org)



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# Hope in hardship

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Jessica recently found herself facing a monumental dilemma: choosing between essential medications vital for her survival and the reality of being able to afford those medications.

On January 2, 2024, Jessica's life took an unexpected turn when she sought emergency care in Salina, only to be swiftly airlifted to Wichita due to a brain bleed and multiple strokes. After a challenging week in the hospital, Jessica came home to another big problem: the financial burden of her prescribed medications.

Determined to find help, Jessica turned to Catholic Charities. With new hope, Jessica talked to emergency assistance coordinator Melissa Herrera. Together, they

filled out paperwork, and Melissa helped Jessica step by step. As they talked, Melissa learned about Jessica's struggles caring for her mother, the sudden sickness, and the money problems that came with it.

When Melissa found out that Jessica couldn't afford her life-saving medications, she immediately got in touch with pharmacies to make sure Jessica could get her medications right away.

The good news came fast. Melissa coordinated with a local pharmacy and Catholic Charities was able to cover the cost of over 100 days of insulin and 60 days of blood pressure medication. Jessica was so thankful, saying, "I was just grateful that you guys helped me with that. I was super blessed I was able to find help. Without you guys, I probably would have died. You all are real game-changers, for real."



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FRIDAY  
APRIL 26 2024  
DAY OF PRAYER  
IN ATONEMENT FOR THOSE HARMED BY SEXUAL ABUSE

Lord, in your infinite mercy, we come before you seeking forgiveness and healing for all those who have been harmed by the scourge of sexual abuse. We lift up to you the victims, the survivors, and all those who carry the burden of this injustice. May your light shine upon them, bringing comfort to their wounded souls and consolation to their hearts.

We pray that your Church may be a beacon of hope and a source of healing for all those who have suffered. Help us to foster a culture of protection, love, and respect for every individual, especially the most vulnerable among us.

May our prayers offer solace to the broken-hearted and justice to the oppressed. Through the intercession of Our Lady Mother of Mercy, may all who have been affected by sexual abuse find peace in your loving embrace.

We make this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## BAPTISMS

**Maurice Joan Nordhus-Britton**, daughter of Logan Britton and Brady Marguerite Drouhard Nordhus, was baptized on November 26, 2023 by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Easton Michael Blazek**, son of Lacie Blazek, was baptized February 18, 2024, by Deacon Steve Heiman at St. Edward Church in Belleville.

**Carter Edward Bloom**, son of Kade and Emily (Linden) Bloom, was baptized February 11, 2024, by Fr. Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

**Isabella Camille Calzada**, daughter of Jenna Straub and Abram Calzada, was baptized on February 18, 2024, by Fr. Kevin Weber at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina.

**Kaylani Jazlin-Castillo**, daughter of Brenda Castillo, was baptized on November 25, 2023 by Deacon Ed Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Annabelle Ruth Cole**, daughter of Keith and Lauren (Boos) Cole, was baptized March 3 by Father Brian McCaffrey at St. Mary Queen of the Universe, Salina.

**Callum Thomas Colwell**, son of Thomas and Malloory Colwell, was baptized on March 3, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

**Thaddeus Gregory Deacon**, son of Beau and Sarah Deacon, was baptized on September 30, 2023 by Deacon Edward Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Haisley Lee Dow** daughter of Brady and Candace Dow, was baptized February 11, 2024 by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center, Manhattan.

**Leo Brett Eakin**, son of Brett Anthony Eakin and Megan Leigh Eakin, was baptized on November 24, 2023 by Deacon Ed Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Diego Alexander-Espinoza**, son of Arturo Alexander Espinoza and Irma Lobaton Espinoza, was baptized on December 3, 2023 by Fr. Raphael Indave Campos at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Suttyn June Frisbie**, daughter of Edward and Alexis (Hissong) Frisbie, was baptized February 25, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at St. Mary's, Herndon.

**Yates Lennon Frisbie**, son of Edward & Alexis (Hissong) Frisbie, was baptized February 25, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at St. Mary's, Herndon.

**Hadley James Gasper**, son of Kyle and Trista (Stramel) Gasper, was baptized February 17, 2024, by Fr. Trinity Savariyar at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays.

**Matthew Joseph Gengler**, son of Justin and Shelby Gengler, was baptized on November 26, 2023 by Fr. Josh Duncan at St. John the Baptist, Beloit.

