



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

MAY 22, 2026

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts! *Celebrate Pentecost with prayer and reflection*

BY BISHOP GERALD VINCKE
DIOCESE OF SALINA

“And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:1-4)

Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit, who remains with us always. Come, Holy Spirit—fill our hearts with your presence.

Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 24, 2026. On this feast, we reflect on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Please join me in praying the following prayer as we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives.

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



LOUIS GALLOCHE

Kolbe Prison Ministry brings Christ to both sides of prison walls



THE REGISTER

Kolbe Prison Ministries began hosting retreats in Ellsworth and Norton last year. KPM Ministry volunteers share Christ's love with the incarcerated.

BY LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

Glenn Suppes was an educator and administrator for 22 years, and today he wears many hats: auctioneer, cattleman, real estate agent, and even bus driver. But he says one of the roles he finds most fulfilling is that of volunteer, particularly in prison ministry.

“I’ve always had a desire to reach out and do something with prison ministries,” Suppes said. “But it’s not like you can just go knock on the door and say, ‘Hey, I’m here to visit some guys.’”

That all changed for him last year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

VEN, ESPÍRITU SANTO

“Y de repente vino del cielo un ruido como el de un viento fuerte que soplaban, y llenó toda la casa donde estaban. Luego se les aparecieron lenguas como de fuego, que se repartían y se posaban sobre cada uno de ellos. Y todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo y comenzaron a hablar en diferentes lenguas, según el Espíritu les concedía expresarse.” (Hechos 2:1-4)

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



enviar al Espíritu Santo, quien permanece siempre con nosotros.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, llena nuestros corazones con tu presencia.

La solemnidad de Pentecostés cae el domingo 24 de mayo de 2026. En esta fiesta, reflexionamos sobre la efusión del Espíritu Santo sobre la Iglesia. Les pido que se unan a mí en la oración de la siguiente plegaria, mientras invitamos al Espíritu Santo a nuestras vidas.

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Ven, Espíritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles y enciende en ellos el fuego de tu amor. Envía tu Espíritu y todo será creado, y renovarás la faz de la tierra.

Oh Dios, que por la luz del Espíritu Santo has instruido los corazones de los fieles, concédenos que, guiados por el mismo Espíritu, seamos verdaderamente sabios y gocemos siempre de sus consuelos. Por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén.

BISHOP VINCKE'S JUNE CALENDAR

- 8-11 USCCB Spring General Meeting, Orlando.
- 12 Ordination Mass for Dcn. Luke Friess & Dcn. Benjamin King, 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral.
- 14 Fr. Frank Coady's 50th Ordination Anniversary Mass & Celebration, STM, Manhattan, 4 p.m.

JUNE INTENTIONS

Pope Leo's intentions:

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Diocesan intentions:

Lord, we pray for all those working in the harvest, that they may be kept safe and protected in their labor.

LET US **PRAY**

Lord Jesus, I love you. I invite you into my heart. I want to know you better. Please forgive me for my sins and failings. I am sorry for all those I have hurt, especially You. I want to be your disciple and share You with others, but I know I need you in my life to do so. Come, Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and fill me with a renewed zeal and love for you--a love that is contagious and unmistakable. Come, Lord Jesus, I need you more and more in my life. Come, Lord Jesus! Come, Holy Spirit!

PRAYER COURTESY OF THE DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina congratulates this year's scholarship recipients. Applicants reflected a strong commitment to their Catholic faith through parish involvement, service to others, leadership, and academic achievement. Their personal reflections demonstrated a deep love for the Church and a desire to live out their faith in meaningful ways.



Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients and graduates across the diocese. For more information about scholarships or establishing a scholarship fund, contact the Foundation at 785-827-8746 or development@salinadiocese.org.

MONSIGNOR CLEMENT A. KRUSE SCHOLARSHIP

- **Kendyn Biggs** from Minneapolis, attending Kansas State University
- **Jenna Brull** from Hays, attending Fort Hays State University
- **Alyssa Church** from Hays, attending Fort Hays State University
- **Lynelle Gengler** from Beloit, attending Kansas State University
- **Edward Horinek** from Beloit, attending Fort Hays State University
- **Gabriel Roderick** from Beloit, attending Central Christian College
- **Trinity Schlabach** from Hanover, attending Kansas State University
- **Railynne Soukup** from Wilson, attending Colby Community College
- **Kinzie Sunley** from Ellis, attending Fort Hays State University

MARYMOUNT MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

- **Alina Arceo** from Salina, attending The University of Saint Mary
- **Isaac Berndt** from Salina, attending Newman University
- **Aubrey Gengler** from Beloit, attending Benedictine College
- **Emma Mick** from Beloit, attending Benedictine College
- **Aubrey Wisker** from Salina, attending Benedictine College
- **Janae Wolf** from Clay Center, attending Benedictine College

SUSIE DEGES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- **Kyler Kuhlman** from Sharon Springs, attending Fort Hays State University

NEIGHBORS NEAR & NEIGHBORS FAR



PETER'S PENCE

This month, we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Be a sign of hope with your generosity.

TO GIVE:

place an envelope in your parish collection labeled "Peter's Pence"

Este mes, realizaremos la Colecta del Óbolo de San Pedro para apoyar a la Iglesia universal y la labor de la Santa Sede, incluidas las obras caritativas del Papa León XIV. Estas obras benefician a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que se encuentran en los márgenes de la sociedad, incluyendo a las víctimas de la guerra, la opresión y los desastres. Sea un signo de esperanza con su generosidad.

DONAR:

Coloque un sobre en la colecta de su parroquia con la etiqueta "Peter's Pence"

KOLBE PRISON MINISTRY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Within the Salina Diocese, two correctional facilities offer opportunities for inmates to encounter Christ and grow in the Catholic faith. At the Ellsworth Correctional Facility, inmates attend a weekly Mass, often drawing 40 to 50 inmates. Many stay afterward for OCIA classes or time in prayer. Similar opportunities exist at the Norton Correctional Facility under Fr. Joshua Werth's leadership, where volunteers continue to build a steady Catholic presence.

But for some volunteers, once a week was not enough.

Suppes, along with a core team of men, began asking what more could be done. The answer came in the form of Kolbe Prison Ministries, a three-day retreat designed to bring inmates an encounter with Christ.

Kolbe Prison Ministries began in Texas more than two decades ago and gradually spread to other nearby states. The retreat, KPM, is named after Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who is the patron saint of prisoners. Last year, the Salina Diocese hosted its first KPM retreats, one in Ellsworth and another in Norton, marking the beginning of a growing ministry effort in the diocese.

"It was a little bit intimidating," Suppes shared. "You know, you're going through a metal detector. You know they're watching you. But we were going in together. We had a mission."

