

## Once upon a tree ...

A landmark tree outside St. George School was dying and dangerous. Volunteers turned some of it into a lasting reminder of Christ's eternal sacrifice on the cross.

Page 7



10-plus-1 for CCCNMO . . . . Page 4

Help handling payroll, H.R.. . Page 5

Seminarians' prayers . . . . Page 6

Deacon kept saying yes. . . Page 10

Sedalia's festive December. Page 11

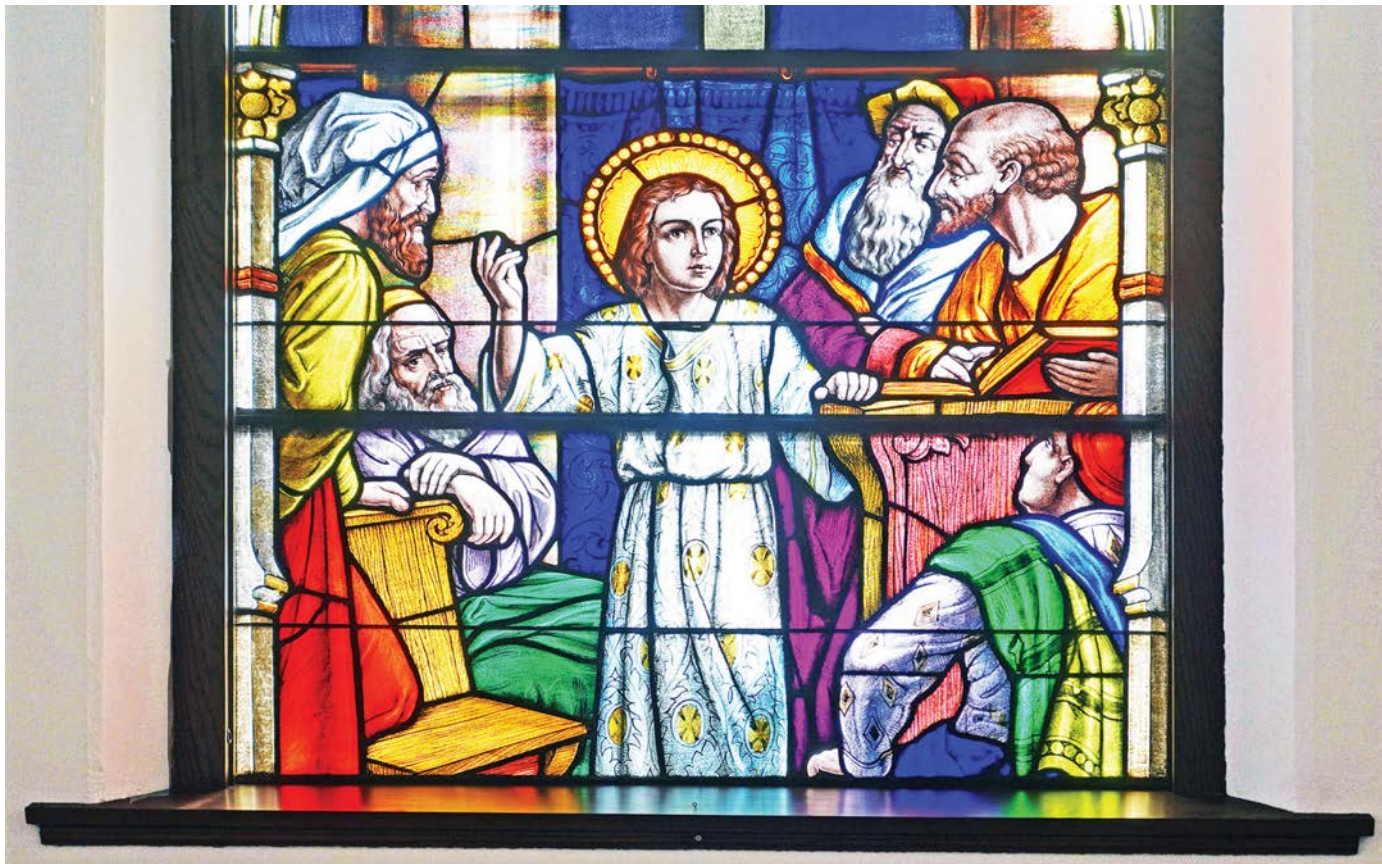
Gospel living in Russellville . Page 23

# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

January 7, 2022 • Vol. 65 No. 14

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Listening sessions to be held in preparation for Synod 2021-2023



The teachers in the Temple listen to the child Jesus, in this stained glass depiction in St. Thomas the Apostle Church in St. Thomas. "All who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers" (Luke 2:47). Pope Francis is confident that the Holy Spirit will inspire people of all stations in life to help discern God's will for the Church through the preparations for the Synod of Bishops.

