



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

JUNE 26, 2026

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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All in God's Timing 2026 ordination one to remember

MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Bishop Gerald Vincke ordained Benjamin King and Luke Friess to the priesthood June 12 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

In the end, it was well worth the wait. A higher power made sure this year's ordination for priesthood for the Diocese of Salina went on as planned.

Much like the eye of a storm, the June 12 ceremony for Father Luke Friess and Fr. Benjamin King was calm, peaceful and serene at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

A major storm had blown through Salina a few days earlier, leaving behind much destruction in its wake and cutting power to virtually the entire city.

Ordination Day dawned sunny to a grateful scenario following an anxious week of waiting to learn when electrical power would be restored to the cathedral.

People came from all around the state, from other states as well and even some from Rome to witness the ordination. For at least two hours in a standing-room-only crowd of all ages in the spacious cathedral, people could forget the turbulent week that preceded this glorious event.

As crews worked furiously to restore power to the city, the area where the cathedral is located took a bit longer to get power reinstated. So alternative plans for the ordination and reception were made to be held at another city parish – St. Mary Queen of the Universe.

Power was restored to the cathedral late Thursday evening – less than 24 hours before the start of the ordination Mass. Therefore, the Mass went on as scheduled at Sacred Heart, with the first blessings by the new priests and reception at St. Mary's.

Fr. Luke visited about his upcoming ordination a week before the event. One of his comments about his personal journey also could have described the series of events that would immediately precede his ordination.

"It reminds me that the Lord has His plan, His timing," he said. "He doesn't waste anything. Whatever he allows to happen, he brings good out of it."

Bishop Gerald Vincke's homily also could have had double meaning.

"God provided for us in a very special way; thank God for choosing these two men to become priests," Bishop Vincke said as he referred to Jesus' parable of building a house on a rock.

"Even in the strongest wind," he added, "Jesus' Sacred Heart is a solid rock."

Fr. Luke Friess

Fr. Luke grew up in Hoxie, attended Benedictine College in Atchison, where he decided to explore the possibility of becoming a priest.

After five years in seminary, he left seminary formation for two years for more discernment.

Before resuming his studies at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, Fr. Luke spent a pastoral year at St. John the Baptist Parish in Beloit, which also has a Catholic school that serves students preK-grade 12.

"That whole year at St. John's was one of the most blessed years in seminary for me," he said. "Being part of their school was part of that, so this next year will be a blessing."

Fr. Luke was referring to his first assignment in the diocese as a priest. As of July 1, he will take over as parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Hays and serve as chaplain across town at Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School.

He said he is looking forward to "serving in this diocese that I love and have grown up in."

"I think Fr. Nick (Parker) will be a great mentor at IHM," Fr. Luke said, "and to get to work at a Catholic school right away after ordination. ... I feel really blessed."

Both Fr. Luke and Fr. Benjamin said Mass at their home parishes on Sunday – Fr. Luke at St. Frances of Cabrini in Hoxie and Fr. Benjamin at St. Thomas More in Manhattan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Fr. Luke Friess

An invitation to encounter Jesus



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 2026

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BEAR WOZNICK

FR. MATTHIAS THELEN

BISHOP VINCKE

SUMMER MISSION TEAMS



Prayer and Action

(L-R) Emma Roberts, Christopher LaRocque, Ella Juenemann, Adam Bates, Marlia Jimenez, and Augustine Hanson.



Totus Tuus

Back: Joshua Juenemann, Jos Nguyen, Thomas Braun, Levi Wellbrock, Landon Vorhies, Ethan Weiner, Ezekiel Weiner, Grant Stephens, Jackson Hartman, and Gabriel Friess. Front: Jane Letourneau, Joni Begnoche, Clare McKain, Hannah Zarybnicky, Sydney Goetz, Jalyssa Sabatka, Logann Arnoldy, Kynli Koenigsman, Keely Klinge, Savana Rumbach, Alliana Thomasson, and Felicity Clark.

Someone recently asked me about the importance of adoration and why I encourage people, especially young people, to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament.

I think that every bishop would say that he loves his people, and I certainly do. I love being bishop of the Diocese of Salina, and I love the people of our diocese. When you love someone, you really want what is best for them. More than anything, I want our people to experience the greatest lover, the greatest of loves, Jesus and His presence in the Eucharist.

That's really why we started our Eucharistic Conference several years ago. We really want what's best for our people. We want to provide opportunities for people to encounter the love of Christ in a special way.

This year I'm particularly excited about the conference because my friend from Michigan, Fr. Matthias Thelen, will be our keynote speaker on Friday evening, July 31. Fr. Matthias has experienced a great deal of suffering in his life, and he speaks from the heart about how Jesus meets us in our

struggles and reveals His love to us.

I'm excited for you to hear the many wonderful speakers throughout the conference,

but the most important thing is the opportunity to encounter Jesus and His love.

So often our lives are filled with distractions. We're running around very busy. We have so many things that we turn to and we get distracted. Whether it's social media, our phones, or countless other activities, these things can easily consume our attention. While they may have their place, they ultimately fail to satisfy us.

Jesus is saying, "Come to me, come to me. I want to give you my peace, my joy."

When it comes down to it, we are all longing for more in the midst of all the running around. We are searching for more, but then we realize that Jesus is searching for us.

I want to invite everyone to attend this year's Eucharistic Conference on July 31 and August 1 in Hays on the campus of Fort Hays State. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet others, grow in faith, and most importantly, encounter the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Reflecting God's hand in our lives

I often think of God's handiwork in the early summer, as the earth is all in bloom and the crops start growing to the heavens. It's something about sweet sunsets and the rustle of wind in wheat.

Summer is for spending time with gap-toothed toddlers at T-ball games and with sweet friends at backyard barbecues.

We live in a beautiful world, with beautiful things and beautiful people. Life is beautiful, and it has a way of reflecting the Creator's hand.

Pope Leo XIV recently published his encyclical,

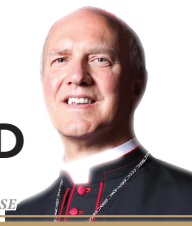
Magnifica Humanitas, and it has prompted me to

think even more about that idea of seeing the hand of the Creator. We, as miniatures of that Creator, have a duty to reflect Him in our work as well.

The pope's recent writing focuses on the use of AI. He doesn't say that all technology is bad, just that we need to prioritize in our use: "The dignity of the human person, the universal destination of goods, the preferential option for the poor, care for our common home and peace."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



LORI Garcia
EDITOR, THE REGISTER



ORDINATIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Diocesan priests applaud newly-ordained Fathers Luke Friess and Benjamin King. The new priests then traveled to St. Mary's Church in Salina for first blessings and a reception.

Fr. Benjamin King

BY LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

Father Benjamin King has a heart like Christ. It's fitting, then, that his ordination took place on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Fitting, also, that his service as a priest will be in the Cor Jesu Apostolate, whose name means "Heart of Jesus" in Latin. The apostolate's ministry focuses on retreats, spiritual direction and serving from the heart.

Now assigned to serve on retreats and in a special way provide guidance for the students at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan, Fr. Benjamin wants his ministry to help young people encounter Christ and take holiness seriously.

