



THE REGISTER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALINA

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

TOGETHER, LET US BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ON MISSION.

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Jr. CYO Camp counselors pass friendship and faith to next generation



COURTESY PHOTO, JAMIE KUHLMAN

Camp counselors lead campers in a dance before breakfast, trying to bring up the energy at the start of the day. From left to right are Savana Rumback (red shirt), Allie Thomasson, Lizzy Vajnar, Ella Juenemann, Sydney Goetz and Hope Biermann.

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

One sibling is a senior at Kansas State University, the other a freshman at Fort Hays State University.

They have spent every summer together while growing up in Hays, but they don't get to see as much of each other during the school year anymore.

So Jensen and Jenna Brull have especially looked forward to meeting up on Labor Day weekend the past couple of years.

Both were in their second year of serving as counselors at the annual Jr. CYO camp earlier this month. And both years, they got to make it a family affair as they were joined by their youngest sister Jaden, an eighth-grader this year who was attending as a camper.

The elder Brull siblings and about 30 other college students like them, as well as some college graduates already out in the workforce, gave up their first holiday of the school year to spend the weekend with 11- through 14-year-olds.

"I remember that camp experience when I was in junior high," Jenna said. "I always looked up to the counselors, and I wanted to be that person who did that for others when I got older."

Savana Rumback, a counselor

from Norton, agreed.

Savana, also an FHSU freshman, said she likes the opportunity at camp to "meet a lot of people my same age and to lead younger kids and see them get stronger in their faith."

Savana said she looked up to the counselors when she attended Jr. CYO camp as a junior high student.

"They were models in my life," she

said. "So I appreciate getting to do the same for others."

The number of participants in the camp has grown the past few years and this year reached nearly 145.

Eight or nine campers are assigned to two counselors. They have numerous options of activities in which to participate, as well as spiritual reflection, during their

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COURTESY PHOTO, JAMIE KUHLMAN

Jr. CYO Camp, for students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades across the diocese, gives attendees opportunities to share in faith and fellowship over the Labor Day Weekend. (L-R) Lola Gerber, MaKinley Reiner and Gabriella Kaumans.

Meeting Jesus at the Cross

Recently, I celebrated Mass at a parish, and while greeting people afterward, I had a nice conversation with a man who told me that he had just recovered from cancer.

He is relatively young, and he said he is doing really well right now. But he knew how close it had been.

"I knew it was serious when my wife was sitting in a chair in the hospital, praying the rosary," he told me.

He was thankful to God for the healing.

Then he said something that really stayed with me.

"This experience really changed my life," he said.

He told me about how he now focuses on the things that really matter. He said what matters most now are loving God and loving his family.

A few days after the parish event, I got a phone call from one of my brothers. His granddaughter, who is not quite two years old, has a malignant tumor. There is a very real possibility that it has spread throughout her body.

I asked my brother how his heart was.

"My heart is heartbroken," he said.

Of course it is. His granddaughter is so innocent. I hurt for her, and I hurt for my family

who are watching her go through this.

Her mother shared with friends that this is "so scary and

incredibly hard to process." She asked them to

continue to pray for their little girl and said that they

are praying fervently, trusting our mighty God to move mountains and heal her.

And so we pray.

I think a lot of our families throughout the diocese have gone through similar, very difficult situations. We know what it is like to receive a diagnosis, to sit in a hospital room, to wait for test results, to wonder what comes next and to pray for a miracle.

We know that God is our healer. We pray that we will see that healing in this life. We will certainly see it in the next.

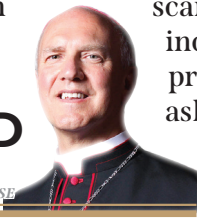
Regardless of the circumstances, we trust that God is with us. We trust in Him.

Jesus is close to those who are struggling and suffering. He loves us, and is near to the brokenhearted. He does not leave us alone in our pain. Jesus meets us on the Cross.

So what is our response?

I think the man I met after Mass said it best. After facing cancer, he said he now focuses more

GERALD Vincke
BISHOP, SALINA DIOCESE



COURTESY PHOTO

Above, an elderly man gazes upon a cross in a cemetery in bloom. Though we do not know how much time we have on earth with our loved ones, we do know that Jesus meets us with mercy on the Cross. We pray that we will see healing in this life, and we will certainly see it in the next.

than ever on what really matters most: loving God and loving his family.

Maybe that is something we all need to remember, whether we are facing a cancer diagnosis, a family crisis or simply going about our ordinary days.

We don't know what tomorrow will bring. But

we do know what matters.

A short time ago, I read a quote from Sandy Dahl, the wife of Jason Dahl, the pilot of Flight 93 who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001.

"If we learn anything from this tragedy, we learn that life is short, and there's no time for hate."

Life is short.

We don't know how much time we have with the people we love. We don't know what tomorrow will bring.

But we can love God. We can love our families. We can pray for one another. And we can trust that, whatever happens, God is with us.

BISHOP VINCKE'S OCTOBER CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 18 | Memorial Mass for Parents of Deceased Children, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina. |
| 20 | St. Andrew School Visit and Mass, Abilene. |
| 21 | St. Francis Xavier School Visit and Mass, Junction City. |
| 22 | Kolbe Prison Ministry Retreat, Norton. |
| 25 | Anniversary Mass, St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays. |

OCTOBER INTENTIONS

Diocesan intentions:

We pray for all who teach and form others in the faith—parents, priests, deacons, catechists, teachers, and youth ministers—that the Holy Spirit may work through them to lead others closer to Christ.

Pope Leo's intentions:

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Prayer for Grandparents and Elderly



Holy Father

Who watches over every person

Watch over me too when I am elderly.

You have revealed your name to me in Christ,
And You were not discouraged by my frailties.

You hold me tenderly in your hands,
And You caress my lines.
You will never forget me! (*see Is 49:15*).

Grant that I may not fear my weakness;

Help me learn to love it

Just as You love it.

Help me learn to listen to it

Just as You listen to it.

Help me embrace it

Just as You have chosen it –

You who, though all-powerful, clothed yourself in humility.

May growing old strip away all our pride and all division

So that we may live these years united in You.

You will never forget us! (*see Is 49:15*)

Amen.



Cut this out and pray with your family!

Holy Cross receives national recognition

By LORI GARCIA
THE REGISTER

For over a century, Holy Cross Church has risen over the countryside in Pfeifer, a monument to the faith and lives of the Volga German Catholics who settled in western Kansas.

The locally lauded church and school have remained much-loved structures since their construction, standing as reminders of the generations who built their lives around the Catholic faith.

That enduring affection has now been recognized on a national scale.

On June 22, Holy Cross Church and School were added to the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the property for its architectural significance.

The designation comes during a particularly meaningful year for the western Kansas community, which is celebrating 150 years since Volga German settlers arrived in the area.

Holy Cross Parish was dissolved in 1993 as the number of parishioners and diocesan priests declined. The following year, Holy Cross Charities was established to help preserve the church, grounds and cemetery.

Though it is no longer an active parish and does not hold regularly scheduled Masses, Holy Cross remains a place of Catholic worship. An annual Mass is celebrated there, and the church still hosts weddings, funerals and other special celebrations.

For Janice Seib, a Holy Cross Charities board member who was born and raised in Pfeifer, the church represents far more than a

historic building.

Seib's ancestors helped build the church, including physically helping lay its foundation and bricks. Her father was among the first babies baptized in the new church, and her maternal grandfather was a teenager when it was built.