**Adalyn Rivera-Gonzales**, daughter of Gaberiel Porfirio Rivera-Castillo and Brenda Gonzalez-Magana, was baptized on July

16, 2023 by Fr. Ryan McCandless at Seven Dolores in Manhattan.

**Angel Pacheco-Guzman**, son of Rodrigo Moreno and Alberta Pacheco-Guzman, was baptized on October 15, 2023 by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Colter Hays Hulett**, son of Connor and Mallory Hulett, was baptized on January 28, 2024 by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist, Beloit.

**Palmer Ann Hulett**, daughter of Connor and Mallory Hulett, was baptized on January 28, 2024 by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist, Beloit.

**Lainey Ann Hulett**, daughter of Tanner and Kristin Hulett, was baptized on January 28, 2024 by Father Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist, Beloit.

**Miller Max Jackson**, son of Randall Christian and Mallory Jackson, was baptized on January 27, 2024, by Fr. Steven Heina, at St. Mary the Assumption Church, Clifton.

**Jaxon Porter Kickhaefer**, son of Jonathan Kickhaefer and Payden Koch, was baptized on August 27, 2023 by Deacon Edward Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Bridget Therese Laflamme**, daughter of Andrew and Katie Laflamme, was baptized on December 30, 2023 by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist, Beloit.

**Jacob Neil Lambotte**, son of Tagen and Rachel Lambotte, was baptized

on March 3, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

**Theo Joseph Leiker**, son of Alex and Shauna Leiker, was baptized February 3, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, at St. Mary's Queen of Angels, Russell.

**Corinne Reann Leiker**, daughter of Alex and Shauna Leiker, was baptized February 3, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil, CMI, at St. Mary's Queen of Angels, Russell.

**Sophia Grace Onofre**, daughter of Rodrigo and Kelsey Onofre, was baptized on February 4, 2024, by Fr. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

**Oaklynn Sue Payton**, daughter of Michael and Kaleigh Payton, was baptized on December 10, 2023 by Fr. Andrew Rockers at St. John the Baptist, Beloit.

**Lynn Olivia Lesser**, daughter of Evan and Codi (Bliss) Lesser, was baptized on February 24, 2024 by Fr. Frederick Lesser at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

**Eloise Kay Mai**, daughter of Lane and Alexandra (Ptacek) Mai, was baptized February 25, 2024, by Fr. Michael Elanjimattathil at St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell.

**Lev Emmitt Schmidt**, son of Tanner and Wendy (Fields) Schmidt, was baptized February 10, 2024, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at Sacred Heart parish, Atwood.

**Zane Justin Schroeder**, son of Brett and Olivia Schroeder, was baptized

on January 14, 2024, by Father Brian Lager at Sacred Heart, Colby.

**Gwendalyn Jean Sorell**, daughter of Bradley and Paige Sorell, was baptized on February 11, 2024, by Fr. Steven Heina, at St. John the Baptist, Clyde.

**Alex Marie Studer**, daughter of Joseph and Leah Studer, was baptized on September 17, 2023 by Deacon Edward Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Charles Henry Williamsen**, son of Michael and Analise Williamsen, was baptized on September 23, 2023 by Deacon Edward Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Fulton Dwight Willis**, son of Bryan Ray Willis and Anna Katherine Hixon, was baptized on October 29, 2023 by Fr. Matt Davied at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Andrew James Wolf**, son of Joseph and Ashley Wolf, was baptized on August 5, 2023 by Fr. Ryan McCandless at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.

**Alexander-Emiliano Zarate**, son of Cesar Zarate and Lesleyzet Vasquez, was baptized on December 2, 2023 by Deacon Ed Souza at Seven Dolores, Manhattan.



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## FUNERALS

**Bernice A. Brown**, 90, died January 1, 2024 at Lawrence, KS. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 8, 2024 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia. Father Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, St. Joseph, KS.

**Edgar John Eck**, 92, died January 5, 2024. Funeral services were held January 12 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

**Anne L. Feldkamp**, 98, of Manhattan, died September 20, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated September 25 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hanover. Fr. David Metz presided. Burial in St. John Cemetery in Hanover.

**Judith Aileen King**, 72, died on August 29, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated September 16 at Seven Dolores in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt presided. Burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery - Lake Elbow.

**Joseph "Joe" Anthony Kohler**, 86, died December 8, 2023. Funeral services were held December 15 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Fr. Andrew Rockers presided. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

**Gloria J. LeDuc**, 90, of Concordia, KS, died Sunday, February 4, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated February 9, 2024, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia, KS with Fr. Joseph Kieffer officiating. Burial at St. Concordia Cemetery, Concordia.