"I hope my ministry helps every person to say, 'I really want to be a saint,'" Fr. Benjamin said.

Raised in a Catholic family, Fr. Benjamin described his upbringing as faithful but ordinary. He

attended Mass every Sunday, received the sacraments, and attended Catholic school through middle school. During high school, he first sensed a call to priesthood, though he admits he spent years trying to ignore it.

After high school, he went to university at Virginia Tech, which led him to a post-graduation job in the financial services industry. Despite his worldly success, he said he felt spiritually unfulfilled.

"I knew, something's got to change," he said.

So, one day, for the first time in a long time, he went to daily Mass. Coincidentally, the priest's homily that day was about vocations and Ignatian spirituality. Inspired by the homily, Fr. Benjamin decided to go on an Ignatian weekend retreat. A decision, he says, that

changed his life.

"I was really convinced that God was calling me to something," he said.

Soon afterward, he resigned from his job and returned home to Virginia, spending time working on his family's hobby farm and training horses while continuing to discern his vocation. He eventually entered formation, beginning more than a decade of preparation for priesthood.

His formation took him to Argentina for five years of philosophy studies and apostolic work before later continuing theological studies in Rome, where he was ordained a deacon in 2023.

Over the past three years as a deacon, he has served on Ignatian retreats across the United States, offering spiritual



Fr. Benjamin King

Fr. Benjamin King bestows a first blessing as priest upon his parents at St. Mary's in Salina.



Bishop Jerry Vincke blesses Fr. Luke Friess before the altar during his ordination to the priesthood.



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

The candidates lay prostrate before the altar in Sacred Heart Cathedral. This symbolizes a total surrender to God and humility before assuming the office of priesthood.

direction and accompanying young people in their faith journeys.

He said one of the greatest gifts of priesthood that he is looking forward to is being able to accompany people through difficult moments and help them encounter Christ's mercy directly, especially through confession.

"There might be a person who just needs the right word at the right time," Fr. Benjamin said. "As a priest, to be an instrument of Christ's grace in that sacramental way, especially for young people struggling with shame, sadness, or addiction, that's something I really look forward to."

Fr. Benjamin said authentic service as a priest

begins with listening and understanding what matters most to the person in front of him.

"When Christ encounters people in the Gospel, He catches them where they're at," he said. "I want to connect with young people by finding out what's important to them. Sometimes even what they themselves don't realize is important."

Fr. Benjamin says he is eager to continue in this new chapter in his vocation, and he invites all who are considering a religious vocation to discern with openness to God's will.

He said, "There's absolutely nothing better and nothing more fulfilling than the life God calls you to."

JULY INTENTIONS

Pope Leo's intentions:

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Diocesan intentions:

For the hopeless, restless, and helpless—May God grant them peace of heart, mind, and spirit.

BISHOP'S JULY CALENDAR

- 8-10 Encounter Conference.
- 18 Catholic Charities Green Tie Event, Salina Catholic Charities.
- 19 150th Volga Celebration Mass, St. Catherine Church, Catharine, 9 a.m.
- 29 Seminarian Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Salina.
- 30 Seminarian Dinner, City Limits, Colby.
- 31 Eucharistic Conference, Fort Hays State University Campus, Hays.

Fr. Coady receives Blessed McGivney Award, celebrates golden jubilee

By LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

Father Frank Coady celebrated 50 years as a priest earlier this month with his parish and friends at St. Thomas More in Manhattan. The celebration marked his golden jubilee and recognized his service to the Diocese of Salina.

Just a month earlier, Fr. Coady was honored at the Kansas Knights of Columbus Convention for that same heart of service to the church and his community.

For Fr. Coady, his lifetime of service traces back to an early call to the priesthood.

"I was the first priest in my family, but I was around plenty of religious people," he said.

Growing up in Russell, he served at Mass often and spent his childhood surrounded by priests and religious sisters. Among them were Capuchin priests from nearby Victoria, who regularly assisted at his parish and first planted the idea of priesthood in his heart.

One of those priests approached him after Mass one day and asked a simple question: had he ever considered becoming a priest?

That thought stuck with him, and soon he was going on retreats and discerning a call to be a Capuchin priest. During high school, however, the bishop at the time asked him to consider becoming a diocesan priest instead, and he said yes.

He went on to complete seminary formation in Denver, spending four years in college and four years in graduate studies before being ordained on June 12, 1976, at St. Mary Church in Russell.

Though he served in many towns and parishes throughout the years, his experiences at his first assignment in Junction City have always stayed with him. His diaconate year had also been in the same place.

"Normally they didn't send you



COURTESY PHOTO

Presenting the award to Fr. Frank Coady is State Deputy Gary Wandra and Mrs. Wandra along with Bishop Jerry Vincke, Bishop of the Salina Diocese of Kansas. State Secretary Kevin Roberts read the award.

back to the same parish after you were ordained," Fr. Coady said, "but when I was ordained, the bishop told me that it just worked out that way. . . I didn't mind, because I loved it in Junction City, and so then I had seven more years there as a priest, and it was a wonderful first assignment."

In addition to his work as a priest, he also used his role as a public figure in the community to enact change.

During his first assignment, he worked with other people toward integrating the fire department in Junction City, at a time when the city was made up of forty percent minorities, and no minorities had ever been hired in the fire department.

"It was a two-year struggle," Fr. Coady said, "but we finally won."

Looking back on the experience, he said, "It kind of toughened my skin about justice, that it's often hard fought. I learned the hard way that power never gives up without a fight, and that kind of formed me for the rest of my priesthood, being willing to

fight for people's rights."

Those commitments to justice, lay ministry and community service have stayed with him, and they were among the reasons Fr. Coady was selected as the recipient of the Kansas Knights of Columbus Blessed Michael J. McGivney Award at the state convention May 1-2.

The award is intended to recognize priests who embody the values of the Knight of Columbus founder.

Kevin Roberts, State Secretary of the Kansas State Council of the Knights of Columbus, said the award for Fr. Coady was well-deserved.

Roberts submitted the nominating application on behalf of Council 8488 in Manhattan, along with assistance from the council's Grand Knight Sean Sorell and Deputy Grand Knight Wade Greif, and help from parish staff.

Roberts, who has known Fr. Coady since the priest was assigned to St. Thomas More in 2015, said the men nominated Fr. Coady because of his service to

the church and to his community.

A self-proclaimed "champion" for lay ministry and social justice, Fr. Coady is involved with his parish and the local Knights of Columbus, but his impact goes beyond the church yard and has ever since his early days as a priest.

"What makes Fr. Coady's ministry unique is how he extends his priesthood far beyond the church walls to impact the fabric of the community," Roberts said. "This approach is highlighted by his work as inaugural president of the Central Kansas Interfaith Justice Organization, where he united clergy from many different congregations across an eight-county region to advocate for the poor and marginalized."

He continued, "Whether utilizing his theological background to train frontline lay ministers across the diocese, enriching civic life through his involvement with the Salina Arts Museum, or rolling up his sleeves for a local council food drive, Fr. Coady's service has helped elevate the human dignity of everyone in the community."