"It's not just a building. It is our heritage. It is my heritage," Seib said. "And I would like to see it kept up for their sake too."

The National Register designation will also give Holy Cross Charities new opportunities to preserve that heritage. Because Holy Cross is no longer an active parish, the organization relies on donations to maintain the church and school. The designation makes the property eligible for certain grants for maintenance and repairs that would otherwise be unavailable.

"It's a recognition and also help to support it," Seib said.

The Holy Cross Catholic heritage was on full display Sept. 12, when Holy Cross held a sesquicentennial celebration marking its namesake feast day and 150 years of Volga German heritage in the area. Bishop Gerald Vincke celebrated Mass at the church, followed by an evening celebration honoring the community's history and the people who have carried its traditions forward.

The celebration required extensive planning and cooperation, particularly because Holy Cross is no longer an active parish. Seib said communities throughout the surrounding area stepped in to provide tables, chairs and other assistance.

"It wasn't just a Pfeifer event," she said. "There were communities around us that helped support what we did also."

For Pfeifer, the National Register designation and the sesquicentennial celebration offer fitting recognition in the same year: one honoring the place that

has endured, and the other celebrating the people and faith that gave it life.

"It's an honor to be part of it," Seib said.

Those wishing to donate to Holy Cross Charities' ongoing maintenance can learn more online at holycrosscharities.org.



COURTESY PHOTO, HOLY CROSS CHARITIES

Holy Cross Church and School in Pfeifer recently joined the National Register of Historic Places. Holy Cross, though no longer an active parish, is still beloved by many Catholics in the surrounding community.

The lost "M" word everyone needs to know

We don't use the word "mystagogy" nearly enough in the Catholic Church. In fact, when I say it at meetings, I usually get a few blank stares.

It sounds complicated and maybe even

a little intimidating, but the idea behind it is actually pretty simple. Mystagogy is what

happens after we receive a sacrament. It is the process of continuing to learn about the sacrament, unpacking what we have received, growing in its graces, and allowing the Holy Spirit to form us through those graces.

As we prepare for the restored order of the Sacraments of Initiation in our diocese, mystagogy will become an important word.

One of the questions I hear most often is, "If our kids are confirmed in third grade, why would they keep coming to religious education?"

My answer is simple—because Confirmation and First Communion are not graduations. They are the beginning of our faith journey as fully initiated Catholics.

Our young people will still go to religious education, participate in CYO and youth ministry, and learn about Scripture, prayer, morality, the Mass, and what it means to follow Jesus. The difference is that they will now do all of that as fully initiated Catholics, learning to recognize and live out the sacramental graces they have received.

This really isn't a new idea.

We see it clearly in OCIA. The Easter Vigil isn't the finish line. After receiving the sacraments, the newly initiated enter a period of mystagogy, unpacking what they have received and learning to live differently because of those graces.

The same is true in Holy Orders and Marriage. I didn't walk out of the Cathedral after ordination as a finished product. I received sacramental grace that day, but I will spend the rest of my life learning to cooperate with those graces and allowing the Holy Spirit to form me into a better deacon. The same happens in marriage. A couple doesn't leave their wedding as perfect spouses—they spend a lifetime allowing the graces they received that day to help them to love, sacrifice, and forgive more like Jesus and, through that grace, continually strengthen their marriage.

So why would Confirmation be different?

I understand the fear that children won't come back after they are confirmed, but that isn't really a Confirmation-age problem—it is already happening today. Ultimately, it comes back to our responsibility as parents. Catholic parents promise to raise their children in the faith when

they marry and again when they bring them to the baptismal font, and that promise doesn't end when their child receives Confirmation.

We fulfill that promise by continuing to bring them to Mass, religious education, and youth ministry. We make our homes places of prayer. We read them the great stories of the Bible. We make our dining room tables places where we talk about faith and morality and help them understand the world around them. We give them opportunities to encounter Jesus through Adoration and prayer. And, most importantly, we show them by the way we live that our Catholic faith matters.

Maybe mystagogy is a word we all need to rediscover—the lifelong journey of receiving God's grace, growing in it, and allowing the Holy Spirit to continually form us into the people God created us to be.



BILL Meagher
DEACON, SALINA DIOCESE



JR. CYO CAMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COURTESY PHOTO, JAMIE KUHLMAN

Campers and counselors alike share smiles on the last day of Jr. CYO Camp at Rock Springs Ranch. The camp weekend is made possible through many volunteers willing to sacrifice time to connect with the young attendees.



COURTESY PHOTO, JAMIE KUHLMAN

Mason Mazauec and Wesley Sauber lead their horses through the corral. In addition to taking opportunities for prayer and Mass throughout the weekend, campers participated in a variety of outdoor activities, including archery, rifles, canoeing, volleyball, and horseback riding.



COURTESY PHOTO, JAMIE KUHLMAN

Newly ordained Father Luke Friess speaks to young campers during his Mass homily in the camp's outdoor stone pit.

three-day stay on the beautiful grounds of Rock Springs Ranch, a 500-acre camp and retreat center in the Flint Hills 15 miles south of Junction City.

Some of the weekend's events included archery, rifles, horseback riding, canoeing, volleyball and nine-square.

One of the highlights of the weekend is an outdoor Mass on Sunday evening before going their separate ways on Labor Day.

The camp is open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders in the diocese. Return campers often see it as a reunion time to reunite with others they met years prior and are able to meet again even if shortly, while standing in line or just passing by between their activities.

One of those times for the Brulls was grabbing a glimpse of their youngest sister enjoying herself.

"Jayden is eight years younger than me, so I didn't get to see many of her middle school (activities)," Jensen said. "So it's cool that I get to see her at camp."

The counselor assigned to team up with Savana this year became

ill and wasn't able to attend, so she went solo.

One activity Savana has included in her quiet time with her campers is "happy sack" notes, where everyone writes something to one or more of their fellow campers.

She said she enjoys writing a note to those under her supervision, but it was one particular note she received from a camper that really warmed her heart.

"She said I helped her grow in her faith life, and that means a lot to me," Savana said. "This is such a great opportunity to help these young people do that, and I love it."

Jensen said he looks at opportunities to serve in diocesan programs such as Totus Tuus, Prayer in Action and Jr. CYO camp as a gift to himself.

"To see the immediate impact the role that God plays in my life with my work through the kids has been such a blessing," he said. "So I am grateful for these opportunities. It always feels good to have my own cup filled up."

Jensen is involved at St. Isidore



COURTESY PHOTOS

Camper Jaden Brull, left, with her older sister, Jenna. At right, Jaden stands with her older brother, Jensen. Both Jenna and Jensen were camp counselors for the weekend, passing the torch of faith on to the younger campers at Rock Springs Ranch.

Student Center at Kansas State, and both Jenna and Savana are in their first year of participating in the Catholic Tigers student organization at Fort Hays State.

All are looking forward to a year of spiritual growth and community on their respective campuses, but Jenna said she

won't soon forget this year's Jr. CYO camp experience.

"It's been so good to offer to younger people that same perspective that we had when we attended camp," she said. "It's great to see them become better friends and to see them grow in their faith journey."

Wichita is now home to a seminary

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

One day, two seminarians from the Diocese of Salina were attending St. Joseph House of Formation in Wichita.

The next day, they were students at St. Philip Neri Seminary.

Same place. Just a different name following the inauguration of the seminary at a Votive Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita on August 26.