— Photo by Jay Nies

## Community Sponsorships of refugee families blooming in the heart of Missouri

By Jay Nies

Cindy Schlueter dropped by a recently resettled Afghan family's home in Columbia, with clippers to trim up the boys' hair.

The parents and children were kneeling on their colorful rugs, absorbed in prayer.

The oldest teen noticed the crucifix pendant Mrs. Schlueter was wearing and asked, "Do you pray?"

"Yes, I pray," she responded.

"Me, too," he said.

God was present, and they both knew it.

"We were on the same page," Mrs. Schlueter vividly recalled. "For someone in their situation, there can be nothing more meaningful to know that the person sitting across from you in your home, who speaks a different language, who's cutting your brother's hair, prays to the same God."

Mrs. Schlueter is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in

Columbia, which recently began sponsoring its second refugee family from Afghanistan through Refugee Services of Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's (CCCNMO) Community Sponsorship program.

Community Sponsorships have been an essential part of helping Catholic Charities resettle more than 250 Afghan refugees in the area since Sept. 26.

Community Sponsorships enhance the agency's ability to resettle people, and it builds community support for its work.

"That's where community sponsorship is really critical," stated Samantha Moog, director of CCCNMO Refugee Services. "In order to resettle all of these people, we need churches, organizations, groups and individuals in the community to work with us."

See REFUGEES, page 14

See dates and locations on Page 17

By Jay Nies

From prophetic times to the present, the Holy Spirit has been well known for dispensing truth and inspiration in unexpected ways.

That's why Bishop W. Shawn McKnight wants people throughout the diocese to participate in listening sessions that are being held in preparation for a synod of bishops — and to bring at least one person with them who might offer a different perspective.

"The whole reason for this Synod is not that we have an agenda or a goal other than we want to listen to as many people as possible," Bishop McKnight stated.

Pope Francis has called for a formal gathering of the world's Catholic bishops to be held in Vatican City in 2023.

It will be the culmination of a two-year, worldwide process of praying and listening in order to discern how best to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ at this time in history.

The focus will be on promoting communion, participation and mission among all members of the Church.

Dioceses throughout the world have begun the process of asking specific questions of people who are active in the Church, people who are tangentially connected, and people who feel alienated or marginalized.

Each diocese will submit a report based on this input that will help set the agenda for further discernment throughout this synod process.

The listening sessions in this diocese, which will be held at various locations in late January and early February, will

See LISTENING SESSIONS, page 17

Find us online at  
**CATHMO.COM**

and  
**@DIOJEFFCITY**





**MOVING?** If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or email changes to [dbarnes@diojeffcity.org](mailto:dbarnes@diojeffcity.org). Allow two weeks.

**NEW ADDRESS**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NEW PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

OLD PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

01/07/22

## Chancery Closing

The Chancery offices in the Alphonse J. Schwarze Memorial Catholic Center will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17, for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## Pray for deceased priests

Jan. 9 — Fr. Thomas F. Greaney, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1967); Fr. Jeremiah F. Kennedy, Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City (1967); Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe (2006)

Jan. 14 — Fr. Senan M. O'Connell, Shrine of St. Patrick, St. Patrick (1973); Fr. J. James Offutt, Holy Spirit, Centralia (2020)

Jan. 16 — Fr. Krsto J. Jelenic, St. Michael, Kahoka (1978)

Jan. 17 — Fr. Michael M. O'Donovan, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal (1979); Fr. Peter Walsh, Sacred Heart, Vandalia; and St. John, Laddonia (2011)

## Principal Opening — Loose Creek

Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek, Mo. is currently accepting applications for the position of Elementary School Principal for the 2022-2023 academic year. We are a Catholic elementary school, serving kindergarten through 8th grade, with a current enrollment of 114 students. This position will involve day-to-day interactions with parents and students in an ongoing effort to provide our community with a strong Catholic faith and a healthy and challenging academic environment. The principal reports directly to the pastor and school board and should lead an exemplary Catholic life in addition to continuing educational and professional growth. Interested candidates should complete the application at [diojeffcity.org/employment-opportunities-in-our-catholic-schools/](http://diojeffcity.org/employment-opportunities-in-our-catholic-schools/).