Roberts said Fr. Coady's commitment to service is what made him a natural choice for the award. Fr. Coady, however, says the recognition is secondary to the calling he first embraced as a teenager.

Reflecting on his years of priesthood, Fr. Coady said serving people has been the greatest gift.

"I have tried to be open and generous in serving people, and I have gotten back more than I have given," Fr. Coady said. "When Jesus says in the Gospels, the more you give, the more you receive, that is so true. And I have been given so much, and in response to that I give more, and then I get more, and I give more, and I get more. It's just been a rich, rewarding life."

REFLECTING GOD'S HAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The decision to reflect God in our work, to invite Him into our lives, isn't always easy. But that's how love works. Loving people or God isn't about how they make you feel. It's about choosing the good and doing what's right.

Do our actions with technology choose the good and reflect Christ in our work?

In Pope Leo's encyclical, he cautions each of us to not use technology to cut corners when it is at the expense of human connection and development. He also encourages restraint in using AI to make difficult decisions or ones that could hurt people.

He writes, "So-called artificial intelligences do not undergo experiences, do not possess a body, do not feel joy or pain, do not mature through relationships and do not know from within what love, work, friendship or responsibility mean."

Human life—all human life—and our human experiences, matter. AI can't replace that.

The pope encourages all of us to show restraint therefore in overusing AI, "from that subtle temptation which renders human thought seemingly superfluous precisely when it is most needed."

Let me repeat that: You matter.

The thoughts you think and the words you share are as unique as a fingerprint. They can be mimicked, but a substitution is never exactly the same as an original.

Pope Leo points out that communication, "is not only the transmission of information, but it is also the creation of a culture."

What kind of a culture are we trying to create through our use of technology? What do our words, or lack thereof, say about our culture?

Our world needs to prioritize human life, and our decisions need to be guided by ethical and humanizing reflection.

That reflection, and the subsequent action in our daily lives, is all the pope is asking of us. In Pope Leo's vision, we each can do our part to build a world that reflects who made it. A world that "is not a utopia, but a real possibility."

In all our life-giving summer activities and decisions, I think it can be helpful to take a breath and remember God is still with us. And, as the pope writes, may we witness then to "the grandeur of humanity, in which God has made his dwelling."

The full text of Pope Leo XIV's Magnifica Humanitas can be found online at vatican.va.

Fr. Brian sets sail onto new vocation journey

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Father Brian McCaffrey will see a childhood dream come true this summer.

A priest of the Salina Diocese since 2021, Fr. Brian will head to Rhode Island later this summer for training to become a chaplain for the U.S. Navy.

Fr. Brian, who grew up in Manhattan, said he had a couple of uncles and a great uncle who served in the Navy.

"They would tell me stories" about their experience, he said, "and it fired up my imagination."

That was when Fr. Brian was in middle school, and not long thereafter, he felt the calling to the seminary.

"I had no idea you could be a priest in the military and a diocese, too," he said, "but once I was in seminary, I learned you could do both."

After graduating from the University of Kansas, Fr. Brian continued on his journey and was ordained a priest in 2021.

Knowing the need for priests in the diocese, he never thought much about researching the life of a military chaplain.

"But the desire never left," Fr. Brian said. "Then one day about three years ago, on my heart I felt the conviction that I need to look into this."

He discussed the option with Bishop Jerry Vincke, and "that led



COURTESY PHOTO

Fr. Brian McCaffrey was a familiar sight for students during his time as a school chaplain, even when it meant sitting on the floor.

to a two-year discernment process with me and the bishop. Eventually, we felt this was legitimate to pursue."

After his ordination, Fr. Brian served as chaplain for two different high schools while serving in a local parish in each city – first at St. Mary's Parish and Sacred Heart Jr./Sr. High School in Salina and then at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and Thomas More Prep-Marian Jr./Sr. High School in Hays. He also served as assistant vocations director for the diocese.

Now, he looks forward to his new mission.

"It'll be men and women of the Navy in a much different scene," he said. "But high school teenagers are young adults, and the Navy is made up of young adults."

"And," he added, "the duties of a chaplain don't change too much.

We provide spiritual support, talk to people, counsel people, provide sacraments, just be present to the people."

He was present in a big way for students, said TMP-M Principal Chad Meitner.

"He is a gifted homilist and is very good at building relationships with kids," Meitner said. "Those two things help him build trust – living by word and by action. His homilies were such good messages to our kids, and to all of us."

It was a common sight to see Fr. Brian at a variety of TMP-M events the past two years.

"He sacrificed a lot of his own time to be part of their extracurricular activities," Meitner said.

Fr. Brian will leave Hays later this month and visit family in July before reporting to Newport, R.I.,

in August for three months of training, five weeks of officers' school and seven weeks of chaplain training.

He will remain a priest for the Diocese of Salina and could return to a parish any time after his three-year military term. Following his training, Fr. Brian could be stationed on any naval base in the



MATEA GREGG, COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. McCaffrey, ordained in 2021, is excited about a new journey of becoming a chaplain for the U.S. Navy.

world, on a ship or with the U.S. Marines.

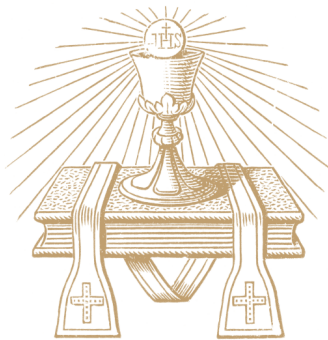
"I really enjoyed my time here and in Salina," he said, "but I'm excited for what's next."

Meitner said he and the students and staff at TMP-M will definitely miss Fr. Brian and will keep him in their prayers as he begins his new journey.

Meitner also is looking forward to working with the school's next chaplain, Fr. Luke Friess, who was ordained June 12.

"Fr. Brian was an amazing chaplain for two years," Meitner said, "and we feel very fortunate to get Fr. Luke."

Why I keep coming back to the Seminararian Dinners



BISHOP GERALD VINCKE INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND THE

Annual Seminararian Fundraising Dinners

WEDNESDAY JULY 29 5:15PM | SALINA, KS
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RSVP BY JULY 13

ONLINE AT [BIT.LY/SEMOSFALINA](http://bit.ly/semsofsalina)

The first seminararian dinner I attended was in 2021. I went as a guest of my sister and didn't really know what I was getting into.

I knew a few of the seminararians, but not on a very personal level, so I figured, "What

the heck? Why not?" I walked in expecting a good meal and maybe the chance to learn a thing or two about the seminararians.

I had a great time! Between the conversations, laughter, and stories shared throughout the evening, I left with a greater appreciation for the men preparing to serve our diocese as priests. I knew I wanted to come back.

Looking back, it's funny how God works. I left that first dinner hoping to return, and now I have the privilege of being part of it every year.

Since joining the Catholic Foundation, I've had the opportunity to experience these evenings from a different perspective. One of my favorite parts is watching people get to know the seminarians beyond their names and photos. I've learned things about them that never would have come

up in a Sunday homily or parish bulletin. Last year, attendees discovered that now-Fr. Luke

Friess was fascinated by grain elevators, and that Dcn. Kyle Pfeifer once worked at Burger King.