Overnight, Gus Hanson and Phong (James) Tran became inaugural members of the only seminary of its kind in Kansas and the only one in the United States bearing St. Philip Neri's name.

Hanson and Tran said they are honored to be part of an official seminary, but they also said it feels the same as before.

"It's awesome to be here," said Gus, in his third year of seminary formation. "My house doesn't feel like an institution. It feels like home."

Hanson and Tran are two of 15 current seminarians in formation for the Salina Diocese.

Hanson entered seminary straight out of high school in western Kansas and was one of the first men from our diocese to enter St. Joseph House of Formation. Tran, a native of Vietnam, is in his second year of seminary after spending the last two years studying the English language in Concordia and at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Wisconsin.

St. Philip Neri seminarians live in three different residences in Wichita and attend class at Newman University, a Catholic university in the city.

"Our program and new seminary are somewhat different from most others," Rev. Carl Kemme, Bishop of the Diocese of Wichita, told the congregation at the Votive Mass. "Unlike others that



COURTESY PHOTO, DEL TORKELSON

Wichita Diocese Bishop Carl Kemme is joined at the inauguration Mass by fellow Kansas bishops, Rev. Gerald Vincke-Salina, far left, and Rev. John Brungardt-Dodge City, to the right of Bishop Kemme.



Gus Hanson

are housed in larger institutions, ours has a family feel to it. The men live like a family, like brothers in a home that calls them to live as true friends in Christian charity."

It serves as a smooth transition to college life for young seminarians, including some from

Wichita's neighboring dioceses in Dodge City and Salina.

Bishops from both those dioceses – Rev. Gerald Vincke, Salina, and Rev. John Brungardt, Dodge City – joined Bishop Kemme, the 41 seminarians and numerous priests at the inauguration Mass.

"It's wonderful to have a seminary in Kansas," Bishop Vincke said. "It allows our college seminarians to be with other seminarians from our state with the hope of having

them form lifelong friendships."

St. Joseph House of Formation, in its ninth year, was founded in 2017 to prepare men in the propaedeutic (introductory) and discipleship stages of formation readying them for major seminary.

Initially started as a two-year program for college seminarians with seven students, enrollment grew so quickly that it took just two years to expand it to a four-year program.

Because of its rapid growth, Bishop Kemme decided this year that it was time to erect the program to a diocesan seminary.

"Just nine years ago, none of us could have foreseen the success of what

began ever so humbly with seven seminarians as the St. Joseph House of Formation," Bishop Kemme said.

He chose for its name St. Philip Neri, an Italian Catholic priest, who is recognized as a patron saint of joy, humor and laughter.

A famous quote by St. Philip Neri is "The true way to advance in holy virtues is to persevere in a holy cheerfulness."

"A cheerful priest is worth more than his weight in gold," Bishop Kemme said.

Salina Diocese seminarian Tran, for one, will tell you that he finds life at St. Philip Neri uplifting.

"Although I am new here, I already feel a lot of peace and joy from the other seminarians the brotherhood here," he said. "It is a

blessing to live together and strive toward the same goal."

During his homily, Bishop Kemme thanked not only the priests for their dedication but also the parents of the seminarians for their support of their sons choosing the priestly vocation.

"I am deeply grateful to the parents of our seminarians and our priests, who form a unique community among us," he said. "We can and should be grateful for how they support and encourage their sons to come and see, as the Gospel invites us to discern and to prepare for sacred ministry."

He stressed that St. Philip Neri is the perfect namesake for the Wichita seminary.

St. Philip Neri "led a life lived among the people of his time, a particularly challenging time for people of faith. With his characteristic humility, approachability,

affability, and even humor, he won souls and hearts for Christ."

"He was authentically human in every way. These qualities and characteristics, for which he was so evidently well-known, were the things that drew me to

him as a potential seminary namesake and intercessor," he continued. "For I am convinced that if priests in the 21st century are to have real and lasting effect, they must be like him, humble, lowly, approachable, affable, and joyful, if not even humorous."

"This is the goal of St. Philip Neri Seminary: to offer the best formation possible – human, pastoral, spiritual and intellectual – for those men who are discerning that to which God is calling them."



Phong Tran



COURTESY PHOTO, DEL TORKELSON

Bishop Gerald Vincke of the Salina Diocese, center, is flanked by Father Chad Arnold, rector of the seminary, and Bishop John Brungardt of the Dodge City Diocese.

Salina college ministry provides a home for students in the heart of the diocese

By CHASE HAGEMANN
THE REGISTER

As conversion rates to Catholicism increase all over the world, college student centers are leading the charge in the United States. The Diocese of Salina is no exception.

College student centers at Kansas State and Fort Hays State Universities provide an invitation into the universal family of the faith and help students grow in sanctity. St. Isidore's at Kansas State made headlines this spring as it welcomed more than 100 students fully into the Church through OCIA.

The hunger young people have for truth and goodness has made its way 66 miles down I-70 to the heart of the diocese.

"I'm excited at the news articles talking about my generation's draw to Catholicism in their search for a purposeful life, and that the Salina Catholic College Club can be a gathering place for those," said Caitlin Burr, a young Salina resident. "I recently had a conversation with a couple of members after Mass and they mentioned looking forward to coming to our next event and inviting friends that share our faith. This is the best way for the club to grow!"

Spiritual multiplication and intentionality are how founder Fr. Keith Weber passed the torch to Fr. Adam Urban, the parochi-

al vicar at St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina. Fr. Adam said much of his conversion occurred while he attended the Comeau Catholic Center at Ft. Hays State, which is why he's excited for the growth of the club.

"Fort Hays played such a big role in my life, so I know how challenging college can be, especially in Salina," Fr. Adam said. "The culture is very different than places like

College ministry is so important because it allows students to take on their faith and make it their own."

- Fr. Adam Urban

K-State and KU. If anything, I want to provide a place for students. I think that was Fr. Keith's vision... College ministry is so important because it allows students to take on their faith and make it their own."

Unlike traditional student centers located close to major universities, the Salina Catholic College Club opens its doors to all students from around the area: Kansas Wesleyan, Salina Tech, K-State Salina, etc. The group doesn't have a designated building to meet at, but instead meets between the three churches, parks and businesses.

Burr is an online student at Fort Hays State who lives in Salina. She has been involved with the

group for more than a year. Seeking to grow in her relationship with Christ, she reached out to Fr. Adam.

"I became involved in the Salina Catholic College Club when I made the tough decision to continue my education online from Salina," Burr said. "Although I have previous connections within the parish, I was seeking faith-based friendships with other college students, so I reached out to Fr. Adam. This club has had a great influence on my life over the last year."

Many of the activities include games at the park, barbecues, bowling, theology nights, prayer, confessions and Mass. Some are seasonal, such as pumpkin patches.

Although the students

meet once per month, the numbers increase with each event. Fr. Adam said there are currently 54 people in GroupMe, and individual invitations are how the club continues to grow. Regardless of the group's size, the goal is

simple for Fr. Adam.

"The vision is to lead college students into a deeper relationship with the Lord, and to provide a space for them to grow in community with their peers," Fr. Adam said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Above, members of the Salina Catholic College Club gather at the park. At the picnic table, back (L-R): Anna Thielen, Fr. Adam Urban, Ben Disberger and Caitlin Burr. Front: Sydney Wapp, Odessa Ozuna, Tylar Deweese and Breanna Ruyle. In the smaller photo, Thielen, Ozuna, Ruyle and Wapp grow in fellowship, playing Spikeball.