## Director of Communications & Technology

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia is accepting applications for a full-time Director of Communications & Technology to serve a diverse parish community on the campus of the University of Missouri.

The director will lead the design, marketing and communication efforts for the parish and its various constituent groups. The director will oversee and have direct responsibility for both internal and external communications efforts — actively seeking to foster the Church's mission and craft a positive image of Newman Parish to the community. They will oversee all parish communications: website, email, social media and weekly bulletin. For more information, visit [www.comonewman.org/job-openings](http://www.comonewman.org/job-openings) or email [frdan@comonewman.org](mailto:frdan@comonewman.org).



**NEWMAN**  
PARISH

# Four holy habits for the New Year

*This is a more specific version of a list of suggestions Cathedral of St. Joseph parishioner Ed Bode adapted after receiving them from Catholic parishes in Janesville, Wisconsin:*

**Increase your personal holiness. Practice FOUR Holy Habits:**

### Sundays

Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation

Receive the Eucharist worthily  
Make Sunday special; spend time with family, serving, praying, enjoying holy leisure

### Pray daily

Attend a weekday Mass; worthily receive the Eucharist

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Listen, and apply messages

Pray before and after all meals

Spend at least 15 minutes in private prayer  
Read a Catholic Bible; begin with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Apply messages for your personal response

Spend at least 15 minutes in private prayer  
Pray the Rosary; vary the Mysteries; apply the messages

Pray in a Eucharistic Adoration chapel; respond to Jesus

### Friday penance

Make every Friday a day of penance  
Do not eat meat, or make some other sacrifice to remember the crucifixion of our Savior, Jesus Christ

### Monthly confession

Before going to bed, make an examination of conscience

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation worthily at least monthly

## Epiphany concert in Columbia

**DATE: January 8**  
**TIME: 7 pm**

After a year off for COVID, the Our Lady of Lourdes Contemporary Group will present a "Farewell to Christmas" concert and Christmas carol sing-along on Saturday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. (following 5:30 Mass) in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 905 Bernadette Drive, near

Stadium Boulevard and I-70 in Columbia.

A free-will offering will be taken up to help Catho-

lic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's work resettling refugees from Afghanistan.

## Prayer service in historical Cedron church

**DATE: January 8**  
**TIME: 2 pm**

A Liturgy of the Word prayer service and blessing of the Nativity is scheduled to be held in Assumption Church in Cedron at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8.

The church stands at the site of one of Jesuit Father Ferdinand Helias's original seven missions in Central Missouri.

It is located on Cedron Road, off of Highway D, near Jamestown and Prairie Home in Moniteau County.

## Position Openings - Chancery Office



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City has the following positions open in the Jefferson City office at 2207 West Main Street:

**Creative Services Coordinator** — We are looking for an individual to create quality communication assets for the diocese, in print, audio/visual and digital format. This individual will be responsible for updating the diocesan website and serve as support for parish websites. We are specifically seeking an individual who has a desire to use technology to make the Catholic Church more accessible and relevant. Experience with Adobe Creative Suite, WordPress and audio/video editing software is required. Final candidates will be required to submit a portfolio of creative work.

**IT Coordinator** — This person will be responsible for coordinating, planning and leading computer-related activities within the diocese. This position provides direct support to the chancery office and is a supportive consultant to parishes. The focus of this position will require the coordinator to have hands-on experience with complex data management systems such as Blackbaud, email maintenance, telecommunication systems, website developments as well as management and support for telecommunications and audio visual needs.

Qualified candidates for either of these positions should send their resume to [HRDir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org).