Jesus told His disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."

God continues to call men to serve His Church, and our role is to help them get there. Today, it costs more than \$60,000 each year to educate a seminararian. Through your support of the Seminararian Fundraising Dinners, you help provide the formation they need to answer that call.

Whether you've attended before or are considering coming for the first time, I think you'll leave with a greater appreciation for our seminararians and the journey they are taking toward the priesthood. I know I did.

I hope you'll join us on July 29 in Salina or July 30 in Colby. Tickets are \$60 and must be purchased by July 13. To purchase tickets or make a gift in support of seminararian education, visit bit.ly/semsofsalina. Questions? Contact the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina at 785-827-8746 or development@salinadiocese.org.

TORRIE
Gregg
CATHOLIC FOUNDATION





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St. Edward's sings praise at 100-year celebration

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Newcomers attending Mass at St. Edward Parish in Belleville often notice one thing in particular about the service. Folks at St. Edward's love their singing.

St. Edward's was filled with songs of worship on May 31 as friends and family joined parishioners in celebrating the church's 100th anniversary and its Knights of Columbus centennial as well.

"My first impression of St. Edward's was your singing," Monsignor Barry Brinkman told a crowd gathered at a dinner following Mass.

Msgr. Barry spoke at a dinner following Mass, along with several other priests who were involved with the parish at one time or another. That group included Fr. Steve Heina, who grew up at St. Edward's and was ordained a priest there in 1982.

"I was blown away by your singing. Everyone sings," Msgr. Barry said. "And singing is an expression of prayer."

One priest who wasn't able to attend – in person anyway – was Fr. Henry Baxa, who died last year.

Bishop Jerry Vincke said that Fr. Henry, a native son of Belleville and St. Edward's Parish, had been looking forward to this celebration for five years. He had retired to Belleville in 2024.

Several of Fr. Henry's relatives were in attendance, however, including Scholastica Baxa, a senior-to-be at Republic County High School in Belleville.



COURTESY PHOTOS, DEBRA KROTZ

Several priests, including some former pastors of St. Edward's, joined Bishop Jerry Vincke around the altar at the anniversary Mass.

Scholastica and fellow members of the parish CYO youth group served the sit-down meal.

The CYO members looked like professionally trained servers as they weaved in and out among the crowd, promptly filling drink glasses.

But it was just another day in the life of a busy teenager at St. Edward's, said Scholastica, the second oldest child in a family of nine.

"I like how our parish always comes together at gatherings," she said. "Everyone helps everyone; we all just work together."

Scholastica also "loves how everyone sings. My mom is a music teacher, so we all love singing."

One elderly former parishioner was all smiles during the dinner.

Sister Bernadine Pacht, who will turn 89 in July, came from the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Concordia and thoroughly enjoyed her time sitting at a table with extended family. Her oldest brother, 97-year-old Joseph, attended Mass with his siblings, which included youngest brothers John from Nebraska and Vince from Belleville.

"There were nine of us," said Sister Bernadine, who is celebrating her 72nd anniversary of sisterhood this year. "We were all

baptized here, all made our First Holy Communion here, some were married here. This is definitely home."

Planning for the celebration took about a year, said Deb Krotz, who served as chair of the centennial committee.

The committee put together a historical booklet of the parish in commemoration of the

100th anniversary of the building.

The booklet includes photos and history about the first Catholic Church in Belleville, built in 1901,

and that of a new

and larger church that was built and dedicated in 1926.

A caption under a photo of the Blessed Sacrament in its monstrance reads "One hundred years is a milestone, but in the eyes of the Church, it is only the beginning."

"We recognized that the true history of St. Edward Catholic Church is not written in stone, but in the 'living stones' of our faith community," began the postscript on the Blessed Sacrament page.

In keeping with the theme of the day, Fr. Don Zimmerman, who served at St. Edward's from 1982-90, sang "Love is a Many Splendored Thing."

The living history of St. Edward's is also written in the parish's prayerful singing.



Retired Sister Bernadine Pacht

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Mercy*
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Along I-70

KGOH 89.1, Colby
Colorado border to Quinter

KMDG 105.7, Hays
Quinter to Ellsworth

KJDM 101.7 Lindsborg/Salina
Ellsworth to Junction City

Other Stations

KRTT 88.1 Great Bend

KVDM 88.1 Hays
(EWTN Radio Extra)

K297AI 107.3 Hill City

WHAT'S HAPPENING

July 4

• Independence Day

July 18

• Catholic Charities
Green Tie Event, Salina
Catholic Charities, 5 p.m.

July 19

• 150th Volga Celebration
Mass, Catharine, 9 a.m.

July 25

• Czech Festival Mass,
Wilson, 4 p.m.
• Plainville School Auc-
tion, 4:30 p.m.

July 26

• World Day of Grandpar-
ents and the Elderly

July 29

• Seminarian Dinner,
Hilton Garden Inn, Sali-
na, 5:15 p.m.

July 30

• Seminarian Dinner, City
Limits, Colby, 5:15 p.m.

July 31

• Eucharistic Conference,
FHSU Campus, Hays.



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

Salina Diocese Council of Catholic Women

Biennial Convention Featuring

Jesse Romero

Spiritual Warfare: Shielding Our Families

Saturday, August 29, 2026

St. Mary Queen of the Universe Parish Center

130 E. Cloud St., Salina, KS 67401

9:00-9:30 am Registration/Check in

9:30 am Convention Opens/Welcome

9:45-10:45 am Presentation by Jesse Romero

11:00 am Mass and Memorial Service

Noon: Lunch

1:00-1:30 pm SDCCW Biennial Meeting and Election of Officers

1:30-3:00 pm Presentation by Jesse Romero

3:00 pm Break/Door Prizes/Silent Auction/Raffle

4:00 pm Closing Prayer

Jesse Romero is a retired deputy sheriff, husband, father of three grown children, and Catholic Evangelist acclaimed for his dynamic, upbeat Christ-centered presentations. He has been on Catholic radio for over 20 years and is currently hosting his own show on YouTube and other platforms, called "The Jesse Romero Show." He is the author of several books that will be available at the convention.

He will make two presentations at the convention on topics of spiritual warfare to counter the influence of destructive aspects of modern culture on our families and "How to Get to Heaven, living in a state of Grace," as a guide to help families stay close to God and his amazing, wonderful grace.

Registration is \$30 and includes lunch, a silent auction, raffle, door prizes, and vendors. Registration forms will be available soon from your Parish Office or by contacting Tammy Steeples (tsteeples@hotmail.com), PO Box 99, Palco, KS 67657.

Online Registration via credit card available beginning July 1st at salinadiocese.org/event/salina-diocese-council-of-catholic-women-convention/



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FALL FORMATION CLASSES OFFERED

By COLEEN STEIN
CSTEIN@DCDIOCESE.ORG

Looking to deepen your faith? Two online pastoral ministry formation courses are being offered this fall. "Women in Scripture" (taught by Fr. Robert Schremmer) explores the lives and significance of biblical women, while "Theology and Methods of Ministry" (taught by Trish Keller) examines the call

to ministry rooted in Baptism and the role of the laity in the Church.