We're hiring in Salina!

Facilities Manager, St. Mary's Elementary School

Throughout the year, you will guide the work of the custodian(s), take care of the grounds and campus, complete teacher work/repair requests. Other duties include yearly inspections, oversee pest control services, replace lights, set up/tear down for events, etc.

Prefer work experience in previous maintenance position. Competitive wage range and benefits go with this opportunity.

For a full copy of the job description or to ask questions about this role, please contact Kim Hoelting, HR Director, at 785-342-0819 or send your resume via email to kim.hoelting@salinadiocese.org. You can also reach out directly to the school by contacting Laura at 785-827-4200 to make an appointment. It's a busy, challenging job, with a great team to help. Call today!

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Ellsworth to Junction City

Other Stations

KRTT 88.1 Great Bend

KVDM 88.1 Hays

(EWTN Radio Extra)

K297AI 107.3 Hill City

Every Catholic HAS A FAITH STORY.



Maybe it began in a Catholic School classroom.



Maybe through the guidance of a priest.



Maybe in the pew where you prayed for years.



These stories continue because faithful people invested in the Church before us.

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WATCH OUR VIDEO
at bit.ly/cfds-legacy

See how your generosity can carry your faith story forward and strengthen the Church for generations to come.



WHAT WILL YOUR STORY TELL ABOUT YOU?

By Heather Hartman

I often think about the generations of faithful Catholics who came before us. They built our churches, supported our schools, helped form priests and made sure the Church was there when someone needed it. We may never know many of their names, but we experience the impact of their generosity every day.

What they cared about did not end with them. They found ways to pass it on.

That is really what a legacy is. It is not simply what we leave behind. It is a reflection of what mattered to us during our lives and what we hope will continue because we were here.

For each of us, that may look a little different. It may mean supporting the parish that has been home for decades, helping make Catholic education possible for another generation, supporting our priests and seminarians, or caring for a ministry that has touched our family in a meaningful way.

And creating that impact does not have to wait until someday. There are thoughtful ways to give throughout our lives, through the blessings God has entrusted to us, and through the plans we make for the future.

The Catholic Foundation is here to help you consider what makes sense for you and your family, so that the things you care about today can continue making a difference tomorrow.

What will your story tell about you?



A Tax-Smart Way to Give

If you are 70 ½ or older, your IRA may offer a tax-smart way to support your faith.

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You can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.



Always consult your tax or financial advisor about your individual situation.

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Whether you are considering a gift today or planning for the future, the Catholic Foundation for Diocese of Salina can help you find a giving option that reflects your faith, your family, and what matters most to you.

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Adoration Under the Stars returns to St. Francis Xavier parish

By LORI GARCIA

THE REGISTER

One night each fall, something out of the ordinary occurs as the sun sets in St. Mary's Cemetery in Junction City. While the shadows on the gravestones lengthen and the night turns black, parishioners quietly gather together to witness and worship a Light in the Darkness.

Over the past few years, St. Francis Xavier parish in Junction City has used the cemetery as the location for a night of Adoration Under the Stars.

This year's Adoration Under the Stars will be on October 4, from 7-9 p.m.

"There's just something about it that makes this special, even though it's special even when you have adoration in the church," said Father Peter O'Donnell, pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish.

The event began simply enough. Because the cemetery already has a stone altar used for the parish's annual Memorial Day Mass, parishioners began wondering if the space could offer another opportunity for prayer.

The last couple of years have seen at least 50 people typically gather for the evening, bringing lawn chairs and blankets or simply standing among the cemetery's paths and headstones. The Blessed Sacrament is processed from the entrance of the cemetery to the altar, where it is exposed for adoration.

For those unfamiliar with Eucharistic Adoration, Fr. Peter says praying as a group can provide people with an approachable introduction to the practice.

"Some people are not used to adoration," he said. "Events like this might be helpful for people who perhaps don't have a lot of exposure to that form of prayer."

The evening includes time for silence and communal prayers. Sister Doris Jo "DJ" Rak, who started the event, has helped organize the evening in previous years. This year, Ricardo Gutierrez, is helping lead the planning. He said he hopes



Fr. Peter O'Donnell lifts the monstrance during benediction at the 2025 Adoration Under the Stars event in Junction City. This fall, all are invited to join in the event October 4, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery.

to add live music and an international rosary, incorporating several languages spoken by members of the parish community.

He said the parish's youth and Boy Scouts also have roles in the procession, including carrying the processional cross and canopy that shelters the Blessed Sacrament.

Gutierrez said he hopes the candles in the cemetery will also add something special to the evening. With the cemetery lit by candles as darkness falls, he said, those driving past will be able to see the Catholic cemetery illuminated, offering a visible reminder of the beauty of the faith.

For Gutierrez, the goal is to light a spark of faith in those gathered, especially young people.

"I'm trying to get our youth in love with the Eucharist," Gutierrez said. "Because if they do that, they'll never fall away from the faith."

This year, he says he hopes to see more than 100 people at Adoration

Under the Stars, particularly young people who might be drawn by the outdoor setting or simply the invitation of a friend.

Gutierrez says he hopes to see people drawn in also by the invitation set forth by Bishop Gerald Vincke and the diocese with the More than 500 adoration

campaign for youth. The campaign encourages all people, especially high school students, to develop deep personal relationships with Jesus Christ through adoration.

For Fr. Peter, strengthening bonds of faith is a primary goal for hosting the outside adoration

event.

"I'm a big fan of adoration, no matter where we are," Fr. Peter said. "The thing that I greatly enjoy is just seeing everybody gathered and the combination of silence with praying together and being outside in a little bit of a unique opportunity."

Fr. Peter said the timing is also unique, as people gathered in a cemetery often think of the dead, yet the event is in October, which the Catholic Church observes as Respect Life Month.

"It's really an opportunity for people to be in awe in the presence of our Lord and strengthening those bonds with the communion of saints," Fr. Peter said.

Held among the graves of those who have passed before them, the evening offers a reminder to pray for the deceased while gathering as a living community of faith.

As darkness settles over the cemetery on Oct. 4, candles will shine among the headstones, and the Blessed Sacrament will be placed on the altar. The lights around it will offer a striking contrast in the night.

For a few hours, St. Mary's Cemetery will become a place of prayer and community, and a reminder of the light which Catholics are called to seek, and share, even in the darkness.

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IN HIS PRESENCE

WHAT'S HAPPENING

October 2-3

- Joyful Women's Re-treat, Hays.

October 4

- Fall Festival, 4-6 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Salina .

October 8-10

- Seminary visit, St. John Vianney Seminary, Denver, Colorado.

October 9-11

- Silent Discernment Retreat for Women, Kansas City, Missouri.

October 11

- Anniversary Mass, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Salina, 2 p.m.

- Fall Festival, 4-7 p.m., St. Edward's Parish, Belleville.

October 18

- Mass for Parents of Deceased Children, 2:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, Salina.

October 20

- Ladies of St. Andrew's Ham Loaf Dinner (Tickets \$14), 5-7 p.m.

October 25

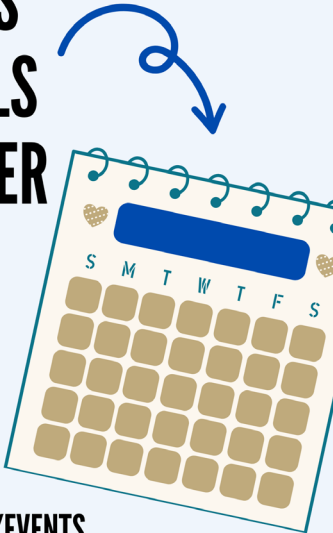
- Anniversary Mass, St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays, 2 p.m.

