



FOURTH 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 12/22/25 - 12/28/25

Arlene Redeker

Weekend Lectors/EMHCs

12/20: Donna Bolen
 12/21: Greg Markowitz - Lector
 Trish Markowitz - EMHC
 12/24: Jana Redeker - 5:30 p.m.
 12/25: Greg Markowitz - 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.

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.

**Adjusted Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office's open hours will be
 adjusted to the following times for the
 remainder of December:
 Tuesday, December 23 - Noon - 4:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 30 - Noon - 4:00 p.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

Mass Intentions:

- Sat. 12/20: 5:00 pm +Don & Corrine, Evan, Cliff,
Montana and Cody Cole
- Sun. 12/21: 8:30 am +Loretta Schneider
For the Parish
- Wed. 12/24: 5:30 pm +John Blaufuss
For the Parish
- Thurs. 12/25: 8:30 am +Chad Blow
- Fri. 12/26: 7:15 am +Herbert & Lorene Haag and
Alfred Redeker
Living & deceased members of
the Wendling & Blaufuss families
- Sat. 12/27: 5:00 pm +Marie Haag
- Sun. 12/28: 8:30 am +Dorothy Schmidt
For the Parish



Christmas Flowers

Just a reminder that 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 this Monday, December 22nd**. The suggested donation remains at \$25 this year.

Many thanks to all who have already purchased “in memory” flowers or donated towards Christmas flowers to beautify our church for the celebration of our Lord’s birth!



Donuts and beverages will be served in the Parish Life Center following Sunday Mass this weekend. Come and enjoy some holiday cheer.

Christmas
Decorating

This Sunday, December 21st, we will be decorating the church for Christmas at 11:30 a.m. All are invited to help prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. Many hands make quick work!



Last Week's Collection:

Envelopes (31)	\$ 3,076.00
Plate	309.00
Capital Improvements	105.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	310.00
Catholic Charities	20.00
Christmas Offering	50.00
Christmas Flowers	158.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,028.00

THANK YOU for your generosity! We are blessed!



Knights’ News



Proceeds from our Tootsie Roll Program were delivered to Hetlinger Developmental Services. Thank you to all who donated.

Congratulations to the following:
December Knight of the Month: Dan Coble
December Family of the Month: Kevin & Janell Rodgers

The Knights will again be serving a delicious biscuits and gravy breakfast **next Sunday** morning, December 28th from 7:30 - 10:00 a.m. Please come join us.

Merry Christmas to everyone from our Knights of Columbus Council!
~ *Danny Schneider*,
Grand Knight



This is the last weekend that we will be collecting diapers (sizes 4, 5 or 6), or Similac (in orange or blue cans) before delivery to the Shiloh House of Hope on Monday, December 22nd. Thank you for your continuing generosity, especially in this season of giving.

Parish Life Center Lottery Tickets Update

Over 50% of the available tickets for sale have been sold and money collected! This is ahead of last year! **THANK YOU** to all who have been selling and/or purchasing tickets for the new season!

You can still get your 2026-2027 lottery tickets in time for the holidays by contacting Kim Irwin (520-237-5188) or the Parish Office. They are available for \$25 each! Please help spread the word to your family and friends.

If you'd like to send Christmas cards to our former priests and/or parish and community members who have relocated, are ill, or homebound, here are some addresses:

Fr. Nicholas Ashmore (5-5)
Didde Catholic Campus Center
1415 Merchant St.
Emporia, KS 66801

Fr. Mohan Bathenini
St. Joseph Parish
104 S 7th /PO Box 159
Wathena, KS 66090

Fr. John Cordes (9-17)
Cathedral of St. Peter
409 N 15th St.
Kansas City, KS 66102

Fr. Dan Coronado (5-4)
Our Lady of Guadalupe
201 NE Chandler
Topeka, KS 66616

Fr. Tim Haberkorn (12-28)
Sacred Heart/St. Joseph
227 SW VanBuren St.
Topeka, KS 66603

Fr. Mark Mertes (9-18)
St. Patrick Church
1086 N. 94th St.
Kansas City, KS 66112

Fr. Swamy Naanam
Sacred Heart Church
22298 Newbury Rd.
Paxico, KS 66526

Fr. Harold Schneider (2-11)
14050 W. 116th St.
Olathe, KS 66062

Fr. Anthony Williams (5-6)
14050 W. 116th St. Apt.105
Olathe, KS 66062

Alex Conley
750 FF Ave.
Strong City, KS 66869

Loretta Dieker
Homestead Assisted Living
1200 W 12th
Emporia, KS 66801

Darren Heins and family
c/o Travis Heins
1526 Rd. 75
Olpe, KS 66865

Louise Hinricks
31 Red Oak Dr.
Highland, IL 62249

Joan Markowitz
4700W. 13th St., Room 2402
Wichita, KS 67212

Marie Markowitz
Emporia Presbyterian Manor
2300 Industrial Rd.
Emporia, KS 66801

Brian Martin
Legends Estate
1401 E. 12th, Room 112
Emporia, KS 66801

Larry Redeker
Homestead Assisted Living
1200 W 12th Ave.
Emporia, KS 66801

Norma Jean Redeker
Box 1704
Emporia, KS 66801

Danny and Wilma Jean Schmidt
Presbyterian Manor
2300 Industrial Rd.
Emporia, KS 66801

Darryl Schmidt
1044 S Hwy 99
Emporia, KS 66801

Duane and Jeanette Schmidt
718 Rd. N
Olpe, KS 66865

Clara Young
c/o Catherine Kasten
20 North E St.
Herington, KS 67449

Mary Lou Young
801 Sanders, Apt. 1
Burlington, KS 66839

Thank you!

The Parish Outreach Ministry

Thank you for all the prayers and good wishes bestowed on us over the past few months. We are very appreciative for our community.

The Larry & Sylvia Miller Family

**Merry
Christmas**





Father's Corner



From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop
(Sermo 185: PL 38, 997-999)

Truth has arisen from the earth, and justice looked down from heaven

Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. *Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you.* I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for this mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.

Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, *I am the Truth*, was born of a virgin. *And justice looked down from heaven:* because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.

Truth has arisen from the earth: because *the Word was made flesh*. *And justice looked down from heaven:* because *every good gift and every perfect gift is from above*.

Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. *And justice looked down from heaven:* for *man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven*.

Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but *of God's glory*: for *justice* has not proceeded from us but has *looked down from heaven*. Therefore *he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord*.

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth*.

For how could there be peace on earth unless *Truth has arisen from the earth*, that is, unless Christ, were born of our flesh? And *he is our peace who made the two into one*: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: *He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head*. For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become the son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.