Courses are available for college credit or personal enrichment and are taught via Zoom by experienced Catholic educators. Classes begin in September. For more information or to register contact Coleen Stein, Director of Adult Formation, Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, cstein@dcdioocese.org.

Golden performances in prep swan songs

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Edward Horinek is looking forward to the next step of his journey – academically, athletically and spiritually.

“That’s the first thing I want to do at Fort Hays, get involved with (Catholic Tigers),” Edward said. He has earned a track and field scholarship to Fort Hays State University, where he will begin work this fall on a degree in agriculture business.

But he will surely never forget his last year of high school at Beloit-St. John’s, where he said he received a sound foundation for his Catholic faith.

After leading the Blujays of St. John’s-Tipton to a state championship in basketball this past winter, Edward struck gold again at the Class 1A state track meet last month.

He won the triple jump, then later placed third in the long jump. Edward’s winning distance of 45 feet, 7.75 inches in triple jump not only helped him defend his state title of a year ago but also would have won gold in Classes 3A and 2A.

In the final event of his prep career – late Saturday night because of a weather delay – Edward anchored the Blujays’ 4x400-meter relay to a third-place finish. Other members of that relay team were classmate John Mick, junior Dominic Eilert and freshman David Mick.

It was a busy week for the senior trio of Edward, John Mick and Grant

Goodaker, all state track qualifiers who earlier in the week helped lead the St. John’s golf team to a runner-up state finish. (See state golf results, this page.)

All-staters (top eight) for the St. John’s girls’ track team were freshman Kolbe Eilert, who finished sixth in the 400-meter dash and also helped the 4x400m relay place eighth along with classmate Anna Tighe, junior Christiana Niewald and senior Lynette Gengler. Anna, Christiana and Lynette also joined junior Olivia Tighe in medaling in the 4x800m relay (sixth).

• In Class 2A state track, TMP-Marian was led by two silver medalists. Sophomore Piper Simpson finished second in the girls’ pole vault for a second straight year, while junior Jackson Gillespie was second in the 100m dash and sixth in the 200m dash. Senior Brayden Gilmore closed out his prep career with an all-state finish (seventh) in the discus.

• All-staters for Salina-Sacred Heart were:
Boys – Sophomore Leo Dorzweiler, fifth, 400m dash.

Girls – Freshman Emmy Lee, second in both the 800m and 1,600m runs; 4x100m relay, third (seniors Holly Bonilla and



COURTESY PHOTOS

Fr. Jarett Konrade blesses track and field athletes from Beloit-St. John’s on May 28 before they headed to the state meet in Wichita. At left, St. John’s Edward Horinek went on to earn a back-to-back state triple-jump title.



Nicole Richards, junior Abi Garcia and freshman Aundrea Ibarra); 4x800m relay, third (senior Skylar Douglas, juniors Mia Hamilton and Addie Lee, and freshman Emmy Lee)

State golf

It never gets old for the Sacred Heart boys’ golf team, saying it won another state title.

But this was one to remember for the Knights, who had to hold off a surging Syracuse team on the second day to win their 11th straight state championship.

The last time the Knights didn’t win a state golf title, this year’s seniors were in kindergarten. The only gap year among the school’s consecutive row of state championship golf tro-

phies that began in 2015 is 2020, when spring sports were canceled because of COVID 19.

Junior Ethan Newell led the Knights at state with his eighth-place individual

finish. Other individual results for Sacred Heart from the 2026 state can be found in the graphic on this page.

Also in 2A competition,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

2026 2A STATE CHAMPIONS

 ETHAN NEWELL JUNIOR SCORE: 78 80 8 th Place	 WILL TUTTLE SENIOR SCORE: 77 83 11 th Place	
 JAKE KOKSAL FRESHMAN SCORE: 76 87 14 th Place (TIE)	 BEN MARRS SENIOR SCORE: 81 83 16 th Place	
 DOM MATTEUCCI JUNIOR SCORE: 79 90 19 th Place (TIE)	 CODY BURR SENIOR SCORE: 98 90 43 rd Place (TIE)	

SACRED HEART KNIGHTS

11 Consecutive State Titles

Kansas State Record Across All Classes

COURTESY GRAPHIC

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Retirees give lifetime of love to diocese

By LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

All Catholics are called to donate lovingly of their time, talent and treasure. For Daylene Tracy and Marita Campbell, that call has led them to a lifetime of loving service for their communities. After more than 50 combined years as parish life coordinators, their lives are testaments to what God can do with a simple “yes.”

Both women are retiring this summer after decades of ministry in their parishes. Though their paths were unique, each answered God’s call with generosity and faith.

Marita Campbell never expected that her yes to God’s call would lead her to parish ministry.

Raised in northwest Kansas, Campbell spent much of her life in Dresden, Leoville and Colby. While working as a bookkeeper for a grocery store, she became increasingly involved in parish life through liturgy, finance council work and volunteer service. When changes in both her professional and personal life prompted her to consider a new direction, she felt God nudging her toward something more.

To test that call, she enrolled in a full course load at community college while continuing to work full time and remain active in parish ministry.

“I tell people if you challenge the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will win,” Campbell said.

And it did. In 1998, she left her bookkeeping career and moved across the state to attend the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, where she earned a degree in pastoral ministry. After graduation, she spent a year interning under Sister Carolyn Juenemann at St. Michael Parish in Chapman. In 2001, she was appointed parish life coordinator.

Twenty-five years later, Campbell looks back on a ministry that required her to wear many new hats. When she entered the role, parish life coordinating was still a relatively new model in the diocese, and she was appointed under the bishop to serve in what was then called pastoral administration. In a parish without a resident



COURTESY PHOTO

Marita Campbell (in the purple), along with parish volunteers, helps distribute free food and hygiene items in partnership with Catholic Charities. Campbell, who was appointed parish life coordinator in Chapman in 2001, retires this year.

priest, she coordinated nearly every aspect of parish life, from council meetings and religious education to funeral vigils, marriage preparation and pastoral care.

She says her greatest memories center on the people she served and the challenges they faced together. One of the most significant came after the 2008 Chapman tornado. St. Michael’s opened its doors to the local public school, housing students for two and a half years while school buildings were rebuilt.

“It was a wild time,” Campbell recalled. “You take what you have and try to do the best you can with whatever you have.”

Through it all, she learned to depend on God.

“You just pray to God, pray to the Holy Spirit,” she said. “The Holy Spirit better give me the right words to say.”

As she prepares to retire, Campbell is spending a year mentoring her successor, hoping to leave St. Michael’s in capable hands. Looking back, she remains grateful for the parish community that embraced her leadership for a quarter century.

“I’m blessed with very good people, and their support,” Campbell said. “They have always supported me.”

Answering the Call

For Daylene Tracy, what began as a journey into the Catholic faith eventually became a vocation.

Raised in Hoxie, Tracy grew up active in Christian church life and spent two years working in ministry after high school.

She married her husband, Jim, in 1982. They began their family, welcoming their children, Carissa and Terry, in the years that followed.