**The Catholic Missourian**  
Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City  
Mailing address: 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Phone: 573-635-9127

*"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."*  
— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

**Bishop W. Shawn McKnight**  
Publisher

**Helen Osman**, Dir. of Diocesan Communications  
[hosman@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hosman@diojeffcity.org)

**Jay Nies**, Editor  
[editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org)

**Kelly Martin**, Advertising  
[advertize@diojeffcity.org](mailto:advertize@diojeffcity.org)

THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), January 7, 2022, volume 65, number 14. Published biweekly at 2207 W. Main St., Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914.

## Bishop McKnight urges all to recognize, participate in the miracle of Christmas

By Jay Nies

Miracles are not simply a deviation from the norm nor an interruption of the natural order.

They are God's interventions in the world to restore what should be or to assure what should happen, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stated at Christmas.

"If anyone ever asks you, 'Do you believe in miracles?' you should respond with your faith in the Christ-child: 'Not only do I believe in miracles, I expect them to happen!'" he said.

Offering the Vigil Mass the evening of Dec. 24 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Bishop McKnight spoke of the greatest miracle of all: "God becoming man — lowering Himself, not just as a man but a little

infant, a little baby — in order to heal our broken, fractured relationship with God caused by the sin of Adam and Eve."

He pointed out that Joseph, husband of Mary, initially had trouble accepting his appointed role in bringing the Christmas miracle about.

"Joseph had almost given up because of Mary's pregnancy," the bishop noted. "He had a reverential fear for the great mystery of her child, not anger for Mary being pregnant, as is sometimes thought."

Well aware of God's promise to send a Savior, as well as his own unworthiness to be a part of the fulfillment of that promise, Joseph tried to excuse himself from the whole thing.

But God's angelic messenger told him not to be afraid.

"The angel comes to make



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight places an image of the infant Jesus in the Nativity scene in the sanctuary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City on Dec. 24, during the Vigil Mass for Christmas.

sure what should happen, does happen," said Bishop McKnight. "The angel seeks to ease not fear of himself, but of Joseph's own appointed task

or vocation, as son of David, spouse of the Virgin, and father to Jesus."

The miracle of Christmas changed Joseph into St. Joseph.

Accordingly, the bishop urged everyone to follow Joseph's example, trusting humbly and confidently in the merciful providence of God, Who makes all things possible.

He asserted that Christians are being called upon every day to help bring miracles about in their own lives, families and community.

"Be miraculous!" he instructed the people. "That's what He wants us to do. When someone is in need of food, clothing, healthcare or companionship, be the miracle that changes the life of another because of your charity and mercy, making things the way they should be."

"May we go forth from our celebration of the miracle of the Eucharist to bring about the miracle of Christmas in our day!" Bishop McKnight stated.

## In Epiphany message, bishop calls for gratitude, reflection

By Jay Nies

The homage the Wise Men from afar gave the Christ-child in Bethlehem reinforces the Christian belief that Jesus was more than the promised fulfillment of the Messiah for the Jews.

He was a Light for all the nations, a Savior for all peoples.

Therefore, all who follow Him must identify and remove from their hearts and minds any obstacles to accepting that truth and putting it into daily practice, Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stated.

"In the story of the Magi, learned men of science, literature and culture came from distant lands in order to honor, acknowledge and venerate the newborn King of the Jews," the

bishop noted in his Jan. 2 homily for the Solemnity of Epiphany of the Lord.

The Magi "represent the Gentile Nations," he said, "and their honoring the newborn King of the Jews foreshadows the fact that through belief in the Son of God, all people of every race, language and culture are called to inherit the Kingdom of God, as seen on the day of Pentecost."

It is part of the Mystery of Christmas that Christ came "not only to save the Jewish people, but all the descendants of Adam and Eve — including you and me!" the bishop stated.

Therefore, all followers of the promised Christ must remove from their hearts and minds any prejudices like the ones shown

by King Herod in his deceptive treatment of the Magi.

"In what ways do our own attitudes about other people get in the way of our local Church being a welcoming community of faith, where those who are not yet of our faith may come to encounter the Light of the Nations made present in our proclamation and teaching of the word of God, in our celebrations of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and in our communal life?" Bishop McKnight asked everyone to ponder.

