

Focusing the gospel

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we read Luke's Gospel of the Annunciation, the moment when a troubled Mary is told she has found favor with God and she will conceive and bear a son. She questions: "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" Then declaring herself the handmaiden of the Lord, she accepts: "May it be done to me according to your word."

Monday is Christmas Day. The first celebration of The Nativity of the Lord is the Mass at Midnight. The first reading is from Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." This powerful reading deserves a slow contemplation. The Gospel is from Luke: the journey to Bethlehem, the birth, the angels announce the birth to the shepherds. The second celebration of The Nativity of the Lord is the Mass at Dawn. The Gospel is from Luke: the shepherds visit the newborn child. "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The third celebration of The Nativity of the Lord is the Mass during the Day. Here the Gospel is from the beginning of John's Gospel: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

Then, the church celebrates three very important feasts after Christmas. Monday is the Feast of Saint Stephen, the first public witness who gave his life for his faith. Tuesday is the Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist. Wednesday is the moving Feast of the Holy Innocents, remembering the infant martyrs of Herod's jealous rage.

On the Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas we have the story of the Purification in the temple and the powerful words of Simeon about Jesus and about Mary. On the Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas we have the story about Anna in the temple and Jesus going home with his parents. "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on Creighton University's Online Ministries Website: <http://www.creighton.edu/collaborativeministry/prayer>. Used with permission.

"Oh Come Let Us Adore Him"



"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of God with my own eyes, except for His Most Holy Body and Blood."- *St. Francis of Assisi*

Volunteers needed for the following hours:

Sunday - 2 a.m. & Noon

Monday - 7 p.m., 8 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Thursday - 8 a.m. & 9 a.m.

Friday - 9 a.m., Noon & 6 p.m.

Saturday - 1 a.m., 2 a.m. & 6 p.m.

For more details, call Jana at 945-5379.

Please Remember In Prayer:

Sr. Lucille Kerschen
 Juanita Mans
 Jim Ridder
 Sue Warren
 Regina Gaytan
 Jim Monroe
 Leroy Nedeau
 Ruth Freund
 Joan Kandt
 Peggy Bowen
 Doug Howell
 Betty Sherlock
 Dorothy Dotterer
 Nancy Smith



Nell Ball
 Doug Stuhlsatz
 Don Williams
 Tim Chadd
 Nancy Bradley

Vernie Bloch
 Dave Rohlman
 Sandy Gleeson
 Jim Flanigan
 Sarah Bigley
 Jeff Dyer
 Tim Holden
 JoAnn Heimerman
 Patricia Ardisson
 Mary Moman
 Tim Benham
 John Uphaus
 Janet Willhite



United in Prayer

St. Joseph Family

Rosary Crusade

14,105 decades prayed

Please join us in praying for our parish families and the poor souls. Decade cards are available in the vestibule of the church.

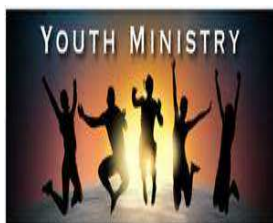
Weekly Readings

- Mon. 12/25: Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
- Tues. 12/26: Acts 6:8-7:59, Ps 31:3-17, Mt 10:17-22
- Wed. 12/27: 1Jn 1:1-4, Ps 97:1-12, Jn 20:1-8
- Thur. 12/28: 1Jn 1:5-2:2, Ps 124:2-8, Mt 2:13-18
- Fri. 12/29: 1Jn 2:3-11, Ps 96:1-6, Lk 2:22-35
- Sat. 12/30: 1Jn 2:12-17, Ps 96:7-10, Lk 2:36-40
- Sun. 12/31: Sir 3:2-14, Ps 128:1-5, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:22-40

Thank you for your gift of treasure! July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Weekly Collection 12/17/2017	\$11,053.09
Weekly tithe amount needed	\$13,483.09
Surplus or (Deficit) YTD	(\$11,070.41)
CMI Fund	\$10,012.00
2017-2018 Fiscal Year	
Roof & Climate Control Repairs	(\$15,242.27)
(cost so far this fiscal year)	
CMI Balance	(\$5,210.27)
<i>(Campus Maintenance & Improvement Fund)</i>	

In our first reading, we witness King David being called to build the temple – a sacred place to house the Ark of the Covenant. In the gospel, we see Mary being called to carry the infant Jesus – the New Covenant. And today, if you take the time to look in a mirror, you will see a baptized Christian, called to carry Jesus in his/her heart and share Him with everyone he/she encounters. There is beautiful continuity from the Old Testament to the New Testament, and from sacred scripture to you and I. It is one of the most beautiful gifts we could receive on this Christmas Eve. Today, find a moment of silence. Humble yourself before God and give thanks.