**Sister Rita Ann Mazanec** died February 27, 2024, at Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia, KS. She was 94 years old and a Sister of St. Joseph for 73 years. She was born in Colby, KS on February 3, 1930. On March 18, 1950, Irene received the habit of the Sisters of St. Joseph and was given the name Sister Rita Ann. She pronounced first vows on August 15, 1951 and final vows on August 15, 1954.

The Mass of Christian Burial was March 1 at 10:30 a.m. with Fr. Barry Brinkman presiding; burial in the Nazareth Motherhouse Cemetery. Memorials for Sister Rita Ann Mazanec may be given to the Sisters of St. Joseph Health Care/Retirement Fund or the Apostolic Works of the Sisters; P.O. Box 279, Concordia, KS 66901

**Mary Theresa Michels**, 94, died February 21, 2024 at Lawrence, KS. Funeral Mass was celebrated March 2, 2024 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Clifton, KS. Fr. Steven Heina officiated. Burial was at the St. Mary Cemetery, Clifton.

**Barbara Eileen Nemechek Parke**, 94, WaKeeney, died February 10, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated Febru-

ary 17, 2024, at Christ the King, WaKeeney. Burial at Christ the King Cemetery, WaKeeney.

**Marguerite Agnes Sharp**, 99, died October 27, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated November 4, 2023, at Seven Dolores in Manhattan. Fr. Randall Weber presided. Burial in St. George Cemetery in St. George.

**Judith "Judy" Anne Thierolf**, 84, died January 19, 2024. Funeral services were held January 24 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery in Beloit.

**Robert Dale Umscheid II**, 64, Manhattan, died December 25, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 29 at Seven Dolores in Manhattan. Fr. Randall Weber presided. Burial in Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan.

**Robert W. Waldman**, 88, of Grinnell, died February 13, 2024. Funeral Mass was celebrated February 22, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church, Grinnell. Fr. Don Zimmerman presided. Burial was in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Grinnell.

**William "Bill" Robert Walter**, 92, died November 26, 2023. Funeral services were held December 2 at St. John the Baptist in Beloit. Father Jarett Konrade presided. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery in Beloit.

**Anna Marie Yates**, 76, Manhattan, died September 3, 2023. Funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Kerry Ninemire at Seven Dolores in Manhattan. Burial in Kentucky.

## WEDDINGS

**Maximilian Lawton Rawls and Michelle Luu** were married August 5, 2023 at St. Patrick's in Ogden, KS. Fr. Ryan McCandless witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Dann and Jennifer Rawls. Parents of the bride are Tara Luu and Navy Sway. Witnesses were Blake Watson and Jenn Hinnen.

**Toben Bernard Johnson and Grace Vivian Otott** were married September 9, 2023 at St. Augustine Church, Washington. Fr. David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Bernard Johnson and Robyn (Toben) Johnson. Parents of the bride are Jeffrey Otott and Nancy (Hurter) Otott. Witnesses were Ryan Curran and Annie Otott.

**Payton Lee Manley and Riley Gene Doebele** were married September 16, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church, Hanover. Fr. David Metz witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Timothy Manley and Marcy (Horalek) Manley. Parents of the bride are Gene Doebele and Julie (Holle) Doebele. Witnesses were Brenden Dobrovlny and Macy Garber.

**Eric Nelson and Leah Garman** were married October 21, 2023 at Seven Dolores in Manhattan, KS. Fr. David Voss witnessed the vows. Witnesses were Jeffrey Nelson and Katelyn Nelson.

**Clay Zeller and Megan Bates** were married November 4, 2023, at St. John the Baptist, Beloit, KS. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Chris & Susan Zeller. Parents of the bride are Jeff & Jeri Bates. Witnesses were Chord Zeller & Elizabeth Hamilton.

**Patrick Curtis and Elizabeth McCormick** married on November 4, 2023 at Seven Dolores in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed the vows. Witnesses were Thomas McAnerney and Wyatt McCormick.

**Wyatt Hugh Mader and Julisa Elizabeth Martinez** were married November 4, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Church, Hanover. Fr. Joseph Kieffer witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Travis Mader and Jennifer (Gilder) Mader. Parents of the bride are Jose Antonio Martinez and Maria Isabel Gomez Martinez. Witnesses were Jorge Lopez and Teresa Lopez.