Preached from the pulpit of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, the bishop's message reached a larger-than-usual audience over livestream, due to severe weather keeping people from church in some parts of the diocese.

He noted that according to Biblical accounts, the first people to welcome Jesus at His birth were shepherds, symbolizing people on the outskirts of society, as well as the Wise Men from far away.

"We notice that the Christ-child received more of a welcome from the Gentiles than He did from the leadership of His own people," the bishop stated.

That pattern would be repeated throughout Biblical ac-


counts of Jesus's earthly ministry.

The Magi followed a star to Bethlehem, illustrating how God's creation, reflected in na-

ture, points to Him and the spiritual world.

"The Magi were in tune with

See EPIPHANY, page 8



### Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**JANUARY**

**Jan 17** Catholic Rural Life Board Meeting, 10 am, Virtual

**Jan 22** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10:30 am, Chancery


**Jan 27** Diocesan Financial Council Meeting, 11 am, Chancery; Priests' Mutual Benefit Society Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

**Bishop McKnight's January prayer intention for our Local Church**

As we begin a new year, may the opportunities for the grace to clearly recognize the dignity of life, education and ecumenism allow us to better support our brothers and sisters who need the warmth of Christ's love and our compassion during this winter season.

**Intención del mes de enero del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local**

Al comenzar un nuevo año, que las oportunidades que la gracia nos da de reconocer claramente la dignidad de la vida, la educación y el ecumenismo nos permitan apoyar mejor a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que necesitan el calor del amor de Cristo y nuestra compasión durante esta temporada de invierno.



Please be so kind as to make this a part of your group and private prayer.



## BUTZER

"Dependable service since 1926"

HEATING ■ PLUMBING ■ AIR CONDITIONING

573-636-4115

24 Hour Service

721 Wicker Lane, Jefferson City, MO 65109  
www.hgbutzer.com



## Catholic Charities affiliate marks close of 10-year anniversary with growth in response to community needs

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri (CCCNMO) has welcomed new program staff and administrative leaders over the past several months as the agency expands programs and services to meet increased needs across the 38 counties it serves.

•In May of this year, **Sister Kathleen Wegman** of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was welcomed to the administrative team as director of Mission Integration.

Sr. Kathleen will help to develop, strengthen and convey the agency's Catholic identity and mission throughout services and programs.

She comes to Catholic Charities following 12 years of service in the Diocese of Jefferson City at the chancery offices as chancellor and director of Parish and Charitable Services.

•**Dan Kempker** joined CCCNMO in early November as the inaugural Director of Finance.

Mr. Kempker has 30 years of experience in organizational finance, grant budgeting and management, and auditing and financial consulting.

Previously serving as a parish business manager and chief financial officer of a statewide charity that helps

provide healthcare to low-income and under- and uninsured people, his financial guidance will ensure that CCCNMO continues to be an excellent steward of the resources generously provided through both grants and private support.

"We have a history of being fiscally responsible stewards of grant and donor dollars," said CCCNMO Executive Director Dan Lester. "We've always done a respectable job managing our finances.

"Now we are growing, and Mr. Kempker will allow us to continue that responsibility as we move forward," he said.

•Rounding out administrative hires, CCCNMO welcomed **Ashley Wiskirchen** as the Director of Communications on Nov. 15.

Mrs. Wiskirchen joins the agency from the diocesan chancery offices, where she served as associate director of communications.

Mrs. Wiskirchen brings over 10 years of experience in marketing and communications in the public and nonprofit sectors to the agency.