That mission, he said, is surprisingly simple.

"You're just being kind and treating them with acceptance and love," he said. "You don't have to be an expert. You just have to have a willingness."

That willingness, others say, is at the heart of the ministry.

"The structure of the retreat is intentional," said Craig Cummins, who helped bring the program to the region. "Over three days, about 40 inmates and the volunteers share meals, listen to talks, attend Mass, and spend time in discussion."

"It's a very Catholic retreat," Cummins said. "We talk about Catholic spirituality, the sacraments... and we invite both



COURTESY PHOTO, KPM

Volunteers at the Kolbe Prison Ministry Retreat last summer in the Ellsworth Correctional Facility gather together behind images of Jesus' Divine Mercy and Saint Maximilian Kolbe, patron saint of inmates.

Catholics and non-Catholics."

Cummins serves as the core team president for the diocesan retreat, and he says the goal of KPM is not just education, but encounter.

"They actually feel the love," he said. "And it usually results in people coming back to the Church, or starting that journey."

For many inmates, that experience is deeply personal.

"One of the inmates said my favorite part was just sitting with the Lord in adoration," Suppes recalled. "That stuck with me."

Other moments are harder to put into words, like when, late in the retreat, volunteers lead inmates through a foot-washing ceremony modeled after Christ's example.

"These grown men... crying," Suppes said. "You wash their feet. You kiss their feet. And you whisper, 'Go and do unto others as I have done for you.'"

In that moment, any sense of separation fades.

"I'm a volunteer. You think I'm better than you? No, I'm not," Suppes said. "We're brothers."

For Bill Heimann, that sense of brotherhood extends beyond the retreat.

Heimann began volunteering at Ellsworth Correctional Facility after years of feeling drawn to prison ministry. His first experience with Kolbe Prison Ministries came during the retreat in Norton last October. Now, he is a regular at the weekly opportunities in

Ellsworth, including Thursday Mass and spending time simply talking with inmates.

"I find the guys to be very friendly, very outgoing," Heimann said.

"A lot of times it's about their aspirations, for when they finish their prison term," Heimann said.

He describes the Thurs-

day

"Forgiveness is a big part of it," he said. "Judgment is not our own."

For Heimann, that message of mercy has taken on a deeply personal meaning since the death of his son, who died last year in the line of duty as a police officer. Heimann said he was moved by the

“The main thing the Kolbe Prison Ministry team needs now are more men willing to volunteer to be part of the staff for the upcoming retreat.”
-Craig Cummins

day evening gatherings as something he looks forward to each week.

"It's a very inspirational evening," he said. "People are there with good intentions."

But he is also clear about the reality inmates face.

"Prison isn't a great environment," he said. "It's tough."

And yet, even there, he sees hope among the inmates at Mass.

"They want to rehabilitate," Heimann said. "They want to get better... they want to do some good things."

One conversation in particular has stayed with him. An inmate once shared his hope that he might one day find forgiveness from the family affected by his actions.

Moments like that, Heimann said, have shaped his own perspec-

response from inmates at Ellsworth Correctional Facility, who later sent sympathy cards expressing their condolences.

"That kind of response changes how you see things," he said. "We volunteer at the prison for support and fellowship, but it's all about the prisoners. That's the main reason why we do this."

Heimann said those weekly visits and retreat experiences continually reinforce his sense of purpose. Even in a setting defined by confinement and consequence, he said he sees men who are still capable of growth and conversion.

For volunteers, a shared sense of purpose is what keeps the ministry going as it continues to grow across the Salina Diocese.

"I'm stronger in my faith," Suppes said. "I'm

able to put some action into what I've always felt needed to be done."

He sees the work as a response to a call many people feel but are unsure how to answer.

That call continues to guide the growth of the ministry.

According to Cummins, the retreats depend on three essential forms of support: prayer, volunteers, and financial contributions.

"These retreats are driven by prayer," he said. "Without the work of the Holy Spirit, they simply would not work."

Cummins said the main thing the KPM team needs now, however, are more men willing to volunteer to be on the retreat staff.

"It's not in everybody to want to go into a prison, and I get it," he said, "but we need people."

The next KPM retreat is scheduled for July 9-11 in Ellsworth. At the time of publication, the team was still in need of additional volunteers willing to serve. Without a full retreat team, only about 25 inmates will be able to participate instead of the 50 organizers hope to reach.

Leaders say even those people who cannot enter the prison can still play a vital role in the ministry.

For those who do step inside, the experience often reshapes what they expected to find.

Behind locked doors and security checkpoints, they encounter something unexpected: not just inmates, but men searching for hope, for purpose, and for mercy.

Sometimes, all it takes to begin that change is someone willing to walk in, sit down, and remind them they are not forgotten. Something begins to change, on both sides of the prison walls.

"We're asked to do all these things," Suppes said, "as if the person we're treating was Christ in disguise."

Those interested in learning more about Kolbe Prison Ministries or in supporting upcoming retreats can visit the diocesan KPM website at KPMsalina.com. The site includes information on volunteering, prayer support, and financial donations.

Official priestly appointments announced

Previous Appointments:

Father Steven Songa with the concurrence of the Most Reverend Dr. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of Eluru (India), appointed Parochial Vicar of St. John the Baptist Parish, Beloit, with residence in the parish rectory beginning February 16, 2026. Transferred to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Concordia; St. Edward Parish, Belleville; St. George Parish, Munden; and St. Isidore Parish, Cuba, with residence in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help rectory on March 27, 2026.

Father Vincent Mary Carrasco, O.F.M.Cap. with the concurrence of his superior, Reverend David Songy, O.F.M.Cap., appointed Parochial Vicar of the parish community at The Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria; St. Boniface Parish in Vincent; and St. Anne Parish in Walker, with residence in the St. Fidelis Friary beginning March 9, 2026.

Father Saji George, CMI, with the concurrence of his superior, Reverend Biju John Vellakada, CMI, appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Concordia; St. Edward Parish, Belleville; St. George Parish, Munden; and St. Isidore parish, Cuba, with residence in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rectory in Concordia beginning April 1, 2026.

Appointments Effective June 1, 2026:

Transitional Deacon Charbel Allen, O.F.M.Cap. with the concurrence of his superior, Reverend David Songy, O.F.M.Cap., appointed Deacon of the Parish community at The Basilica of Saint Fidelis, Victoria; St. Boniface Parish, Vincent; and St. Anne Parish, Walker.

Appointments Effective July 1, 2026:

Fr. James Alaya appointed Parochial Vicar of St. Andrew Parish, Abilene; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Junction City; St. Michael Parish, Chapman; and Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Solomon, where Fr. Peter O'Donnell serves as Pastor.