**Sergio Martinez Basulto and M. Guadalupe Pena Reyes** had their marriage validated on November 25, 2023 at St. Augustine Church in Washington. Fr. Joseph Kieffer witnessed the renewal of vows. Witnesses were Jorge Lopez and Teresa Lopez.

**Timothy Greenwood and Jordan Thornton** were married December 9, 2023, at St. John the Baptist, Beloit, KS. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are James & Becky Greenwood. Parents of the bride are Shaun & Jennifer Thornton. Witnesses were Landon Eilert & Jordyn Coonrod.

**Luke Raymond Massoth and Elizabeth Anne McQuade** were married February 10, 2024 at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Matthew Davied witnessed the vows. Parents of the groom are Ernest and Katherine Massoth. Parents of the bride are Owen and Edith McQuade. Witnesses were Jared Brooks and Hattie Hartschuh.



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# BIBLE ACCENT

**W**hy was Israel divided into two kingdoms?

In 1 Kings 11, we read that King Solomon, David's son, had many pagan wives who turned his heart away from God. This made God angry. Since Solomon did not keep God's covenant and statutes, God told him that the kingdom of Israel would be torn away from him and given to his servant.

But, God said, for the sake of David, who followed God with his whole heart, this would not happen to Solomon but rather to his successor.

And, for David's sake and that of Jerusalem, God said he would not tear away the entire kingdom from Solomon's heir. The kings of David's line would keep one tribe of Israel, while the other 10 would be given to Solomon's servant.

Also in 1 Kings 11, we read that the prophet Ahijah told a man named Jeroboam—a servant of Solomon's—that he would be given 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel and become their king. When Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam, became king. Rehoboam was harsh and didn't listen to the people, so they rebelled against him.

Then God's words through Ahijah came true. Ten of the tribes of Israel rejected Rehoboam and made Jeroboam their king. Rehoboam continued to rule his own tribe, Judah, plus the tribe of Benjamin.

## PEOPLE OF JUDAH TURN AWAY FROM GOD

By JENNIFER FICCAGLIA  
CATHOLIC COURIER

After the death of King Solomon of Israel, the kingdom was divided in two. The southern kingdom of Israel, which included the city of Jerusalem, became known as Judah.

Over the many years that followed, there were some good kings of Judah who kept God's covenant and statutes, but there were even more kings who were evil and rejected God. If the king of Judah followed God, so did the people. And if the king of Judah rejected God, the people did as well.

One of the kings of Judah was a young man named Zedekiah, who reigned for 11 years. He did what was evil in the sight of God, and he did not humble himself before God's prophet Jeremiah.

The king became very stubborn and hardened his heart against God rather than return to him.

All the princes of Judah, the priests

and the people turned away from God as well. They began to practice all the abominations of the neighboring pagan nations, and they defiled the Temple that had been consecrated in Jerusalem.

God was compassionate toward his people and wanted them to return to him. God would send his messengers to talk to the people and urge them to turn from their evil ways.

But the people of Judah mocked God's messengers, scoffed at his prophets and despised his words.

Finally, God had enough and became angry.

He allowed the pagan Chaldeans to attack Judah. The king of the Chaldeans led his army into Jerusalem, where young men were killed. The Chaldeans did not have compassion for anyone, not even women, the elderly or the infirm.

The invaders looted all of the treasures in the Temple. They tore down

the walls of Jerusalem, burned down the Temple and the palaces, and destroyed precious objects.

The people who survived the attack were brought as captives to Babylon, where they became servants to the king and his sons until the Persian kingdom came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of God spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost Sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while 70 years are fulfilled."

### READ MORE ABOUT IT:

2 Chronicles 36

### Q&A

1. What was the name of Israel's southern kingdom?
2. Who attacked the southern kingdom?

Answers: 1) Judah. 2) The Chaldeans.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

St. Catherine of Siena was born in 1347 in Italy. She had a big family and was the daughter of a wool dyer. At an early age she dedicated her life to God and became a member of the Dominican Third Order. St. Catherine was known for her beautiful prayer life and for helping the sick and poor.

St. Catherine wrote about the spiritual life and even wrote letters to people in power during her time, calling for unity and reform of the Church.

She is a Doctor of the Church and is the patron saint of Italy, Europe, nurses and firefighters. Her feast day is April 29.

## SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA



## PUZZLE

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a sentence from the children's story.

shi  
scomapateniso  
odg  
drawot  
olpeep  
saw

Answers: his, compassionate, God, toward, people, was his people.  
God was compassionate toward