As those changes in her life occurred, Tracy felt a calling in her spiritual life as well. And, five years into her marriage, she went through OCIA and entered the Catholic Church.

After earning an associate degree in administration and accounting and working as a bookkeeper and bank employee, Tracy and her family moved to Solomon in 1995. Soon after joining Immaculate Conception Parish, she and her husband became active in the choir, lector ministry and parish life.

In 1997, she joined the parish staff. Four years later, Bishop Fitzsimons appointed her parish life coordinator.

Over nearly three decades in this role, Tracy became what she jokingly describes as a “jack of all trades.” She planned funerals and weddings, coordinated religious education, prepared liturgies, trained volunteers, played music when needed and helped ensure parish life ran smoothly.

“I’ve loved the creative parts of it,” Tracy said, highlighting some of her work around the parish like creating the bulletin and invitations, helping decorate with altar flowers, and singing in choir.

She says her favorite part of ministry, however, has always been the people.

“I’ve really enjoyed getting to know the people,” Tracy said. “They are family to me.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

Daylene Tracy, along with her husband Jim, celebrated Easter this year with their granddaughters Olivia (in the gray sweater) and Ava (in front).

She also found joy in helping others grow in faith. As a convert herself, she led RCIA and encouraged parishioners to see evangelization not as something intimidating, but as something lived through everyday actions.

“If we live our life like Christ would want us to live, then we’re evangelizing and sharing our faith with others,” she said.

As her June 30 retirement date approaches, Tracy looks forward to spending more time with her husband and family. She plans to camp, quilt and travel more.

However, even as she steps away from her role, she hopes to continue serving the community by singing in the choir and volunteering in new ways.

Fr. Peter O’Donnell, pastor at St. Michael’s in Chapman, says he has

loved working with Parish Life Coordinator Campbell at his parish. On July 1, he will also take over as pastor in Solomon, where Tracy will have just finished her assignment.

“With the way that it’s been set up, there’s been such a positive response from the people in the community,” Fr. O’Donnell said. “With my experience with Marita, she’s so organized and self-motivated. It’s allowed me as a priest to focus more on other responsibilities. It’s been a very good combination, all in all.”

The women’s roles reflect a way of parish life that works when each person does their best in the service of God.

“We do all have our gifts, Tracy said. “And you know, we have to share the gifts, and pass them on.”

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St. Francis Xavier, Junction City, Confirmation



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia, First Holy Communion, April 26



St. Bernard and St. Ignatius, First Holy Communion, May 3



Immaculate Conception, Solomon, First Holy Communion, May 3



St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, Graduates, May 3



St. Bernard and St. Ignatius Confirmation



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia, Graduates, May 2



St. Mary, Ellis, Confirmation, May 17



St. Joseph, Bird City, Graduates



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Concordia, Confirmation, April 19



St. Mary, Ellis, Graduates, May 3



Sts. Peter and Paul, Clay Center, Confirmation



St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, First Holy Communion, April 12



St. Mary Queen of Angels, Russell, Confirmation, April 26



Sts. Peter and Paul, Clay Center, First Holy Communion,



Sts. Peter and Paul, Clay Center, Graduates



A contingent from Seven Dolors in Manhattan conducted a happy birthday porch serenade for Renee Spurlock (wearing the crown) celebrating her 100th birthday.



St. Thomas More, Manhattan, Graduates, May 17



St. Mary, Ellis, 6th Grade Promotion, May 13

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

Catholic Charities: Rebuilding hope

BY JEREE HUGHBANKS

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KANSAS

It's been over a year since the tornado devastated Grinnell, changing lives in an instant. Regina's story of rebuilding and hope will be featured at the Green Tie Celebration on July 18 at the Salina Country Club. To hear more stories of hope and support the mission of Catholic Charities, visit www.ccnks.org/greentie for tickets and event information.

When Regina and her boyfriend Jason (who goes by Skippy) moved to Grinnell, they found a house that needed extensive renovations. They poured their time, energy, and resources into making it livable before their son, Sullivan, was born in early 2024.

In May 2025, after everything it took to fix up their home, things were finally settling down—and Regina found out she was pregnant again.

"We were joking about how, this time, we don't have to build. We already have a house so it will be great," Regina said. "It will be so much easier this time."

Then, on May 18, things took a drastic turn.

Storms were expected that evening, so they kept an eye on the weather. Then, the sirens sounded, and Regina knew this storm was different.

"There's a tornado," she told Skippy. At first, he didn't believe her and kept watching the storm. But

Regina didn't hesitate. She took Sullivan to the basement.

After getting him situated, everything suddenly went quiet. Regina called upstairs for Skippy to come down. Just as he stepped into the basement, the tornado hit.



The sound was overwhelming. Windows shattered, and the house shook as they huddled together. Regina's mind raced—unsure if the floor above them would collapse, if debris would crash through, or if they would make it out safely. What felt like an eternity was over in 30 seconds.

When the wind stopped, they checked on one another and then Skippy made his way upstairs. What he saw was hard to process—complete destruction.

"All I could hear was, 'It's gone. Everything is gone. There's no town. There's just nothing,'" she said. "That's when it really started to sink in. Everything we had worked for—it was all gone."

The next morning, the devastation was even clearer in the daylight.



COURTESY PHOTOS

After a tornado destroyed their recently renovated home in Grinnell, Regina and Jason faced the daunting task of rebuilding. Catholic Charities' Disaster Relief Program helped ease the financial burden by assisting with one of the couple's largest rebuilding expenses.

Pieces of their home were scattered everywhere—windows torn from their frames, debris driven into walls—even someone's camper lodged in their bedroom. They gathered what they could salvage and loaded it into trailers. But most of what they had was gone. The house wasn't livable. It would have to be torn down.

They were left with difficult decisions: rebuild or move. They needed a place to live, a place to bring their baby home to. They decided to rebuild.

"All of the paychecks—everything—went to the house," Regina said. "We just needed a house so that we had a place to live when I had this baby."

Shortly after they started rebuilding, Regina was connected to Catholic Charities. A city employee

reached out, putting her in contact with Sofia Talkington, community engagement & outreach coordinator.

Through Catholic Charities' disaster relief program, one of their most expensive bills was covered: a \$5,000 HVAC system for their home, taking a huge stress off their family.

Sofia also connected Regina to additional support as they prepared for their growing family. Regina met Kim Feldt, pregnancy support & adoption specialist, who provided diapers, wipes, formula, and other essentials. They also received help with utilities, allowing them to stretch their limited resources further.

"That helped us have the money to buy food for our family," Regina said.

Slowly, things began to come together. They were able to move into their rebuilt home by November. Just one month later, their son Ripley was born, and they had a home to bring him back to.

Today, Regina sees more than just a house. She sees a place where her children can grow, play, and be safe. A place where their family can begin again.

"We have a home with walls to shield us from the wind and the weather and to grow and to love each other in," she said.

You made that support possible, helping Regina and her family move forward with stability and hope.

"It's so much more than a donation of money," Regina said. "It's a life for us now, and that means so much."