October 30- November 1

- Silent Ignatian Retreat for Women, Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life, Victoria.

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

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FIND DETAILS
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Where: Salina First United Methodist Church, 122 N. 8th St., Salina, KS

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Checks may be mailed or delivered to: Salina First United Methodist Church, 122 N. 8th St., Salina, KS 67401
Or mail directly to: Feed My Starving Children (Salina Mobile Pack), 401 93rd Ave., Coon Rapids, MN 55433/ (Include "2610-270EA" in the memo.)

Faith. Family. Farming.

A foundation of rural Catholic family life

BY DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
THE REGISTER

Pat Kuhn hopes to retire from farming, at least full-time farming, by the time he reaches 70 years old.

Dorothy Winkel, 89, said she doesn't know if she will ever retire.

The Kuhn and Winkel families and the Ron Lager family were all honored for their longevity in rural life at a prayer service in August.

Rural Life Day, sponsored by the Catholic Rural Life Commission of the Salina Diocese, took place at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

The Lagers (from Grinnell) and Kuhns (Ellis) were presented with Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Awards, while the Winkels, owners and operators of Winkel Manufacturing Co. in Glen Elder, were recognized with the Half Century Business Award.

The Century Farm Awards are presented to families who have owned, farmed or lived on land in the Salina Diocese for 100 years or more. The Half Century Business Award recognizes families that have owned and/or operated a rural-life supporting business for 50 years or more.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anna Kuhn, shown with her 4-H bucket calf as a youngster, has been around farming her entire life and plans to become a fifth-generation farmer when her dad retires.

During the prayer service, Deacon Edward Souza, moderator of our diocese's Rural Life Commission, praised the attendees for "deciding to leave God's creation better for the next generation."

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord," Dcn. Souza said. "To farm is a living catechism."

At a reception following the service, each family gave a brief talk about the history of their farming business and the importance of faith in their lives.

Pat and Diane Kuhn Family

Parish: St. Mary's, Ellis

The Kuhn farm dates back to 1915 when Pat Kuhn's great-grandfather, Johannes Kuhn, established a farm southwest of Ellis.

Pat started reading to those in attendance at Rural Life Day from a paper he held in his hands, before tossing the paper aside and speaking from the heart.

"If you're a farmer, faith becomes your middle



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, THE REGISTER

More than 20 members of all ages of the Ron Lager Family came from near and far to take part in the Rural Life Day service at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit.

name," Pat began, taking a moment to regain his composure.

"Faith. Family. Farming – three words that are so closely woven together that if you don't have one of them, everything begins to unravel. Faith is more important than the tractor

in the shed, the wheat in the field, or the newborn baby calf," he continued.

"Faith has sustained the Kuhn Family Farms for the past 111 years, so we know that the future is secure."

Pat has spent his entire life farming, ranching and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

raising cattle.

He said he hopes to plant his last wheat crop next year and harvest it in 2028, then attempt what most farmers find difficult - retire.

Pat and Diane Kuhn raised two daughters on their farm. Their youngest daughter, Anna, has expressed interest in taking over the family cattle operation. And their teenage grandson, Lane, now works for his grandparents when he isn't in school.

"Many years ago someone told Pat that he had his hobby and his occupation confused. Farming is in his heart, in his soul," Diane Kuhn said. "It's been a very, very good life for us and our family. Of course there are ups and downs, but there are a lot of values children who are raised on the farm learn daily."

"When you think about what our ancestors went through to build this, we're just a small part of it," she said. "What it has become for our family is very humbling. What they built so many years ago gave Pat the opportunity to carry it on."

And, God willing, the Kuhn family will keep carrying it on and on, for many more years to come.

Winkel
Manufacturing Co.
Parish: Sts. Peter and Paul, Cawker City
The company's lime-

stone marker in front of its property reads "Right at Home on the Range."

That's the philosophy the Winkels have lived by since the family started the company back in 1958.

From humble beginnings as a farm repair shop out of the family garage in 1958, Winkel evolved into building farm products to help ease the handling of livestock, such as pickup stock racks and loading chutes and panels.

In more than half a century of serving the livestock industry, Winkel's Manufacturing still builds and sells cattle, livestock and ranch equipment.

The original founder, Paul Winkel, died in 2018, but his wife, Dorothy, is still the heart and soul of the company - despite being just four months shy of her 90th birthday.

The Winkels raised five children on the farm, which has expanded to numerous large buildings east of the original farm, where Dorothy still resides.

The couple's two sons, Roy and Alan, now run the company along with Roy's son, Jesse. And Dorothy still runs the office.

When asked if she would ever retire, Dorothy laughed and was quick to reply, "I haven't thought about it - don't know what else I'd do."

Lager Family Farm *Parish: St. Paul, Angelus*

Lager Family Farm was established in Sheridan County in 1925, and founder John Lager's great-great grandson, Kevin, and his family live on the century farm.

Kevin and his wife, Melanie, are raising seven children ages 1 to 17 years, the sixth generation of Lagers to carry on the family legacy.

Kevin and his six siblings grew up on a dairy farm nearby, owned by his parents, Ron and Linda Lager. The dairy business had been started at the century farm, and Ron and Linda continued running a dairy at their farm for 45 years, from 1977-2022.

Kevin and his brother, Marty, run the farming operation today along with their dad.

Almost two dozen family members came from across the state to take part in Rural Life Day, including Ron and Linda and several of their children and grandchildren.

An interesting note: Ron grew up on the century farm with three siblings, including his twin brother, Fr. John Lager, a Capuchin priest for the Province of Mid-America in Denver. And one of Ron and Linda's five sons is Fr. Brian Lager, moderator of a solidum team of priests serving parishes in northwest Kansas.



COURTESY PHOTO, DAVID AND LINDA EDELL

Winkel Family *Half Century Business Award Recipients*



COURTESY PHOTO, DAVID AND LINDA EDELL

Kuhn Family *Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Award Recipients*



COURTESY PHOTO, DAVID AND LINDA EDELL

Lager Family *Msgr. John George Weber Century Farm Award Recipients*

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Catholic Charities: Bring what you have

By MEGAN ROBL

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHERN KS

When I look across our diocese, I see so much goodness.

I see parishes opening their doors and parking lots. Volunteers giving their time. Donors quietly and faithfully sharing what God has entrusted to them. I see staff traveling thousands of miles to meet people where they are. And I see neighbors caring for neighbors in ways that remind me again and again what it means to be the Body of Christ.

I also see tremendous need.

Families are searching for stability. Mothers are wondering how they will make rent while caring for a new baby. Parents are trying to put food on the table while keeping the lights on. People are carrying circumstances they never expected to face.

There are moments when the need can feel overwhelming.

Maybe you have felt that too.

It can be tempting to believe that unless we can solve every problem, what we have to offer is not enough. But Scripture tells us something very different.

When thousands gathered to hear Jesus teach, the disciples looked at the crowd and saw an impossible problem. There were too many people and not nearly enough food. Five loaves. Two fish.

What could something so small possibly accomplish?

Jesus did not ask them to create the miracle. He simply asked them to bring what they had. And when that small offering was placed in His hands, He multiplied it beyond anything they could have imagined.