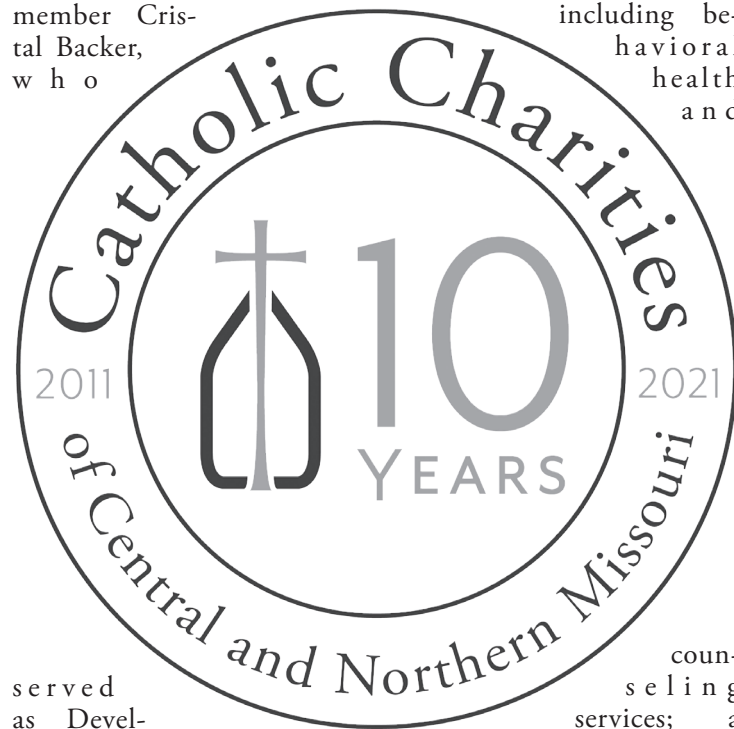
She is tasked with developing a comprehensive communications plan that will connect stakeholders who

support the agency's work, and those whom it serves.

Along with administrative staff additions, Catholic Charities also saw in November the departure of administrative team member **Cristal Backer**, who

to meet them, program directors and staff are putting their hands, minds and hearts to the task of increasing program access and service reach.

New initiatives including behavioral health and



served as Development Director.

Ms. Backer successfully oversaw the agency's "Open Hearts, Open Doors" renovation campaign for CCCNMO's headquarters in Jefferson City in 2020-21.

### "Eager to serve"

As community needs increase and the agency grows

counseling services; a state-of-the-art client choice food pantry; and expanding services in the areas of refugee and family immigration have prompted the agency to bring on a group of talented and diverse staff to work directly with clients.

•**Dala Hemeyer** has been named Director of Counseling Services, joining the agency in September.

Ms. Hemeyer joins the agency from the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia and brings more than a decade of experience in behavioral health to develop a robust counseling program.

Her vision for this program includes increased access and awareness of faith and spirituality-informed mental and behavioral health care.

Mr. Lester said these services are essential at this time.

"We have consulted with parishes, schools and individuals and see a need within our community and across the counties we serve to provide these services, and intentionally make them accessible both in pricing and availability," he said.

•As the agency gears up

to open doors to the client-choice food pantry in Spring 2022, the Health and Nutrition Services program, led by director Judith Mutamba, has brought on staff to oversee pantry operations and programs.

**Ms. Lori Stoll** will oversee the pantry, which includes the capacity for 60 pallets of food in storage, a demonstration kitchen for learning opportunities, and an interactive kids' corner for clients to utilize while they shop.

•In direct response to the Afghan Refugee Crisis, Samantha Moog, director of Refugee Services, and Lorna Tran, director of Family and Immigration Services, have seen a sharp increase in the need for refugee and immigration program support.

In addition to resettlement efforts from across the globe, Catholic Charities Refugee Services has resettled over 240 Afghan refugees in the past 11 weeks.

For context, the previous resettlement record for the agency was 229 refugee resettlements over a 12-month period in 2016.

To that end, additional staff have been hired to support existing services and expand opportunities to serve refugee needs.

"We see the existing humanitarian crisis, and that's really what's driving our growth is these service areas," Mr. Lester remarked.

"We have a team of highly-skilled, diverse and compassionate team members who are ready and eager to serve," he said.

### A legacy of care and hope

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, an entity of the Diocese of Jefferson City, responds to the needs of people in 38 counties regardless of faith, culture or situation.

This includes services for refugees and immigrants, those with food insecurity, mental health needs, health and nutrition education, basic household, and shelter needs.

For more information, visit [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org).

### Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

**V.** We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

**R.** Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

## New software will help parishes manage payroll and H.R. functions more efficiently

By Jay Nies

Help is on the way for pastors, principals, parish bookkeepers and all others who have a hand in hiring, managing and compensating the 2,000 Church employees in the Jefferson City diocese.