Fr. George Chalbagan, CMI concludes his appointment as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Herington; St. Philip Parish, Hope; and St. Columba Parish, Elmo. After twenty years of faithful service in the Diocese of Salina, Fr. George will return to his

religious community in India.

Fr. Saji George, CMI appointed Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Herington; St. Philip Parish, Hope; and St. Columba Parish, Elmo.

Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandi, HGN appointed Pastor of St. Edward Parish, Belleville; St. Isidore Parish, Cuba; and St. George Parish, Munden.

Fr. Joseph Kieffer concludes his service as Pastor of St. Edward Parish, Belleville; St. Isidore Parish, Cuba; and St. George Parish, Munden. Fr. Kieffer will continue as Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Concordia and St. Peter Parish, Aurora.

Fr. John Wolesky concludes his appointment as priest supervisor of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Solomon and St. Patrick Parish, Gypsum, and granted full retirement.

Mrs. Daylene Tracy concludes her appointment as Parish Life Coordinator of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Solomon and St. Patrick Parish, Gypsum.

Fr. Peter O'Donnell appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Solomon in addition to his current canonical appointment as Pastor of St. Andrew Parish, Abilene; St. Francis Xavier Parish, Junction City; and St. Michael Parish, Chapman.

Fr. Tony Kulandaijesu, HGN concludes his appointment as Pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish, Wilson; St. Mary Parish, Holyrood; and St. Joseph Parish, Dorrance. After ten years of faithful service in the Diocese of Salina Fr. Tony will return to his religious community in India.

Fr. Daryl Olmstead appointed as Parish Administrator of St. Wenceslaus Parish, Wilson; St. Mary Parish, Holyrood; and St. Joseph Parish, Dorrance. Fr. Olmstead is concluding his current canonical appointment as Parish Administrator of St. Mary, Queen of Angels Parish, Russell and St. Mary Help of Christians Parish, Gorham.

Fr. Brian McCaffrey concludes his service as Chaplain of Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School, Hays, and Priest in Residence of Immaculate

Heart of Mary Parish, Hays, and granted leave for appointment by the Archdiocese for the Military Services in the Navy Chaplain Corps.

Fr. Luke Friess appointed Chaplain of Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School, Hays, and Parochial Vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hays.

Fr. Joshua Werth appointed Pastor of Christ the King Parish, WaKeeney, and St. Michael Parish, Collyer, and Chaplain at the Ellsworth and Norton Correctional Facilities. Fr. Werth is transferred from his canonical appointment as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Norton and St. Joseph Parish, New Almelo.

Fr. Vinner Raj, HGN appointed Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Norton and St. Joseph Parish, New Almelo.

Fr. Ernest Amoake-Opare concludes his service as Pastor of Christ the King Parish, WaKeeney, and St. Michael Parish, Collyer. Fr. Ernest will continue as Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Hill City and St. Joseph Parish, Damar.

Fr. Vincent John, CMI appointed Pastor of St. Mary, Queen of Angels Parish, Russell and St. Mary Help of Christians Parish, Gorham.

Fr. Rich Daise concludes his service as a member of the in solidum team of priests who pastor the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis; St. Joseph Parish, Bird City; St. John Nepomucene Parish, Beardsley; Sacred Heart Parish, Atwood; and St. Mary Parish, Herndon. Fr. Daise is appointed priest-in-residence at St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Hoxie, where Fr. Brian Lager serves as pastor.

Fr. Henry Saw Lone concludes his service as a member and Moderator of the in solidum team of priests who pastor the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis; St. Joseph Parish, Bird City; St. John Nepomucene Parish, Beardsley; Sacred Heart Parish, Atwood; and St. Mary Parish, Herndon. Fr. Saw Lone is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Atwood; St. John Nepomucene Parish, Beardsley; and St. Mary Parish, Herndon.

Fr. Fred Gruber appointed Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Atwood; St.

TITLE OF STORY

Recently, I attended a retreat with fifteen other bishops from Missfor his wonderful four volume commentary on the Gospel of Matthew and his book, "The Way of the Disciple."

Of all the things that he said that touched my heart--and there ast year, we invited Fr. John Riccardo of ACTS XXIX to our second annual Eucharistic Conference to discuss the Rescue Project, which is based on four themes: Created, Captured, Rescued, and Response.

I want to encourage you to partake or start a Bible study based on the Rescue Project beginning during Lent. Please invite someone who may not be responding to God's love for them. We all have a desire to grow closer to God. As you pray and think about what you want to do for Lent, consider forming or joining a small group to

experience the Rescue Project together. Small groups are a simple but powerful way to encounter Jesus, build real communi-

ty, and talk honestly about the deeper

questions of life. Even two or three people meeting in a home or classroom can make a meaningful difference.

You can use groups you already have--Bible studies, menhas for each of us. Atum quis tent qui bla iducia aut pore magnam nihitio de niat qui dus.

Et isit faccupit assedi conseqe volut eum expellorro que cus, que nonsed quam, assini tem alibus molo blacium quate audis vent amendae nulluptatus rehenis duci dolut fuga. Orrum, quatiat emperfe remque dolum reritiatet doles rerspiendes intus sitatemqui tempere pratum hicilorem landigendis aut di ulparum fugiasperum doluptured ut earciur



GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE

John Nepomucene Parish, Beardsley; and St. Mary Parish, Herndon.

Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos appointed Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Francis, St. Joseph Parish, Bird City in addition to his current canonical appointment as Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Goodland and Holy Ghost Parish, Sharon Springs.

Fr. Mathias Kalemba with the concurrence of the Most Reverend Paul Ssemogerere, Archbishop of Kampala (Uganda), appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Goodland and Holy Ghost Parish, Sharon Springs.

Fr. Steven Songa appointed Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Colby; St. Joseph Parish, Oakley; St. Paul Parish, Angelus; St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Hoxie; and St. Martin of Tours Parish, Seguin.

Other Decrees:

On March 23, 2026, Bishop Vincke decreed the

official website of the Diocese of Salina to be the place of publication for the valid promulgation of Diocesan Acts, effective immediately (cf. Prot. No. GV 2026-010).

On March 23, 2026, Bishop Vincke decreed the establishment of the Cor Jesu Public Clerical Association of the Christian Faithful of Diocesan Right in the Diocese of Salina, approving the Statutes of the Association, and appointing Reverend Cesar Bertolaci as the Association's first Moderator, effective March 25, 2026 (cf. Prot. No. GV 2026-012).

On May 13, 2026, Bishop Vincke established the norm that all baptized children who have completed the seventh year of age should receive the Sacraments of Confirmation together with First Eucharist beginning May 20, 2029, and granted the necessary faculties to Confirm during the period of transition beginning May 13, 2026 (cf. Prot. No. GV 2026-021).

Ordinations to coincide with national consecration to the Sacred Heart

BY LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

On June 12, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, two men will be ordained to the priesthood; however, they get to share their special day with an even more special occasion.