THE POPE AND PEOPLE OF HOPE

Catholic Charities USA President and CEO Kerry Alys Robinson presents Pope Leo XIV with a bound book featuring stories from Catholic Charities USA's People of Hope Museum during a private audience at the Vatican in early May. The book shares the stories of 42 staff and volunteers from Catholic Charities agencies across the country whose ministries reflect compassionate service to those in need.

Among those featured is Melissa Herrera, emergency assistance coordinator for Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas, whose portrait appears on the front cover of the book. Through her work in the Salina office, Herrera brings hope and support to neighbors across northern Kansas with compassion and dignity.

Created by Catholic Charities USA, the People of Hope Museum celebrates the power of Christian service and the impact of Catholic Charities



COURTESY PHOTO, © VATICAN MEDIA

ministries throughout the United States. The nationwide interactive traveling exhibit, housed in a retrofitted tractor-trailer, highlights faith-filled stories of neighbors helping neighbors.

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas will share more information in the coming months about the People of Hope Mobile Museum and its future visit to the Diocese of Salina.



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JULY 18, 2026

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Blessed to spend a day in God's country

There is a scenic drive from Hays to my hometown of Tipton that we call the "Wilson Lake route."

We drive east from Hays about 50 miles down Interstate 70 to Exit 206 and head north, winding around beautiful Wilson Lake, known as the clearest lake in Kansas.

On a gorgeous morning in mid-May, we took that route, thinking it would be a pretty view this time of year.

That was an understatement.

The sun shone brightly on fields with waves of grain barely teasing hints of amber.

We drove up and down two-lane highways toward Tipton, admiring the rolling hills of God's country.

We passed homesteads with tall silos and two-story houses, in a place where families still work together side-by-side.

My husband and I were heading to the Rural Life Commemoration for the Salina Diocese, to be held this year in Tipton.

The annual event is on May 15, the Feast of St. Isidore the Laborer, patron saint of farmers

and agricultural workers.

The obvious sights of the work of God and His farmers nearly took my breath away as they

brought back memories of my enchanted childhood.

I grew up in this area, on a farm near Tipton, and I was pleased to hear

that this year's Rural Life Mass was going to be said in my hometown church of St. Boniface.

Imagine my excitement when I learned that two of the three multi-generation farms that were chosen to be blessed this year in my neck of the woods are owned by my relatives.

No, not everyone is related in our small town of about 200 – just almost everyone!

After Mass, we headed north of town, where several vehicles pulled off the highway onto the Hollerich family farm.

Standing on a dusty gravel driveway, Bishop Jerry Vincke read prayers as Deacon Edward Souza from Manhattan blessed the crops.

One of the most heartwarming sights was watching the bishop walk



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

(Above) With a field of wheat as his backdrop, Bishop Jerry Vincke reads prayers of blessing on the Hollerich family farm north of Tipton on the Feast Day of St. Isidore. (At left) Bishop Vincke visits with and blesses widow Wilma Hollerich in her farmhouse during the Rural Life event.



a quarter mile down the hill to the farmhouse for a visit with the matriarch of the family. Wilma Hollerich, 85, suffers from dementia, but she had a big smile for Bishop Jerry as he visited with and blessed her.

Wilma's late husband, Charlie, was my first cousin. They were married in 1959 and bought this farm in 1962. They raised nine children there, and their two oldest sons still farm the ground while taking care of their mother in her home.

Next up was the farm of Kenny Gasper, another cousin who farmed my father's ground for years,

including our home place where I grew up. Kenny is the oldest sibling of nine children raised on his farm, and his oldest son helps work their operation today.

Dcn. Souza blessed crops and farm machinery there before we headed to the Schmitt Family Farms & Feedyard and were greeted by a large herd of cattle at the custom feedlot.

"It's been a blessing having built and developed this and to have two of my sons

working alongside me," said owner Doug Schmitt, oldest son of the original owner. "With the customers we have gotten to know personally over the years and to be able to help my boys move forward financially, it's a real blessing."

So, too, was getting to spend some time again, even if only for a few hours, in God's country.



Deacon Edward Souza, Manhattan, sprinkles Holy Water on cattle at the Schmitt Family Farms & Feedyard south of Tipton.



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Katharinenstadt

150TH

CELEBRATION

SUNDAY JULY 19, 2026

★ EVENT SCHEDULE ★



9:00 AM
Polka Mass
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Cemetery Blessing to follow



EVENTS AT THE ELLIS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
12:00 – 1:30 PM: Meal Served
12:30 PM: Live Polka Music & Dancing
2:00 PM: Old-Style Wheat Threshing Demonstration



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- Chicken Fried Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Cream Noodles

- Green Beans
- Salad
- Dinner Roll
- Dessert

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Cheri Dorzweiler
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BAPTISMS

Joseph Dale Corwin, son of Colten and Shannon Corwin, was baptized May 3, 2026, by Fr. Werth at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Godparents are Lloyd Toll and Ellie Kats.

Murphy Madden Deutmeyer, son of William and Catherine Deutmeyer, was baptized April 11, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Blake Lee Dierksen, son of Eric Dean Dierksen and Felicia Dawn Smith, was baptized April 11, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Church in Manhattan.

Lain Wilson Engle, son of Kurt and Megan Engle, was baptized April 5, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Naomi Kathryn Ferry, daughter of Kyle and Bailey Ferry, was baptized April 26, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Raya Ann Chante'e Gonzales, daughter of Brandon Roop and Virginia Gonzales, was baptized May 7, 2026, by Fr. Joseph Kieffer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Godparents are T.J. Woodward and Aryena Nault.

Greta Jane Prewo, daughter of Cory and Rachel Prewo, was baptized May 9, 2026, by Fr. James M. Thomas at Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell.

Mary Josephine Rourke, daughter of Alan Matthew Rourke and Ryan Bethany Moos, was baptized May 9,

2026, by Fr. Michael Leiker at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center.

Ellie Ann Theobald, daughter of Cody and Hallie Theobald, was baptized April 5, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Waylynn Elaine Torrey, daughter of Avery and Nicole Torrey, was baptized April 25, 2026, by Dcn. Dan Wahlmeier at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Godparents are Savana Rumbach and Kade Unter-scher.

Phillip Eugene Wahlmeier, son of Joaquin and Helen (Carlin) Wahlmeier, was baptized March 1, 2026, by Dcn. Dan Wahlmeier, assisted by Dcn. Brian Kirk, at St. Joseph Church in New Almelo. Godparents are Gabriel Friess and Emma Carlin.

Grace and Austin Wahrman, children of Jeremy Wahrman and Crystal Jones, were baptized May 24, 2026, by Fr. Henry Saw Lone at St. Mary's Church in Herndon.

Adella Gabrielle Whalen, Emmett Gerard Whalen, and Esmé Idalina Whalen, children of Gerard and Callista Whalen-Lemieux, were baptized May 3, 2026, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Willa Ann Windholz, daughter of Alex and Kalli Windholz, was baptized May 3, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

WEDDINGS

Jacob Gardner and Alexa Fry were married May 23, 2026, at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Andy Hammeke witnessed their vows. Parents of the bride are Jon and Greta Fry. Parents of the groom are Todd and Rhonda Gardner. Witnesses to their vows were Levi Gardner and Allison Weber.