Catholic Youth Ministry

Check us out & be part of fun, fellowship, & faith! ALL high school age youth are invited to

join St. Joseph’s Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM), from 7 - 8:30 pm in the basement of the OLD RECTORY. The next meeting will be January 8th.

Holy Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 a.m. Mass - The Ball Family

Tuesday, December 26

Saint Stephen

6:00 p.m. Mass +Joseph Cao Dinh Huhn

Wednesday, December 27

Saint John

8:15 a.m. Mass +Aloysius Kerschen

Thursday, December 28

The Holy Innocents

8:15 a.m. Mass +Rolly Chadd

Friday, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket

8:15 a.m. Mass +Brett Moeder

Saturday, December 30

8:15 a.m. Mass - S.I. Lisa Grow

4:00 p.m. Mass +Wilfred Vogel

Sunday, December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:15 a.m. Mass +Mary Abasolo

10:00 a.m. Mass - The People of St. Joseph

Ministry Schedule December 30th & 31st

4:00 PM

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (S) Linda Bolster | (Rosary) Corrinna Irvin |
| (L1) Katie Gruver | (M. Server) James Janzen |
| (L2) David Darland | (Candle 1) Aiden Blick |
| (H) Corrinna Irvin | (Candle 2) Zach Stickney |
| (C1) Mike Irvin | (GB) Sinforosa Miller & |
| (C2) Jeff Dyer | Bill & Pat Wright |

8:15 AM

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (S) Charlie Deitchler | (Rosary) Ken Sueper |
| (L1) Bonnie Setzkorn | (M. Server) Thomas Kucera |
| (L2) Larry Setzkorn | (Candle 1) Grace Boman |
| (H) Sr. Nancy Jane Kuntz | (Candle 2) Sam Wagner |
| (C1) Sandy Bugner | (GB) Regina Orth Family |
| (C2) Bill Bugner | |

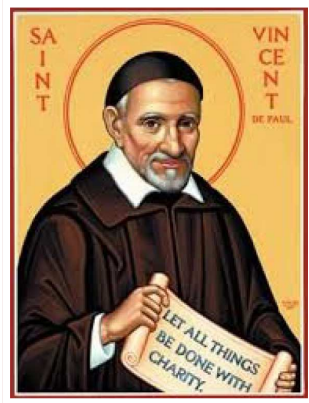
10:00 AM

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| (S) Jack Johnson | (Rosary) Florence Marx |
| (L1) Jacob Schnoor | (M. Server) Matthew Probst |
| (L2) John Cooke | (Candle 1) Angela McKinney |
| (H) Shellie Hamersky | (Candle 2) Victoria McKinney |
| (C1) Mike McDanel | (GB) Douglas & Bridget Sublett |
| (C2) Andrew Purcell | |

Prayers for Our Military

Please pray for all members of the military, especially our parishioners:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Jay Schoen | Tony Jeffress | Jonathan Burke |
| Sam Francis | Matt Mork | Timothy Collier |
| Justin Light | Jeff Cranor | Nicholas Gerhold |



Saint Vincent DePaul Society News

The Saint Joseph Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society helped a parish family paying for them to stay in a motel for a week as they searched for an appropriate apartment or house to rent, and we referred them to Kansas Legal Services and to the Center of Hope for further financial assistance. Our conference also helped a neighbor with \$160 in rent to prevent them from being evicted.

The Saint Vincent de Paul society is a Catholic lay ministry dedicated to charitable works for those in need. Our primary mission is conducting home visits to determine people's financial needs, and then offering financial and other assistance as necessary. Please consider supporting us by joining us at our next meeting on Monday, January 8th at 6:30 pm, or supporting us financially by donating through the parish office.

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10

Spiritual Life Center

New Year's Eve Marian Retreat December 31; 7 p.m. - midnight. Celebrate New Year's Eve by ringing in the New Year with Our Lady. Program includes conference, adoration, Mass and an indoor procession. \$20 (overnight accommodations available).