Deacon Luke Friess and Deacon Benjamin King have long awaited their ordination. Originally scheduled for a few weeks earlier, the ordination date was moved to 2 p.m. on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, placing their “yes” to the priesthood within a moment of great significance for the Catholic Church.

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This year, that devotion takes on added meaning as it coincides with the United States’ 250th anniversary.

In this milestone year, the U.S. bishops are inviting the faithful across the country to join them in consecrating the United States, their homes, and parishes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His loving care.

It is fitting that these ordinations take place under the patronage of the Sacred Heart. Jesus calls priests to love and shepherd from the heart.



This devotion to the Sacred Heart has deep roots in the Church. In the 17th century, Jesus revealed His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, entrusting her with a message of His immense love and mercy, along with promises for those who honor His Heart.

Among these promises is a special blessing for families who welcome His image into their homes and strive to live in devotion to Him.

While Bishop Vincke will celebrate a diocesan consecration at a later time, families are encouraged to mark this feast of the Sacred Heart by consecrating their own homes and hearts.

The beauty of this devotion is its simplicity. It requires no elaborate

preparation and can take place at any time. What matters most is the intention: to place Christ at the center of the home. Below are steps to consecrate your home.

1. Prepare your home and hearts

Choose a place in your home where images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be clearly visible. Take time as a family to pray and, if possible, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand.

2. Gather for prayer

Come together as a family. If a priest or deacon is available, you may invite him, but this is not necessary.

3. Proclaim the Word

Read a passage of Scripture, such as John 19:31–37, recalling the pierced Heart of Christ and grounding your devotion in His Word.

4. Enthroned the images

Place the images in their place of honor, as a visible sign that Christ reigns in your home.

5. Pray the Act of Consecration

Offer the following prayer to dedicate your home and family:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, to Thee I consecrate and offer up my person and my life, my actions, trials, and sufferings, that my entire being may henceforth only be employed in loving, honoring and glorifying Thee. This is my irrevocable will, to belong entirely to Thee, and to do all for Thy love, renouncing with my whole heart all that can displease Thee.

I take Thee, O Sacred Heart, for the sole object of my love, the protection of my life, the pledge of my salvation, the remedy of

my frailty and inconstancy, the reparation for all the defects of my life, and my secure refuge at the hour of my death.

Be Thou, O Most Merciful Heart, my justification before God Thy Father, and screen me from His anger which I have so justly merited. I fear all from my own weakness and malice, but placing my entire confidence in Thee, O Heart of Love, I hope all from Thine infinite Goodness.

Annihilate in me all that can displease or resist Thee. Imprint Thy pure love so deeply in my heart that I may never forget Thee or be separated from Thee.

I beseech Thee, through Thine infinite Goodness, grant that my name be engraved upon Thy Heart, for in this I place all my happiness and all my glory, to live and to die as one of Thy devoted servants. Amen.

6. Live it daily

This consecration is not a single moment, but a way of life. Live it out with love and trust in God.



Learn more about the Sacred Heart on the Salina Diocese website.

Contact your agent to learn more:



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Hoxie faith community provides support for mothers and babies in need

By LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

The entire month of May is dedicated to Mary, the mother of our Lord. As the nation also celebrated Mother's Day earlier this month, it is a fitting time to reflect on the many ways communities come together to support mothers and families with compassion.

In the town of Hoxie, this compassion is abundantly shown through the generous support of community and volunteers towards Pregnancy Pathways, a nonprofit that offers guidance, practical help, and hope for women navigating pregnancy and early motherhood.

Founded with a mission to serve pregnant women and their babies, Pregnancy Pathways provides meaningful, real-life support to those in need. From January through April of this year alone, the organization has assisted families on approximately 60 occasions—each one representing a moment of care, connection, and compassion.

"We are whatever the voice on the other end of the phone or the person standing in front of us needs us to be in every possible



COURTESY PHOTO

In March, Meyer was awarded a Life Coaching for Pregnancy Centers certification from Breakthrough Life Academy. This training expands Pregnancy Pathways' services to mothers.

and sustainable way," said Carolyn Meyer, a founder and volunteer at Pregnancy Pathways. "The people we serve are not clients to us—they are friends. They are always the decision-makers and always the ones in charge."

Though Pregnancy Pathways serves families of every background, faith remains central to its mission. Meyer said she often closes phone conversations by offering prayer to those who are open to it.

The organization is also supported by parish volunteers and local groups who continue to provide time, donations, and encouragement for mothers and babies.

One especially meaningful contribution comes from the CYO students at Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, who have spent the past few years creating hand-tied blankets for mothers and infants served through Pregnancy Pathways. Each quilt is unique, allowing mothers to choose one that feels personal to them.

This simple act of making blankets is more than a gesture of kindness; it is a true work of mercy. In the Catholic tradition, caring for the vulnerable is a way of serving Christ Himself, who said, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Through their time and effort, these students offer warmth, dignity, and love to mothers and babies in need.

The St. Frances Cabrini Sodality group also contributes to the cause, hosting an annual baby



COURTESY PHOTO

The Saint Frances Cabrini junior high CYO students donate their time and talent each year to compassionately create quilts for single mothers and their children through Pregnancy Pathways.



item drive from Mother's Day through Father's Day, collecting diapers, clothing, wipes, and other essentials for local families. Meanwhile, the Knights of Columbus continue their longtime support of Pregnancy Pathways through proceeds from the community's annual Right-to-Life BBQ.

For Meyer, these efforts are about more than donations alone. "All these activities help create a culture where life is valued and parenting is honored," she said. "That carries forward through generations."

In addition to valuing life and providing necessities for parents and children, Pregnancy Pathways also provides educational opportunities. Through Bright-Course, new parents can enroll in an online program offering videos on parenting, pregnancy, relationships, and life skills. Partici-

pants can earn points redeemable for baby supplies and household items.

Earlier this year, Meyer completed certification as a life coach for pregnancy centers, allowing the organization to offer additional guidance and support to women navigating difficult circumstances.

"Hope opens the door of opportunity," Meyer said, "but hope is not a strategy. Coaching helps women move from where they are to where they want to be in a safe and supportive setting."

Still, Meyer believes the most important part of the ministry is simply making sure women and families know they are not alone.

"We want to be a place people can turn to when they feel overwhelmed or afraid," she said. "Every child is a gift from God, and every mother deserves support and compassion."

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

June 6

• TMP-M Golf Tournament, Hays.

June 12

• Priestly Ordination for Dcn. Luke Friess and Dcn. Benjamin King, 2 p.m., S.H.C., Salina.

June 14

• Fr. Frank Coady's 50th Ordination Anniversary celebration, STM, Manhattan, 4 p.m.

