

NOVEMBER 30, 2025



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Pastor:**

Fr. Anthony Mersmann
pastor@sjolpe.org
Rectory: 620-475-3420

Parish Office:

Hours:
Wed. 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Fri. 9:00 am-Noon
620-475-3326
office@sjolpe.org

Administrative Assistant:

Diana Kuhlmann
diana@sjolpe.org
620-475-3784 or 620-794-1914

Mass Schedule:

Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 8:30 am
Wed., Thurs., & Fri. - 7:15 am
The rosary is recited before weekend Masses @
4:35 pm on Saturday evenings and 8:05 am on
Sunday mornings

Confessions:

Wed., Thurs., & Fri. - 6:30 am - 7:00 am
Saturday - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Upon Request

Adoration:

Wednesdays: 8:00 am-7:00 pm in the Church

Other Sacraments:

Contact Parish Office

Parish Contacts:

Funeral Dinners: Linda Dieker, (620) 475-3567
Cemetery: Steve Redeker, (620) 475-3255
K of C: Danny Schneider, (620) 794-5889
Family Life: Kay Schmidt, (620) 475-3767
Outreach: Arlene Redeker, (620) 475-3414
Finance Council: Kevin Flott, (620) 412-3275
Pastoral Council: Kim Irwin, (620) 475-3295
Religious Ed: Lindsey Ratcliff, (214) 732-3813
St. Joseph School Endowment: Michael
Ratcliff, (620) 490-0388

Sacristan 12/01/25 - 12/07/25

Phyllis Krueger

Weekend Lectors/EMHCs

11/29: Jana Redeker
11/30: Michael Ratcliff
12/06: Donna Bolen
12/07: Dan Schneider
12/08: Jana Redeker - 7:15 a.m.
Rosemary Martin - 7:00 p.m.
12/13: LeAnn Eberle
12/14: Greg Markowitz - Lector
Lilly Skalsky - Lector
12/20: Donna Bolen
12/21: Greg Markowitz - Lector
Trish Markowitz - EMHC
12/24: Jana Redeker - 5:30 p.m.
12/25: Rosemary Martin - 8:30 a.m.
12/27: Lilly Skalsky
12/28: Cass Coughlin
12/31: LeAnn Eberle - 5:30 p.m.
01/01: Donna Bolen - 8:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Prayer List

Collins Baldwin
Linda Barnard
Maya Bishop
Jeanette Reed Copeland
Vicki Dickson
Kauffman Dieker
Norman Geiger
Susan Haag
Sylvia Haag
Darren Heins
Kenneth Langley
Debbie Markowitz
Brian Martin
Sylvia Miller
Shea Mueting
James Nunley
Todd Orear
Twyla Owen
Olivia Pimpl
Mrs. Ken Redeker
Richard Scheve
Danny Schmidt
Jackie Schmidt
Greg Schonhardt
Mike Wecker
Clara Young

United States Army:

SGM Matthew S. Richter,
Sgt. Austin Burenheide,
Grant Fath,
Major Jacob Haag

Marines:

Lt. Col. James Bechtel

Navy:

Grace Coughlin

Air Force:

Megan DePauw

Army National Guard:

Sgt. Mason Harmon

THE MASSES ON DECEMBER 8TH,
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
WILL BE AT 7:15 AM & 7:00 PM.



Advent
begins

Mass Intentions:

Sat. 11/29: 5:00 pm Special intention for
Danny & Sheila Broyles
Sun. 11/30: 8:30 am For the Parish

Wed. 12/03: 7:15 am NO MASS
Thurs. 12/04: 10:00 am NO MASS
Fri. 12/05: 7:15 am NO MASS
Sat. 12/06: 5:00 pm For the Parish
Sun. 12/07: 8:30 am +John Markowitz

Fr. Mersmann will be on retreat Monday, December 1st through Friday, December 5th. There will be no morning Masses, confessions or Adoration this week.

Church Cleaning

Next Saturday, December 6th, at 8:30 a.m. we will be cleaning the church for Christmas. We invite all able-bodied parishioners, all ages, to help. More hands make quick work. We hope to see you there!



Christmas Flowers



If you would like to donate towards the purchase of altar flowers for Christmas in memory of a loved one, please contact Donna at 620-475-3794 or Laurie at 620-343-0321 by December 22nd. The suggested donation remains at \$25 this year.

We will collect donations for flowers after Masses the next two weekends, Dec. 6/7 and Dec. 13/14.

Thanks to all for your kindness and generosity and helping beautify the church for the Christmas season!

Maintenance Position Available

The Didde Center has an employment opportunity for a part-time custodian and general “handyman” position. The position is from 15-20 hours per week. If you are eager to be part of a team serving the Catholic mission to higher education, please contact Vickie at vickie@diddecenter.org or Fr. Ashmore at chaplain@diddecenter.org regarding this opportunity.

Didde Catholic Campus Center, 1415 Merchant St, Emporia, KS 66801, phone 620-343-6765.