KidsPrayToo! Mass with Children Thursday, Jan. 4; 11:15 a.m. This monthly celebration of our regular Daily Mass especially welcomes little children and their caregivers! Pack a lunch to enjoy in our dining room afterwards. No charge.

St John the Evangelist Grief Group Winter session begins Thursday, Jan. 4; 7-9 p.m. This 11-week grief support group meets Thursday evenings. It is open to anyone grieving the loss of someone close. With video sessions, discussions, and a helpful workbook, the program offers comfort and support. Cost is a one-time fee of \$35 and you can attend as many sessions as needed for as long as they run at the SLC.

Mental Health First Aid Workshop Saturday, Jan. 13; 8-4:30 p.m. Learn how to help a friend, family member, coworker, parishioner, or neighbor in need! Similar to 'First Aid' or CPR, "Mental Health First Aid" teaches individuals how to help those experiencing mental health challenges or crises. 8 hours of CEU's available to attendees! \$60 includes program, lunch, materials and more.

A Politically Incorrect Course on Catholic Social Teaching Three Thursdays beginning Jan. 18; 7-8:30 p.m. Dusty Gates will present a three part course highlighting the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching as they have been articulated by the Magisterium throughout Church History. This course will address Catholic Social Teaching bluntly and honestly, without the watering down that normally occurs for reasons that are sometimes sentimental, sometimes political, and sometimes caused by a confused understanding of ecumenism. \$30

The Catholic Faith Conference Jan. 19-20, 2018 Please join us for the 1st Annual Catholic Faith Conference this January, where we will celebrate all that is beautiful and inspiring about our Catholic Faith! This year's festival will feature national keynote speaker Jon Leonetti, an Info Fair, Breakout Sessions, Adoration, and a 'Stump the Padre' panel! More information on our web site.

Advance registration requested. For more info and to register, visit www.slwichita.org or call 316.744.0167.



Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. only

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Stewardship Thoughts

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born of Mary, Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and bear a son as a sign to the king, Ahaz. The fulfillment of the scriptural prophesy of the virgin birth helped the people of Jesus' time recognize that he was sent by God. Through the angel's message to Joseph, we come to understand the depth of God's love in sending his Son to us. Throughout Advent, the readings from Isaiah encouraged us to exult in the glory of God's coming. May our celebration of Christmas open our hearts to the love and mercy generously given by our Heavenly Father.

Parish Family Agreements

The 2018-2019 Parish Family Agreements will be mailed to the High School Families on December 27th (mailing date printed last week had to be delayed). All forms need to be signed and returned to the parish office by January 15th, 2018. Please be on the lookout for these to arrive by mail.



Oblates of St. Benedict

The Oblates of St. Benedict will meet in the Mother Teresa room of the Parish Center on Tuesday, Dec 26th at 7pm. For more info call Pat at 316.775.5663.



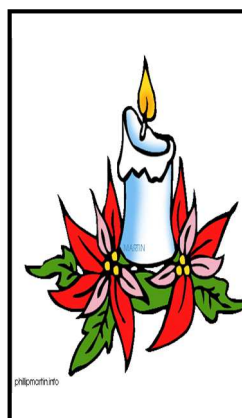
Christmas Call to Sharing

Priests of the Church minister and mediate. They help us break open and digest the Word of God week after week, year after year.

Gradually, the Gospel of Jesus becomes our own mind and heart. God's Word influences the way we think, decide, and act. Priests bring us sacramental life from the waters of Baptism through Eucharist to the final Anointing. The Diocesan "Call to Sharing" collection supports our retired priests, who have fulfilled their promise of a lifetime of service, and the education of our **46** seminarians. What a promising future these seminarians represent for our diocese! A special "Christmas Call to Sharing" envelope was mailed to all registered parishioners. Please prayerfully consider participating in this voluntary offering this Christmas. God bless!

Memorial Mass & Breakfast January 13th, 2018

If you have lost a loved one this past year, you and your family are invited to attend the Memorial Mass at 8:15. a.m. on Saturday, January 13th, 2018 Breakfast to follow in the Parish Hall. Please R.S.V.P. to Kelly, Mike or Martha at 261-5812 by Wednesday January 10th.



Thank you for all the wonderful Christmas prayers, cards and gifts. May the Good Lord bless you all.

~ Father Smeltzer