June 21

• Father's Day.

June 26

• June Moon, Colbert Hills CC, Manhattan, 5 p.m.

Happy Father's Day! June 21, 2026

**God our Father,
bless all earthly fathers
with Your own fatherly
love. May they have hearts
like Saint Joseph,
that they may lead their
families with strength,
patience, and mercy.**



(If you have questions about a listed event, please contact the parish, office or school directly.)

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Jesse Romero**

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~ Directors Steven Surber, John Surber and Don Waddington ~

Diocese honors longtime Catholic educators

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

They have combined for nearly a century of working in education in four different cities in the diocese.

Now, a trio of women who have been diligent, committed warriors for education for decades will take an entirely different look at life when school starts next fall.

Ann Weber, Hays Holy Family Elementary

A former coworker described Weber as “an anchor that stabilized everything.”

“She gave her love to everybody,” said Shirley Dinkel, who taught for 43 years at Holy Family before retiring in 2017. “Anne was soft spoken and respectful to everyone.”

After 15 years teaching at St. Mary's Grade School in Ellis, Weber took that cool, calm and collected composure to Holy Family Elementary in Hays.

She remained a stable force for students early in their education, teaching at either the kindergarten or first-grade level for her 28-year tenure at Holy Family.

Weber said she has always admired St. Therese of Lisieux (also known as the Little Flower), whose motto was “to do small things with great love.”

“I haven't started any clubs, not anything spectacular,” she said. “But I would like to think I helped



Ann Weber

Whatever the season or class project, Cheryl Ostmeyer usually dressed up for the occasion along with her students at St. Joseph Grade School in Oakley.

all those little ones get a good start.”

And that can definitely fall under the term “spectacular,” according to Dinkel.

“I don't think Ann realizes how much of an impact she has on those children and their parents,” Dinkel said, “and other staff as well. She was on a lot of committees, would volunteer to get things done, wherever the school needed her. She

would change grades and switch classrooms to make it easier for everyone.”

Weber said she will probably do some substitute teaching in retirement because “I can't imagine not doing this.”

“I will miss the hugs and all the pictures the kids draw for me,” she said, “and all the ‘hellos.’ The children are just so full of life.”

Cheryl Ostmeyer, Oakley St. Joseph Elementary

After moving around a lot as a child because of her father's job, Ostmeyer was content to put down stakes when she married a third-generation farmer from Oakley.

So “being a farm wife for awhile” after retirement suits her just fine.

She got married in 1981, and

after working as a stay-at-home mom for her four children for several years, Ostmeyer decided to finish her college education through outreach classes when her last child was young.

“I just really wanted to teach,” she said. And that she did, beginning in 1996 after graduating summa cum laude from Fort Hays State University.

There happened to be an opening in kindergarten in her hometown Catholic grade school, where Ostmeyer taught kindergarten for nine years. She then moved up to first grade, where she remained for the rest of her career.

She still plans to fill in and substitute teach, which will make



COURTESY PHOTO

Catholic school students excel in all seasons

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

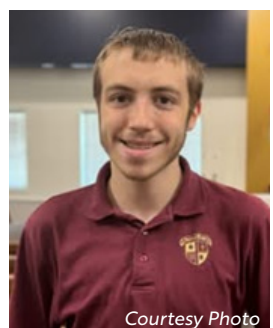
The month of May is usually filled with a plethora of awards for students across our diocese, who have used their gifts and talents to glorify God.

Heading this issue's students' standout work is the list of seniors who were honored at the 43rd Annual Governor's Scholars Awards Program in Topeka earlier this month.

A total of 527 students were selected to earn recognition at a ceremony honoring the top academic 1 percent of Kansas high school seniors.

Students are selected from accredited public and private schools in the state based on their academic achievements over the course of their high school years.

Those selected from schools in the Salina Diocese were: Isaac Berndt, Salina-Sacred Heart; Jenna Brull, Hays/Thomas More Prep-Marian; Edward Horinek, Beloit-St. John's; Cassidy Jahnke,



Isaac Berndt



Jenna Brull



Edward Horinek



Cassidy Jahnke



Isaac Palen

Junction City-St. Francis Xavier; and Isaac Palen, Tipton Catholic.

The scholars received a certificate from Gov. Laura Kelly and official recognition from the prestigious honorary program.

Several other seniors from parishes across the diocese who attend public schools also were named Governor's Scholars.

Blujays 3-peat

Beloit-St. John's won the state championship of the Kansas Environthon for a third straight year.

St. John's, with a student enrollment of 58, accumulated 551 of a

possible 600 points to outdistance runner-up Olathe North (enrol. 1,924) by eight points for the state title.

The environmental education competition tests students' knowledge and skills in five content areas: soils and land, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology and rangeland management.

Members of the winning team, coached by Joe Holdren, who qualified for the National Conservation Founda-

tion Competition this summer in Mississippi, were senior Lynette Gengler; juniors Myra Holdren, Canaan Letourneau and Christiana Newald; and freshman Bosco Holdren.

Tops in Kansas

Beloit-St. John's junior Carson Thomas was the top finisher among Kansas middle and high school students in The Stock Market Game during

the contest that spanned from October 2025 to April 2026.



Carson Thomas

her students happy.

“She is probably the most beloved teacher in the building,” said Michelle Seltzer, principal at St. Joseph’s.

In fact, when 10th-grader Tait Younkin learned that Ostmeyer was retiring, he brought a gift to school for her.

Tait and many other kindergartners and first-graders surely enjoyed the experiential teaching method that defined Ostmeyer, who thrived on having her students involved in hands-on projects.

Seltzer has known Ostmeyer since their college days at Colby Community College and is one of eight principals under whom Ostmeyer has worked during her 30 years at St. Joseph.

“Her positive outlook is hard to miss; she comes into school in the morning all chipper and very ready for the day,” Seltzer said. “And she is one who always jumps in and helps wherever needed.”

While thinking about what she liked the most about teaching in a Catholic school, Ostmeyer said she loves Eucharistic Adoration and Stations of the Cross during Lent and going to daily Mass twice a week, a tradition she plans to continue.

“I have loved being able to add God in my subjects,” she added. “Science, art, no matter what – we can always add Jesus in it.”



Cheryl Ostmeyer

Susan Goodman, Salina Diocesan Chancery

Goodman became accustomed to wearing many hats with Salina Catholic Schools shortly after the turn of the century.

“For more than 20 years, Susan has helped create stability, consistency and support for our school communities,” said Geoff Andrews, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Salina Diocese.

Goodman started serving as a teacher’s aide and helping in her daughter’s classroom as a volunteer at St. Mary Grade School in 2001.

Over the next seven years, she worked in the cafeteria, the school library, the business office and the main office. She also worked as a substitute teacher across the parking lot at Sacred Heart Jr.-Sr. High School.