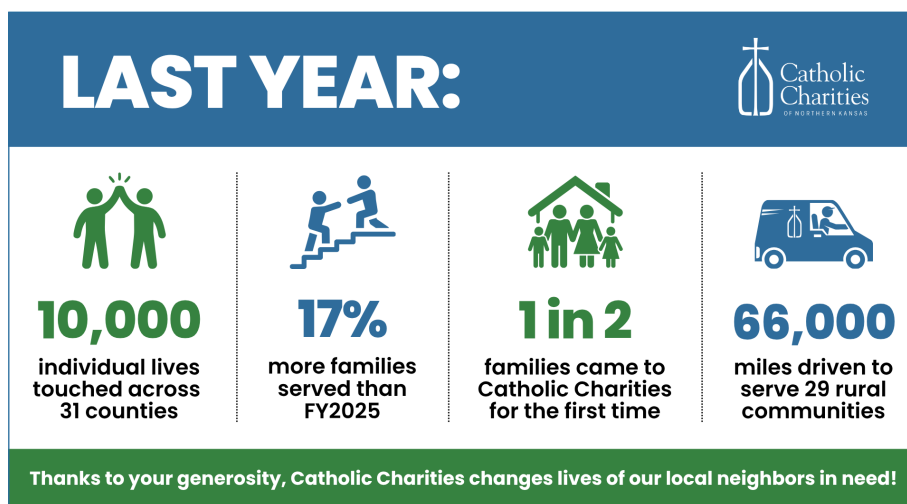
I think about that story often in our work at Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas because, thanks to you, we see that kind of multiplication every day.

Last year, Catholic Charities touched 10,000 lives across our diocese. The number of families we served grew by 17 percent, and perhaps most strikingly, nearly 1 in 2 families received help from Catholic Charities for the very first time.

Behind those numbers are real people: a family receiving a food box during a difficult month, a young mother finding diapers and practical support, or a neighbor receiving help with rent before a temporary setback becomes homelessness.

And increasingly, that help is traveling to meet people where they live.

Last year, our outreach team drove more than 66,000 miles, serving 29 rural communities throughout our 26,000-square-mile, 31-county service area. Those miles represent more than a van on the highway. They represent our commitment as a Church to make sure geography does not determine whether



someone can receive compassion, dignity and hope.

Through all of this growth, one thing fills me with extraordinary gratitude: because of the generosity of people throughout our diocese, we have been able to keep showing up.

As more families have come through our doors, we have had food to place in their hands, diapers for their babies and resources to help keep families housed and utilities connected. We have not had to turn anyone away due to a lack of resources.

That is because of you.

It is because someone remembered Catholic Charities in their prayers. Someone volunteered their time. Someone made a generous gift. A parish opened its doors. A family chose to help another family they may never meet.

Each offering may feel small on

its own.

But placed in God's hands, it becomes something more.

Our faith reminds us that we do not have to carry the needs of the world alone. Christ asks us to see Him in our neighbor, to offer what we have and to trust Him with what happens next.

Every prayer matters. Every hour volunteered matters. Every act of kindness matters. Every gift matters.

Together, those acts become food on a table, a safe home for a family, comfort for someone who is hurting and hope for a neighbor who had begun to believe they were forgotten.

As we continue serving our neighbors, I am deeply grateful for all you have already made possible. Thank you for trusting God to use what each of us can offer to accomplish something far greater than we could alone.

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT PARISH AFTER STORM



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers clean up at Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery after a summer storm caused extensive damage in the area.

SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

When severe thunderstorms and high winds swept through Solomon on Thursday, Aug. 13, the community lost power and Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery sustained extensive tree damage.

After an announcement at Sunday Mass asking for volunteers, more than 50 parishioners and community members arrived with chainsaws, trucks and a willingness to help.

Volunteers spent the day

cutting fallen trees and limbs and hauling away debris. Neighbors worked side by side to restore the cemetery, turning what could have been a long cleanup into a community effort.

"Many hands made light work!" said parishioner Sarah Riordan, who shared the story with The Register. "It was touching to see everyone come out and help!"

The response demonstrated the generosity and care of the Solomon community for its parish and cemetery.

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A tree grows in Brooklyn

By NICK COMPAGNONE

FORMER SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE
SALINA DIOCESE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

When my grandparents first stepped off the ship onto the crowded, cobblestoned streets of Brooklyn, they carried more than a suitcase. Tucked between their heavy coats and the last of their old-country belongings were two small fig saplings, wrapped in burlap and hope. They settled into a narrow courtyard behind their brick rowhouse, in a neighborhood where men still argued in rapid Italian and women hung lace curtains that fluttered like small flags. I lived in that Brooklyn house for six years.

My grandfather, Nicole, was a quiet man, with hands made tender by work and stubborn by habit. He found a sunlit corner, knelt in the dust, and planted the saplings as though he were returning something he had borrowed. "Figs," he would say, "are stubborn—like the people from my village. They require coaxing, protection, and, at times, a song."

Winters in Brooklyn were unlike the winters he remembered. Wind cut through mortar, and cold crept into the bones of trees that had once stood on Mediterranean slopes. Nicole built a tent around the small fig using salvaged poles and canvas, then tucked old quilts at its base. At night, when the city's clamor thinned to a distant hum, I watched

him through the kitchen window: beneath a dim lamp, hands steady on the canvas, he sang opera into the fabric—long, resolute lines carried on breath and memory. His voice was not for the neighbors; it was for the tree. He believed the sound warmed the air, and if not the air, then the heart that listened.

Seasons passed. The tree grew taller and leaner yet remained stubbornly barren. Men on the stoops noticed it and made jokes. "Nicole's stick," they called it, and laughter rippled down the block. Children mimicked the angles of its branches with their arms. Even the faithful—who had heard miracles whispered about in the churchyard—shrugged. Nicole simply wrapped the canvas tighter, sang the same arias each night, and kept vigil as though watching over a sleeping child.

Then, one spring, after a winter that seemed especially cruel, the first small green figs appeared. They were modest and oddly perfect against the dark leaves—trophies of patience. Nicole woke the whole house at dawn, his voice trembling with joy. He cut handfuls, sticky and warm from the sun, and went door to door to share them. The neighbors who had mocked him stood in their doorways, surprised and faintly ashamed of the amusement that had once come so easily. Nicole only smiled and said, simply, "God gives us patience and rewards us."

Years later—after the city had changed its face, and after a generation had grown and scattered—I bought my own house and planted a fig of my own: a small, stubborn echo of Nicole's. I was busy with work, children, and the practical worries that crowd a modern life. At first, my sapling was no different from his: a thin stick that my children pointed at and teased. "Look at Daddy's stick!" they shouted, collapsing into fits of schoolyard laughter.

For several seasons the tree bore no fruit. Friends teased, the children rolled their eyes, and I kept watering, pruning, and humming. Then, one sultry morning, as the city shook itself awake, a small, shy fig hung from the lowest branch. My daughter found it first; her hand cupped the fruit as though it were a secret. We ate it together—sticky fingers, honeyed flavor, and the sweetness of something earned by time and care.

The laughter that once mocked the "stick" softened into smiles. My



COURTESY PHOTO

A gardener who sees his fig tree bearing fruit is a reflection of the Christian reward for those who serve the Lord.

children learned the lesson not from my sermons—I rarely spoke of it—but from the way my hands continued to tend the tree, and from the quiet tune I still hummed at night.