Tobias Schmidtberger and Lacey Eckstine were married November 1, 2025, at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet witnessed their vows. Parents of the bride are Jerry and Loralyn Eckstine. Parents of the groom are Stephen and Katherine Schmidtberger.



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11:00 am – 1:00 pm **Authentic Czech Buffet - Prepared by SWCCW**
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5:30 pm **Locally made Brats with all the Trimmings**
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 \$10.00 for the meal - kids under 6 free



6:30pm - **Come for an entertaining evening of Bingo**

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FUNERALS

Gary E. Baalman, 89, died May 8, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 15 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. Fr. Brian Lager presided. Burial in St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery, Hoxie.

Yvonne L. Braun, 86, Hays, died May 2, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 6 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery, Victoria.

Deanna K. "Dee" Brown, 59, died May 14, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 19 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in St. Concordia Cemetery.

Ronel "Ron" Cailteux, 96, died May 25, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 1 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Fr. Joseph Kieffer presided. Burial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Clyde.

Harold E. Crispin, Jr., 82, died May 19, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 28 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Mildred M. Klaus, 92, died May 17, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 22 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Daryl Olmstead presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Sue Lang, 87, died May 4, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 11 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Gloria Charlene Lloyd, 82, died May 14, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 20 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in Ascension Cemetery, Bel Aire.

Helen M. Pfeifer, 93, died May 14, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 19 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Brian McCaffrey presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Ralph F. Pitner, Jr., 82, died May 7, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated May 15 at St. Nicholas of Myra Church in Hays. Fr. Damian Richards presided; Fr. Reginald Urban and Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandi concelebrated. Burial in St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Hays.



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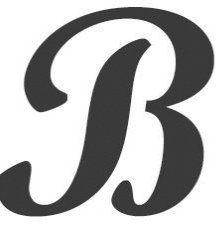
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, FROM PG. 8

TMP-M placed fourth as a team and just one place out of earning a trophy, led by two all-staters: senior Chase Drennon (tie for 10th) and freshman Mason Rozean (tie for 15th).

• In the sand greens state tourney, St. John's won the second-place team trophy, led by top-10 medalists junior Carson Thomas (seventh) and senior John Mick (eighth). Other members of the Blujays' runner-up team were seniors Edward Horinek and Grant Goodaker and freshman Bryson Bergmann.

State softball, baseball

TMP-Marian closed out a memorable spring season, qualifying individuals and teams for state in every sport.

In addition to track and golf, the Monarch baseball and softball teams competed at state.

The softball team

qualified for state while setting numerous school records, including most wins in a season with its 27-3 overall record.

The Monarchs fell behind 4-0 in their first-round game at state and made a valiant comeback before falling 4-3.

TMP-M has a bright future, returning its entire team with the exception of graduating senior Addison Watson.

One of the top returnees next year will be senior-to-be Brynn Rebel, who helped lead this year's team both at the plate and in the pitcher's circle, where she recorded 139 strikeouts in 98 innings and finished with a 14-2 record. Offensively, she broke or tied four career or season school records.

The TMP-M baseball team, ranked first in Class 2-1A for much of the season, took a 29-1 record into the state championship game with defending

state champ St. Mary's-Colgan out of Pittsburg. The game was tied at 3-3 through six innings before SMC erupted for four runs in the top of the seventh and held on for a 7-3 win.

The Monarchs featured a solid lineup with strength at every position in enjoying their best season in several years.

Junior all-stater Ty Schmeidler was named player of the year by the Kansas Baseball Coaches Association because of his success on the mound (6-0 record, 96 strikeouts) and at the plate (.539 BA). Seniors closing out their careers with three state appearances and two top-four finishes were Conor Breit, Caden Dinkel, Carson Liles, Ian Nehls, Isaac Purinton and Easton Werth.

Note: Students in this story were identified by their classification during the 2025-26 school year.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the patroness of our diocese. That means she holds a special place in our hearts, and we can always turn to her when we need help or guidance.

In the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we see Mary holding the child Jesus. According to tradition, Jesus had seen a vision of His future suffering and death on the Cross. Frightened, He ran to His mother. He ran so quickly that one of His sandals slipped from His foot.

See how tightly Jesus holds His mother's thumb with both hands. Even though He is looking at the Cross, He finds comfort in being close to Mary.



Mary, however, is not looking at Jesus. She is looking at us. Her gaze reminds us that she is our mother, too, ready to help us bring our fears, worries, and struggles to her Son.

**OUR LADY
OF PERPETUAL HELP
FEAST DAY: JUNE 27**

Sharing a glass of ice-cold water

June has arrived, and with it comes the Kansas heat.

There are few things better on a hot summer day than a cold glass of water. Whether I'm mowing the yard, coaching in a hot gym, or just spending time outside, there comes a point when all I can think about is finding some cold water.

I even have this recurring dream sometimes where I am at a water fountain drinking and drinking, but even though I feel like I am consuming water, I just keep drinking. It is a very frustrating dream. Finally, I wake up, get up, and get some water, and all is good again.

Years ago, I was watching a movie when a conversation between characters stuck with me.

A character says something like, "They're so thirsty for it they'll walk

through the desert chasing a mirage, and when they discover there's no water, they'll drink the sand."

Then comes the line that has been stuck in my head ever since: "People don't drink the sand because they're thirsty. They drink the sand because they don't know the difference."

The longer I live, the more I think that line explains a lot of what I see around me.

Look around our world. There are so many people searching for something to satisfy them. Like me in my dream, they are thirsty for something and keep consuming all sorts of things, hoping that if they get enough, they will finally feel refreshed.

They want meaning, purpose, love, peace, forgiveness, and belonging. They want their lives to matter. They want to know that they are loved and they want something

that gives lasting joy.

It is easy to judge them for what they are looking to consume, but underneath it all, I see people who are hurting and searching for something to fill the emptiness they feel. But these are people God loves who are searching for something good. They just don't know where to find it.

It makes me think about one of St. Augustine's famous quotes: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You." Augustine understood that the longing we feel is not a flaw. It's a sign. It's God drawing us toward Himself.

Jesus tells us that He is the source of living water. His love, His mercy, and His invitation into relationship with Him are what our hearts have been searching for all along.

It is challenging, but maybe part of the reason the world is full of thirsty people is because we are not as willing as we should be to share the Gospel.

As Christians, we know

where the living water is found. It is so important that we don't keep it to ourselves. We must point others to Jesus through our words, our witness,

and our love. There is no doubt that someone in your life and mine is thirsty. Let's not be afraid to help them find the One who can truly satisfy.

PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART

O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
living and quickening source of eternal life,
infinite treasure of the Divinity,
and burning furnace of divine love,
You are my refuge and my sanctuary.

O my amiable Savior,
consume my heart with that burning fire
with which Your Heart is ever inflamed;
pour down on my soul those graces
which flow from Your love;
and let my heart be so united with Yours
that our wills may be one,
and that mine may be
entirely conformed to Yours.

May Your divine will be equally the standard
and rule of all my desires and all of my actions.
Amen.



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