“I think I had 10 to 12 hats to wear at different times,” she said with a laugh.

Her ability to tackle multiple tasks proved beneficial when she took over the position of education coordinator for the Catholic schools of the Salina Diocese in 2020.

Goodman was instrumental in computerizing and standardizing a lot of the programs both in the chancery and throughout the diocesan school district.

Andrews said what has always stood out to him was “her responsiveness and commitment both



Susan Goodman



COURTESY PHOTO

Sitting at a table among her students was a common practice for Ann Weber, who is retiring after a 43-year teaching career at Ellis County Catholic grade schools.

helping others.”

“No matter how busy things became, Susan was always ready to serve our schools,” he said. “(Everyone) knew they could call on her for guidance, encouragement and practical solutions. She had a unique ability to take complicated processes and make them manageable for people.”

While she has enjoyed her career in education, Goodman said “it’s the right time” to retire.

“I’ll miss the chapel and the prayer services and doing the chaplet at 3:00,” she said. “But I’m excited to be able to get more mobile and do things I have put off.”

“I’m looking forward to throwing away my alarm clock,” she added.



Carson grew his \$100,000 initial portfolio to \$121,624.15 over the course of the school year. He participated in The Stock Market Game as part of the Personal Finance class taught by Jeff Bates.

Thomas is the sixth St. John’s student in the past five years to place in the top three among all Kansas students in the stock market contest, which is sponsored by the Kansas Council for Economic Education.

Budding entrepreneurs

Several students from diocesan schools won cash awards at last month’s Kansas State Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge at the K-State campus in Manhattan.

The students made three presentations of their business plans to six total judges.

Leading the way for the diocesan schools was Mattias Marintzer, a junior at Hays/TMP-Marian, who took home \$2,000 after receiving top 10 Exemplary honors with his business “Triple M Lawns.”

Also from TMP-M, junior Emily



COURTESY PHOTO

Youth Entrepreneurs Emily Hipp, Faith Schmeidler and Mattias Marintzer.

Hipp and sophomore Faith Schmeidler each won \$1,500 for their top 10 finals honors – Emily for her business “Hipp & Hem” and Faith for her business “Dawn to Dusk.”

Junior Canaan Letourneau from Beloit-St. John’s won a \$500 award for the presentation of his business “Rocking L Leather.”

State forensics

Senior Jenna Brull, Hays/TMP-Marian, closed out her high school forensics career in style.

A four-year state qualifier, Jenna had broken into semifinals her sophomore and junior years but



COURTESY PHOTO

St. John’s, Beloit, won the state Environthon, making this the school’s third state win in a row for the competition.

didn’t make it to finals.

She qualified for state again this year, broke into finals and wound up finishing fifth in informative

speaking at the Class 2A State Speech and Drama Championships on May 2 in Sedgwick.

AROUND THE *diocese*



Seven Dolors, Manhattan, First Holy Communion, April 12



Seven Dolors, Manhattan, First Holy Communion, April 12



Sacred Heart, Atwood, First Holy Communion



St. Theresa, Mankato, First Holy Communion, April 25



St. Thomas Aquinas, Stockton, First Holy Communion, April 26



St. Mary's, Ellis, First Holy Communion, April 12



St. Mary's, Ellis, Easter Vigil, April 4



St. Francis of Assisi, Munjor, Confirmation, April 26

Editor's Note: Names have been left out of these pictures out of respect for student privacy.



St. Joseph, Oakley and St. Paul, Angelus, Confirmation



St. Joseph, Oakley, First Holy Communion, April 19



St. Joseph, Oakley, First Holy Communion, April 26



St. Michael, Chapman, First Holy Communion, April 26



St. Joseph, Damar, First Holy Communion, May 3



Christ the King, WaKeeney, April 4



St. John, Logan, First Holy Communion, April 13



St. Mary, Smith Center, First Holy Communion, April 12



St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Osborne, First Holy Communion, April 26



St. Anthony, Schoenchen, First Holy Communion, May 3



St. Thomas More, Manhattan, First Holy Communion, April 12



St. John the Baptist, Beloit, First Holy Communion, April 12



St. Mary, Clifton, First Holy Communion, April 26



St. Francis Xavier, Junction City, First Holy Communion



St. John, Logan, Easter Sunday



St. Andrew, Abilene, First Holy Communion



St. John the Baptist, Beloit, Easter Vigil

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Couples gather 'Together in Holiness'

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

About 40 couples in the Diocese of Salina participated in a marriage enrichment retreat last month in Hays. The first-time event for the diocese was sponsored by the John Paul II (JP2) Foundation.

The JP2 Foundation is "a national Catholic apostolate proclaiming the Good News about life and family through education and formation."

The foundation, whose headquarters are in Houston, Texas, operates under the motto of St. John Paul II: "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."

Victoria Saenz, executive director of the Houston Institute, started the day with a talk on the "Holy Eucharist and the Domestic Church."

The second presentation, "Strengthening the Spirituality of your Domestic Church," featured a local couple, Deacon Bill Meagher and his wife, Mandy, who live in Hays.

Dcn. Bill is director of the Office of Family Life



COURTESY PHOTOS

Couples got the opportunity for adoration, confession, Mass, and formation during the "Together in Holiness" Conference in Hays.

for the Diocese of Salina, and Mandy is principal of Holy Family Elementary in Hays.

"I love talking about the domestic church," Dcn. Bill said. "And with Mandy's experience with the Catholic school side of parents with young children, we knew we could come up with some good examples."



"Daily life, relationships and habits are all things throughout the normal day are all a part of the domestic church," Mandy said.

Throughout the day,

couples had the opportunity for confession and Eucharistic Adoration.

Renzo and Monica Ortega, co-founders of the Catholic marriage apostolate "Two Become Family," concluded the presentations with one called "Sacrificial Love is Sanctifying Love." The couples then all attended Mass, where they received a blessing from Bishop Jerry Vincke.

Paul Flesher and his wife, Melia, have been married for about two and a half years and were interested in attending when they learned about the event. Paul

asked his parents, Mike and Paula Flesher, if they wanted to join them.

Since they all live in Hays, they all agreed to attend as a family.

"We really enjoyed the whole day," Paula Flesher

said, "especially the Meaghers' talk. It was so real-life. You realize that families have the same things going on as we did while raising kids."

"And that's been a while," she said, adding that she and Mike have been married for 43 years and raised three children in Hays.

The Meaghers are the parents of three teenagers, and it was obvious that couples at the retreat could relate to what they were hearing.

From the beginning of their presentation, folks all around the room could be seen nodding their heads, some giving their spouses a nudge and a smile.