The moral of my grandfather's story is that patience and faithful, ordinary effort—offered quietly, persistently, and with love—often bear fruit in their own time. The care we give, even to the humblest things, becomes a grace we can share.

This fig-tree story also echoes the Gospel episode in which Jesus encounters a barren fig tree (Mark 11:12–14, 20–25; Matthew 21:18–22). In the Gospels, the tree's lack of fruit becomes a teaching moment: Jesus condemns unfruitfulness, using the tree as a living symbol of a spiritual life that must bear the visible marks of faith and repentance. The passage is less a lesson in horticulture than a warning—and an invitation—that belief, when lived and tended, should yield fruit.

St. Catherine's Parish

KATHARINENSTADT'S ESSENFEST

German Style Cook-Off

Details

When: Sunday, October 11 from 11:00 – 12:30

Where: Kennedy Middle School Cafeteria
1309 Fort St, Hays, KS

Entry Cost: Enter a GERMAN FOOD for a chance to win a Cash Prize! There is no entry fee.

Cash Prize for the top 3 People's Choice Award

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BAPTISMS

Rayna Grace Atwood, daughter of Easton and Michaela Atwood, was baptized August 2, 2026, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Concordia. Godparents are Christian Wetter and Dalaney Huchaby.

Baker Ynacio Bautista, son of Ynacio and Tara Bautista, was baptized August 29, 2026, by Dcn. Larry Erpelding at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Louie Karol Berg, son of Chase and Julie (Schroeder) Berg, was baptized August 23, 2026, by Rev. Luke Friess at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

Everett Leo Bergman, son of Brent Bergman and Kara Gudenkauf Bergman, was baptized August 16, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Lily Eudora Bepaly, daughter of Jacob Bepaly and Kaitlin Carlile Bepaly, was baptized August 16, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Kit Chad Davied, son of Matt and Cayleigh (Ramsey) Davied, was baptized September 6, 2026, by Fr. Mark Wesely at St. Patrick's Church in Lincoln. Godparents are Chase Ramsey and Natalie (Davied) Gibbons.

River Wayne Davis, son of Dalton Wayne Davis and Alison Marlene Davis, was baptized August 16, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Maria Ann-Michelle Diaz, daughter of Ector and Julia (Taylor) Diaz, was baptized August 30, 2026, by Fr. Adam Urban at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godpar-

ents are Joslyn Deters and Porter Deters.

Rose Lynn Diesel, daughter of Trent and Kaitlyn Diesel, was baptized August 28, 2026, by Dcn. Wayne Talbot at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Harper June Garrison, daughter of Nathan and Rachel Garrison, was baptized August 15, 2026, by Fr. Peter O'Donnell at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Godparents are Ryan Hengemuhle and Sarah Boucher.

Emmett Gerald Haug, son of Derek and Madison Haug, was baptized August 30, 2026, by Dcn. Buzz Harris at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Ethan Wayne Jordan, son of Christopher and Emily Jordan, was baptized August 23, 2026, by Rev. Frank Coady at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Eleanor Christine Lambert, daughter of Taylor and Maddie Lambert, was baptized June 21, 2026, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Oaks Joseph Lehmkuhl, son of Nicholas Lehmkuhl and Alexis Schamberger, was baptized August 23, 2026, by Fr. Vincent John, CMI, at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Leah Marie Lepski, daughter of Ryan and Erin (Smothers) Lepski, was baptized August 9, 2026, by Fr. Adam Urban at St. Mary Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Mary Grace Burkhalter and Daniel Lepski.

Elliot Leo Marks, son of Chandler and Shelby Marks,

was baptized August 29, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Savannah Layne Mattke, daughter of Brady and Shelby (Werth) Mattke, was baptized August 9, 2026, by Fr. Dana Clark at St. Mary's Church in Ellis.

Alaia Gissel Reyes Macias, daughter of Edwin Jomar Reyes Lagares and Jocelyn Gissel Macias Reyes, was baptized August 29, 2026, by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Mathias Gabriel Guatemala Molina, son of Allan José Guatemala Osejo and Gabriela Elizabeth Molina Beteta, was baptized August 16, 2026, by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Antonella Nailani Obando-Palacio, daughter of Elmer Wilfredo Obando-Palacio, was baptized August 9, 2026, by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Jasper Wilfredo Obando-Palacio, son of Elmer Wilfredo Obando-Palacio, was baptized August 9, 2026, by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Sevy Ramon Drilon Palomo, son of Rymon-Giovanni Duenas Palomo and Sianna Rose Drilon Palomo, was baptized August 2, 2026, by Fr. Leo Blasi at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Kien Trung Quach, son of Trung Quang Quach and Hoa Ha, was baptized August 16, 2026, by Fr. Tuyen Nguyen at St. Mary

Queen of the Universe Church in Salina. Godparents are Nguyen Su Huynh and Anna Nguyen.

Golden Sequoia Reinart, daughter of Leonard Francis Reinart and Wendy Andrea Vazquez, was baptized August 2, 2026, by Fr. Rafael Indave Campos at Seven Dolors Parish in Manhattan.

Wrenley Grace Russell, daughter of Brigdon Russell and Jaden Ney, was baptized August 21, 2026, by Fr. Luke Thielen at St. Mary Queen of Angels Church in Russell.

Lilian Marie Schmidt, daughter of Harlie Schmidt and Seth Gillock, was baptized April 26, 2026, by Fr. Earl Befort, OFM Cap., in Catharine.

Myles Dean Soler, son of Michael and LeAnn Soler, was baptized August 23, 2026, by Fr. Jarett Konrade at St. John the Baptist in Beloit.

Natalie Grace Stouffer, daughter of Lucas and Megan (Grieve) Stouffer, was baptized June 14, 2026, by Fr. Earl Befort, OFM Cap., at St. Catherine Church in Catharine. Godparents are Kaden VonFeldt and Erin Sims.

Owen Jeffrey Tajchman, son of Alan and Chelsea Tajchman, was baptized August 23, 2026, by Dcn. Harry Hardy at St. Thomas More, Manhattan.

Waylon Lawrence Zimmerman, son of Austin and Quinlan Zimmerman, was baptized August 29, 2026, by Fr. Daryl Olmstead at St. Mary Help of Christians Church in Gorham.

WEDDINGS

Joseph William Ackerman and Megan Elisabeth Deters were married August 1, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are James and Joan Ackerman. Parents of the bride are Bruce and Mary Deters. Witnesses were Tanner Faust and Jordan Deters.

Patrick Eilert and Cecilia Sanders were married August 15, 2026, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Allen and Tammy Eilert. Parents of the bride are Mark and Tracy Sanders. Witnesses were Landon Eilert and Veronica Sanders.

Blake Michael Gormley and Jersey Grace Carter were married August 1, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Trevor Buster witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Chad and Rebecca Gormley. Parents of the bride are the late Lee "Chopper" Carter and Amanda Carter. Witnesses were Jace Grubb and Mackenzie Gormley.

Aaron Henke and Brenna Eilert were married August 29, 2026, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are David Henke and Linda Deneke. Parents of the bride are Brad and Vickie Eilert. Witnesses were Drew Stover and Kara Eilert.

Caleb Kats and Magdalene James were married August 8, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Lauren and Karen Kats. Parents of the bride are Wesley James and Alice Berens. Witnesses were Ethan Kats and Emily James.