Last Week's Collection:

Envelopes (30)	\$ 1,045.00
Plate	305.00
Capital Improvements	10.00
Campaign for Human Development	10.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,370.00



Knights' News



CONGRATULATIONS to the following for your support of and friendship to the Knights of Columbus:

Knights of the Month:

September - Kevin Rodgers
October - Eric Schreiner
November - Gary Murphy

Families of the Month:

September - Doug & Laurie Schmidt
October - Les & Michelle Barnhart
November - Greg & Trish Markowitz

The annual Stag worklist will be distributed over the next couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone in advance for helping work this event to make it successful. If you not able to work your time slot, please let me know as soon as possible.

Danny Schneider
Grand Knight

Parish Life Center Lottery Tickets On Sale

Get your lottery tickets for the March 2026 - February 2027 season in time for the holidays. They are available for \$25 each! Please help spread the word to your family and friends.

These lottery tickets make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers, and birthday, anniversary, “thank you,” or “just because” gifts as well. There are 999 tickets for sale. We have sold out the last couple of years! The proceeds support the Parish Life Center.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, you can contact a CCD student. You can also call Kim Irwin (520-237-5188) or the Parish Office.



Christmas "Advent"ures is this Sunday, November 30th

Parish Life Center 3:00-6:30 PM

AGES K-6th grade

PIZZA, movie, snacks/hot chocolate, crafts

Please bring a pillow and blanket for movie watching.

This is a GREAT opportunity for parents to drop off your youngsters and enjoy a dinner date out or shop, etc. It will also coincide nicely with Advent Vespers which begin at 7:00 PM at the church.



ADVENT VESPERS

Join us this Sunday evening here at St. Joe at 7 pm for Vespers with members from Olpe United Methodist and Ebenezer Global Methodist churches. It will be an evening of music, prayer, scripture readings, and fellowship. The collection this year will be for the benefit of the Darren Heins family.

Following the service, refreshments will be served at the Parish Life Center. Please join us in welcoming our fellow Christians to get Advent off to a strong start.



St. Joseph Parish's 150th Anniversary

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of our parish. As a way to mark this powerful moment, and in order to show our connectedness to the larger Church,

Archishop McKnight will be celebrating the 8:30am Mass on Sunday, December 14th.

Please plan to attend (and invite anyone you know that has not been to St. Joseph in a while).



CHOIR Practice

Choir practices for the Christmas season will begin this **Sunday, Nov. 30th** following Mass. If you are interested in joining the Choir, we'd love to have you!

Confession for CCD students

3rd - 6th grade
6pm December 10th & 17th

7th - 12th grade
7pm December 10th

Advent confession times (weeks 2 and 3 of Advent)

6:30-7am Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
7-9pm Thursdays
8-10am Saturdays

CCD News

The last night of CCD for the fall semester will be Wednesday, December 17th.

If you haven't already, please be sure to turn in your lottery ticket money and unsold tickets that evening. Thank you!

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve - Wednesday, December 24th
Caroling - 5:00 p.m. Mass - 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Day - Thursday, December 25th
Caroling - 8:10 a.m. Mass - 8:30 a.m.



Father's Corner



St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon 5 on Advent

We know that the coming of the Lord is threefold: the third coming is between the other two and it is not visible in the way they are. At his first coming the Lord was seen on earth and lived among men, who saw him and hated him.

At his last coming all flesh shall see the salvation of our God, and they shall look on him whom they have pierced. In the middle, the hidden coming, only the chosen see him, and they see him within themselves; and so their souls are saved. The first coming was in flesh and weakness, the middle coming is in spirit and power, and the final coming will be in glory and majesty.

This middle coming is like a road that leads from the first coming to the last. At the first, Christ was our redemption; at the last, he will become manifest as our life; but in this middle way he is our rest and our consolation.

If you think that I am inventing what I am saying about the middle coming, listen to the Lord himself: If anyone loves me, he will keep my words, and the Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Elsewhere I have read: Whoever fears the Lord does good things. - but I think that what was said about whoever loves him was more important: that whoever loves him will keep his words.

Where are these words to be kept? In the heart certainly, as the Prophet says I have hidden your sayings in my heart so that I do not sin against you. Keep the word of God in that way: Blessed are those who keep it.

Let it penetrate deep into the core of your soul and then flow out again in your feelings and the way you behave; because if you feed your soul well it will grow and rejoice. Do not forget to eat your bread, or your heart will dry up. Remember, and your soul will grow fat and sleek.

If you keep God's word like this, there is no doubt that it will keep you, for the Son will come to you with the Father: the great Prophet will come, who will renew Jerusalem, and he is the one who makes all things new. For this is what this coming will do: just as we have been shaped in the earthly image, so will we be shaped in the heavenly image.

Just as the old Adam was poured into the whole man and took possession of him, so in turn will our whole humanity be taken over by Christ, who created all things, has redeemed all things, and will glorify all things.