"Some of the things they talked about as parents, we would think 'we did that.' But we didn't know it was a good thing back then," Paula Flesher said. "You realize that all families have a lot going on while raising kids. It was refreshing to hear their personal stories. It made us see that maybe we were more normal than we thought."

Neighbor to Neighbor building enters new chapter of faith-based service

BY DEANNA KYMER
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS,
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

Neighbor to Neighbor Women's Center will transition to new ownership this summer, as Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas assumes operations in July.

Neighbor to Neighbor was established in 2010 after the Sisters of St. Joseph purchased the building in Concordia with a vision of offering compassionate service to the community. Built in 1888, the historic property has served many purposes over the years—from a bar and roller skating rink to an auto dealership, Sears Catalog Center, and most recently, a TV and appliance store. Following extensive renovations, it reopened as a welcoming space dedicated to supporting women and children and addressing unmet needs within the community.

Over the years,

Neighbor to Neighbor has become both a part of the neighborhood and a place that fosters community. Children have been welcomed into its spacious playroom and monthly "Reading with Friends" story times, where families receive free books and are encouraged to cultivate a love of reading. Adults have found opportunities for connection and growth through retreats, educational programs and classes, as well as access to essential services such as laundry facilities.

From its earliest days, Neighbor to Neighbor has been sustained by the generous support of the community and friends of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Grants, donations, volunteer service, and shared talents have all played a vital role in bringing its mission to life.

"Serving at Neighbor to Neighbor with Sisters Pat, Jean, and Ramona and

Myrna Shelton was a wonderful experience. These women taught me so much about seeing, appreciating, and serving the dear neighbor with great respect and deep appreciation. The daily experience of meeting our women and children has been a reminder of God's presence in so many ways. I will really miss these encounters," said Sister Missy Ljungdahl, CSJ, current administrative assistant.

While community needs have evolved since Neighbor to Neighbor first opened its doors, the need for compassionate, accessible services remains. Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is prepared to continue and expand this important work.

Guided by its mission to provide compassionate service to all people in need, Catholic Charities serves individuals and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



COURTESY PHOTO

The Neighbor to Neighbor building in Concordia will soon enter a new chapter in its legacy of service. The site will remain a center for compassionate support and family services in the area.

BAPTISMS

Bernadette Marie Allen, daughter of Quinn and Mariana Allen, was baptized April 26, 2026, by Fr. Trevor Buster at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Anna Kay Blundon, daughter of Jeffrey Blundon and Jackilyn Ann (Zenger) Blundon, was baptized April 11, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Cecilia Ann Brull, daughter of Lucas and Megan Brull, was baptized on March 15, 2026, by Fr. Earl Befort, OFM Cap., at St. Catherine Church in Catharine.

Evie Lyn Burks, daughter of Jacob and Haley Burks, was baptized May 2, 2026, by Fr. Charles Oppong at St. Theresa Church in Mankato. Godparents are Caleb Burks and Emily Dameron.

Kennedy Jean Dieckmann, daughter of Andrew and Maura Dieckmann, was baptized March 1, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Logan Jane Dreiling, daughter of Michael Dreiling and Madison White, was baptized April 19, 2026, by Fr. Andy Hammeke at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Jude Joseph Eastes, son of Jacob and Kayle (Campbell) Eastes, was baptized April 18, 2026, by Fr. Nicholas L. Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Walter "Walt" Floyd Gasper, son of Austin and Sadie (Dinkel) Gasper, was baptized April 19, 2026, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Liam Loch Hodge, son of Hunter and Jill (Moeder) Hodge, was baptized April 11, 2026, by Fr. Nicholas L. Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Sabina Hoffman and Daniel Hodges were received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Fr. Earl Befort, OFM Cap., on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. They both received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Lucas Kenney (OCIA) was baptized April 4, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Charles Stephan Konz, son of Gus and Kelsey (Peterson) Konz, was baptized April 26, 2026, by Fr. Damian Richards at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays.

Jenna Leigh Lutgen, daughter of David and Cara Lutgen, was baptized April 26, 2026, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

Connor Steven McCarthy, son of Matthew and Courtney McCarthy, was baptized April 5, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Mattie Violet McCarthy, daughter of Matthew and Courtney McCarthy, was baptized April 5, 2026, by Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

Bailey Jean Mead (OCIA) was baptized April 4, 2026,

by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Kenadee Mead, daughter of Kevin Mead and Bailey (Latta) Mead, was baptized April 4, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Amber Risher (OCIA) was baptized April 4, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Ariana Isabella Von Feldt, daughter of Brian and Georgia (Barraza) Von Feldt, was baptized April 26, 2026, by Fr. Nicholas L. Parker at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Beckett Michael Walker, son of Joshua and Kaylie (Reeh) Walker, was baptized March 15, 2026, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Kal Whitmer, child of Brian Whitmer and Krista (Pasek) Whitmer, was baptized April 11, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

WEDDINGS

Tate James Bruggeman and Jennifer Kinderknecht were married on April 19, 2026, at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center. Fr. Michael Leiker witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Paul Gene Bruggeman and Karla Marie Hollis. Parents of the bride are Gilbert Kinderknecht and Cheryl Briney. Witnesses were Alan Bruggeman and Jenna Hynck.

Braden Dameron and Emily Genereux were married April 11, 2026, at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Matt Davied witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Dale and Janet Gengler. Parents of the bride are William and Wendy Genereux. Witnesses were Colton Vajnar and Jamie Kuhlman.

Robert Elliott-Slagle Irwin and Madison Kylee Benjamin were married April 11, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Darrell and Gloria Irwin. Parents of the bride are Arthur and Angela Benjamin. Witnesses were John Murphy and Izzy Pfund.

Joshua Francis Keating and Makenna Julia Jensen were married April 18, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Jeffrey and Joan Keating. Parents of the bride are Jason and Melissa Jensen. Witnesses were Jacob Keating and Samantha Jensen.

Alejandro Lopez, Jr. and Jennifer Acosta Williams were married April 25, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Alejandro and Leticia Lopez. Parents of the bride are Gary and Gail Williams. Witnesses were Alexander Lopez and Shea Sayers.

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SEND US YOUR INFO!

To submit a baptism, wedding, or funeral announcement to The Register, please email details to Lori Garcia at theregister@salinadiocese.org

Photos from parishes' Easter, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation celebrations are shared in the May and June editions of The Register as space allows, and may be submitted to the same email address for consideration.

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FUNERALS

Carolyn Ann Gatschet, 90, Hays, died April 9, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 15 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet and Fr. Nick Parker presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Hudson Cole Lawrence Gottschalk was born and passed away March 21, 2026. A memorial service was held March 27 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Roy Junior Hamel, 92, Clifton, died April 5, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 16 at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Fr. Andrew Rockers presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde.