Nicholas Robert Patterson and Allison Nicole Doll were married August 8, 2026, at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Karl Good witnessed their vows. Parents of the groom are Tom and Katie Patterson. Parents of the bride are Jesse and Mary Doll. Witnesses were Christian Patterson and Rebecca Fairchild.



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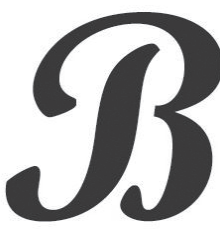


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FUNERALS

Gerald Brummer, 94, died August 29, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated September 4 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Derek Budke, 56, died August 15, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 19 at St. John the Baptist Church in Beloit. Fr. Jarett Konrade presided. Burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Gorden Joe Burgardt, 72, died July 19, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 8 at St. Mary's Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Rose Dorzweiler, 94, died June 7, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated June 11 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

Catherine "Katie" Eberle, 103, died July 27, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 1 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ellis.

George M.B. Fink, 85, Chapman, died June 17, 2026. Funeral service was June 25 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Fr. Peter O'Donnell presided; Fr. John Wolskey was concelebrant. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Chapman.

Shirley Higgins, 91, died July 26, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 5 at St. Mary's Church in Mc-

Cracken. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Burial in Mc-Cracken Cemetery.

Walter Leroy "Lee" Maxwell, 100, died August 28, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated September 4 at St. Joseph Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet and Fr. Damian Richards presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Kathryn Jean McWherter, 71, died July 31, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 7 at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center in Manhattan. Fr. Gale Hamerschmidt presided.

Charlotte Rae Meints, 92, died July 30, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 7 at Sacred Heart Church in Oberlin. Fr.

Mathew Chacko presided. Burial in Oberlin Cemetery, Oberlin.

Charles Francis Moos, 88, died August 18, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 25 at Immaculate Conception Church in Grinnell. Fr. James M. Thomas presided. Burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Grinnell.

Beulah Marie (Demanett) Nobert, 93, died August 15, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 24 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Concordia. Burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Concordia.

Calaway Bryan "Cal" Nunnelee, 61, died August 6, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 11 at

FUNERAL NOTICES CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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FUNERALS,
CONTINUED

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Nick Parker, Fr. Fred Gatschet and Fr. Luke Friess presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Arlene Reed, 98, died August 26, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated September 12 at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Clay Center. Fr. John Wolesky presided. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery, Clay Center.

Merlin Joseph Romme, 87, died August 10, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 15 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays. Fr. Luke Friess presided. Burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Steven Joseph Schuler, 72, died June 25, 2026. Funeral service was July 1 at St. Michael Church in Chapman. Fr. Kade Megaffin presided. Burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Chapman.

Virginia B. Wasinger, 90, Hays, died August 23, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 28 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

Kathleen “Kathy” A. Wiesner, 74, died August 3, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated August 15 at St. Mary’s Church in Ellis. Fr. Dana Clark presided. Inurnment in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Ellis.

Marilynn J. Wilson, 88, Hays, died August 30, 2026. Funeral Mass was celebrated September 5 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hays. Fr. Fred Gatschet presided. Inurnment in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hays.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SAINTS

The Church celebrates the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael on September 29. While angels are not humans, Catholics call them saints because the word saint means “holy one,” and it refers to anyone in Heaven who loves God and carries out His will.

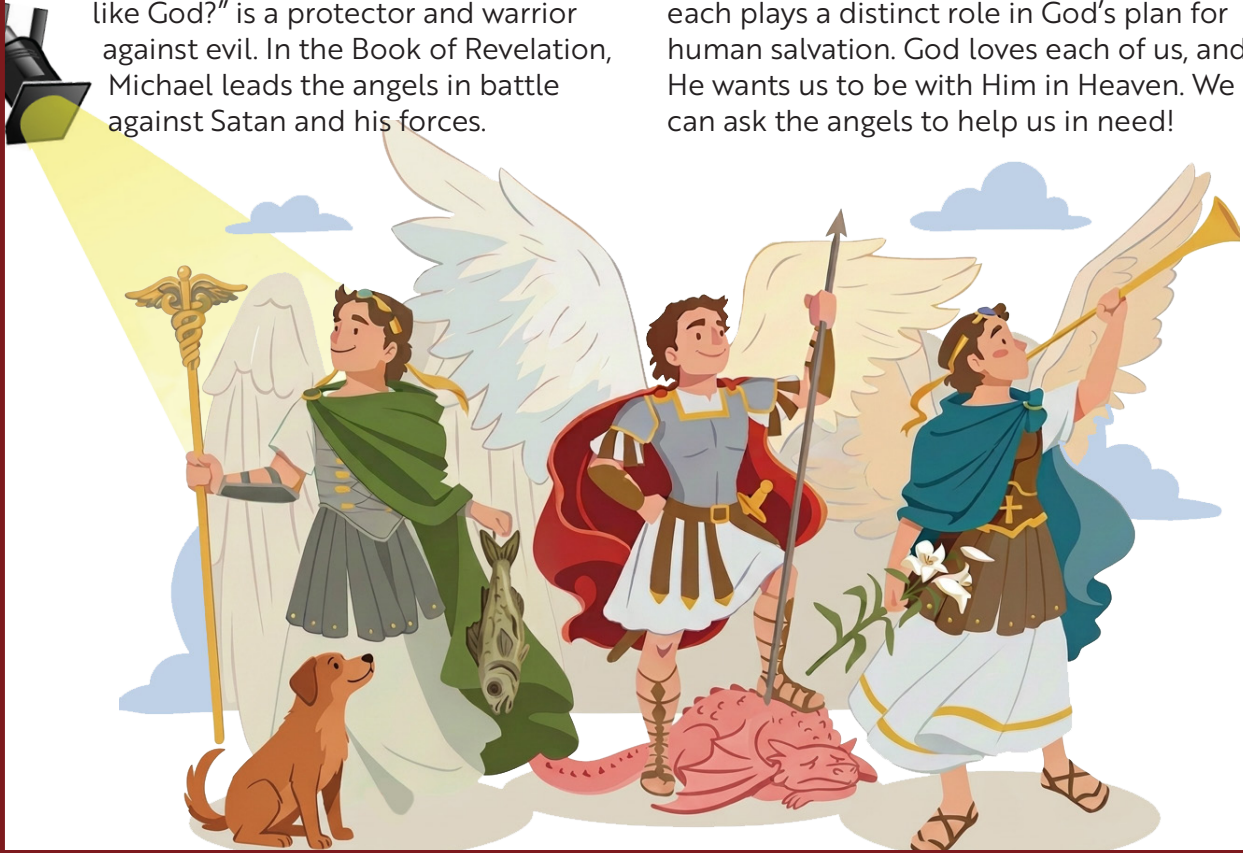
The Bible gives us the names and missions of three archangels, high-ranking angels with very special missions.

St. Michael, whose name means “Who is like God?” is a protector and warrior against evil. In the Book of Revelation, Michael leads the angels in battle against Satan and his forces.

St. Gabriel is perhaps best known as the messenger who appeared to the Virgin Mary and announced to her that she would become the mother of Jesus. Gabriel also appeared to Zechariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist.

St. Raphael appears in the Book of Tobit, where he accompanies the young Tobias on his journey. He helps heal Tobias and his father, Tobit. His name means “God heals.”

We celebrate all three this month because each plays a distinct role in God’s plan for human salvation. God loves each of us, and He wants us to be with Him in Heaven. We can ask the angels to help us in need!



FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS: SEPTEMBER 29



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