Larry R. Heyka, 79, died March 22, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 9 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Donald D. Zimmerman presided. Inurnment at Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

John Edgar Johnson, 69, died April 18, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 21 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

Leroy Joseph Meis, 83, Victoria, died April 12, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 18 at St. Catherine Church in Catharine. Burial in St. Catherine Cemetery.

Bruce P. Mignano, 90, died April 6, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 14 at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan. Fr. Frank Coady presided. Inurnment at Kansas Veterans Cemetery, Manhattan.

Joseph Richard "Joe" Moore died January 16, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 18 at Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell. Fr. James M. Thomas presided. Burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Grinnell.

Mary Ann Florence Roberts, 98, died April 13, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 18 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery, Beloit.

Audrey Jean Scanlan, 90, died April 2, 2026. Funeral service was April 17 at St. Michael's Church in Chapman. Fr. Peter O'Donnell presided. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Chapman.

Gina Lee (Wolters) Schamberger, 62, died April 2, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 8 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Fr. Brian Lager, Fr. Dan Scheetz, Fr. Frederick Gruber and Fr. Kade Megafin presided. Burial in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

Eleanor Joan Richmond Silhan, 94, died April 9, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 16 at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Burial in St. John Nepomucene Catholic Cemetery, Pilsen.

Annette Marie Smith, 86, died April 18, 2026. Funeral

Mass was celebrated April 27 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial was in Asherville Cemetery, Asherville, KS.

Jerry James Sorell, 82, died April 7, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 17 at St. John the Baptist Church in Clyde. Fr. Andrew Rockers and Fr. Joseph Kiefer presided. Inurnment in Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clyde.

Gregory John Wiesner, 77, died March 27, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated April 18 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided.

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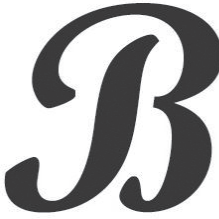
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NEW OWNERSHIP, FROM PG. 13

families across 31 counties in north central and northwest Kansas, offering assistance with personal care and basic needs, financial and housing support, and pregnancy and adoption services—regardless of faith or background.

Beginning July 1, Neighbor to Neighbor will become Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas in Concordia, transitioning into a family support center and expanding the organization's presence in the region. This next chapter reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that vital services remain available and accessible for those who need them most in Cloud County and surrounding communities.

While the name will change, many of the programs and services the community has come to rely on will continue. The Reading with Friends program will remain in place, and shower and laundry services will still be available by appointment. Other legacy services will also continue,

ensuring continuity of care for individuals and families who depend on them.

To allow for a thoughtful transition, the facility will temporarily close during the month of July following the change in ownership. Catholic Charities plans to reopen the location in the fall, with additional details to be shared in the coming months.

"We are deeply grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph for their trust and partnership in this transition," said Megan Robl, executive director of Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas. "Their legacy of compassion and service has made a lasting impact in Concordia. We are honored to build upon that foundation and are excited to expand our reach to better serve individuals and families in this community and the surrounding areas."

Catholic Charities emphasizes that this transition is rooted in collaboration and continuity. The



Neighbor to Neighbor

A center for women & women with young children

organization looks forward to working alongside local partners and agencies to support existing services and strengthen the network of care available in Concordia.

Community members are invited to a public open house at Neighbor to Neighbor, 103 East 6th Street, on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

As plans move forward, Catholic Charities will share more information about services, programs, and reopening details. Community members with questions are encouraged to contact the Catholic Charities Salina office at 785-825-0208.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

St. Anthony of Padua was a kind and holy man who lived many years ago in Portugal. When he was born, his name was Fernando, and he loved learning about God from a very young age. As he grew up, he became a Franciscan priest and changed his name to Anthony.

Anthony wanted to share God's message with others, so he traveled from place to place teaching people. Many people listened to him because he explained things in a simple and loving way. He cared especially about helping poor people and those who felt forgotten.

One well-known story says that a stolen book was returned after Anthony prayed for the thief to do the right thing. The man felt sorry and brought it back. Because of this, St. Anthony is often called upon when people misplace important items.



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FEAST DAY: JUNE 13

Through the kindness and miracles he performed, St. Anthony became very loved. Today, he is a patron saint of lost things, travelers, and the poor, and he is remembered for his compassion, wisdom, and faith.

A hundred million dollars

I had a friend say to me recently, "If I just had \$100 million, I think I could finally live in peace. No stress. I could do what's right and not worry about what people think."

And I laughed... but also didn't.

Because if I'm honest, there's a part of me that thinks that way too. Maybe not \$100 million, but something—like if this pressure were gone, or that situation were easier, or I didn't have to deal with certain people, then I'd be free to finally live the way I know I should.

But the more I've prayed about it—and trust me, I'm still trying to figure this out—the more I think that's just not true.

Jesus didn't die on the cross so that someday, if everything lines up, we could finally be free. He did it so we could live in that freedom right now.

And I'll be the first to admit, I don't always live

like that.

I still worry about what people think. I still hesitate. I still struggle to do what I know is right because I don't want

to deal with the fallout.

At times, I've got one foot trying to follow Jesus and the other foot still trying to live by the world's rules. Hopefully, you've figured that out better than I have.

But when I look at the saints, or even just the early Church, there's no question they lived with the kind of freedom we are called to live. They didn't live that way because life was easy—it definitely wasn't—but because they really believed this life wasn't the end, that heaven was real, and that what Jesus did actually changed everything.

And I know that's true. So then I have to ask

myself: what am I so afraid of? More importantly, what am I afraid to lose?

At the end of the day, everything I stress about is going to pass away. The opinions, the pressure, the situations—it's all temporary. But eternity isn't. And because of that, I should be able to live like a guy playing with house money.

So if you are like me and struggle with this sometimes, let's pray for each other. Let's pray that one day soon we can do what's right, love people well, and become who we're called to be, living with the freedom that comes from knowing we really have nothing to lose because Jesus has already taken care of what matters most.

I'm not there yet. I'm working on it, probably slower than I'd like. But I

do know this—we can't wait for \$100 million to finally live free. We don't need the money because Jesus already bought us that freedom, and it cost

Him His life. Now it's up to us to trust Him enough to actually live like free people, becoming who God created us to be.

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Prayer for a Safe and Fruitful Harvest

Lord God, Creator of all things, you have entrusted the earth to our care and bless the work of human hands.

We ask you to watch over all those who labor in the fields during this harvest season. Keep them safe from harm, protect them in their work, and grant them strength and perseverance.

Bless the crops of our land, and grant us a rich and abundant harvest. May the fruits of the earth be gathered safely and serve the needs of all your people, especially those who are poor and in need.

Through your goodness, may this harvest remind us of your providence and care, and draw our hearts in gratitude to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



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