Parishes and schools will soon have access to a powerful new cloud-based software for handling payroll and many other administrative tasks.

The software, developed by Paylocity, will help them comply more precisely with federal and state employment laws, streamline the process of paying their employees, and get any assistance they need from the diocese in managing payroll and human resource functions.

In short, it will free up more time and energy for preaching, teaching, welcoming and helping people in need.

"Parishes of all sizes were interested in these types of services but couldn't afford them under the current system, which is an *a la carte* billing system," said Cheryl Hertfelder, human resources director for the Jefferson City diocese.

Along with many additional functions, the software includes:

- online onboarding of new employees, ensuring that parishes have all of the proper employment documents;
- improved compliance with federal laws pertaining to health insurance;
- the ability to schedule employees, schedule training and conduct performance reviews online;
- data analytics on the cost of employee pay and benefits;
- a time and attendance system to ensure compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act;
- automatic tracking of accrued vacation and sick leave; and
- improved digital integration of electronic files with the diocese's various group insurance carriers.

Paylocity will provide all of these services to all parishes and schools, regardless of size, for a cost they can afford.

"We did a cost-benefit analysis," said Mrs. Hertfelder. "All but a few parishes will be paying the same amount of money or somewhat less than what they pay now, while getting a lot more in return."

The new system will take the place of bulky file folders and complicated spreadsheets, with each employee's relevant

information being kept securely in one place.

"By going digital, we can stop clogging filing cabinets with paper," said Mrs. Hertfelder.

It will also

help with planning and budgeting.

"It has an analytic feature to help us measure turnover, overtime costs, absenteeism, and hours worked by substitute teachers so you can determine if you need another full-time employee," Mrs. Hertfelder noted.

She said automating many of these tasks will help ensure that they're done properly, and will free up busy bookkeepers to work on other things.

It will also make life easier for employees. A service portal will allow them to monitor

It will also make it easier for smaller parishes to seek help from the diocese in handling payroll and human resource tasks.

"We're already doing that for a dozen parishes right now," Mrs. Hertfelder noted. "We'll be able to help others if they ask us to do so."

To help with the transition, the diocese will provide a two-part, in-person training on the new system for all payroll bookkeepers for parishes, schools and affiliates in the diocese.

Pastors and principals will receive a one-day virtual training on the new system.

Ongoing training and remote support will also be available.

"You learn better by doing, and you'll have that in-person training," Mrs. Hertfelder noted.

She pointed out that such a large transition might involve a few bumps and obstacles.

Accordingly, she urges everyone to be patient and persistent.

"Change is never easy, but this change will definitely be worth it," she said.



— Graphic from the Paylocity website

their available sick leave and vacation time.

Hourly employees will be able to clock in on their phone or computer, rather than filling-in time sheets.

Paylocity is web-based, so all parishes will be able to run it with the computer equipment they already have.

## Kentucky parishioners ride out tornado in church praying the Rosary

Catholic News Service

Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Jenny and Bill Rush and other parishioners at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, were nearly finished praying the Rosary after an early morning Mass on New Year's Day when an isolated tornado shook the church, much to their surprise.

As the storm roared, the group prayed all the louder, Jenny told Catholic News Service Jan. 3.

"We kept praying even though the lights were flickering," she said. "It was exhilarating and terrifying, but at the same token it was spiritually uplifting to realize that even as we were praying the *'Memorare'* she (Mary) was holding us. I honestly believe she was holding us."

Bill watched what parishioners describe as the "great window," expecting it to break "because the storm was so loud."

It survived intact. The storm passed in minutes. Except for a downed tree, a few missing shingles and minor water damage to another building, the church escaped serious harm, Father Richard Meredith, pas-

tor, said in an email.

He described the storm as "roaring like a freight train and the church booming like a drum. Lights went out and it passed in under two minutes," adding that the cleanup in the downtown area and the east side of the city of 31,000 where the storm struck was continuing.

No injuries were reported.

**The Butcher Shop L.L.C.**


Inspected, Custom Butchering and Processing  
Smoking & Curing  
We Sell Fresh & Frozen Meats,  
Whole, Half, or Quarter Beef,  
Whole or Half Pork

*Located between Freeburg and Vienna on Highway 63*




**Jim & Debbie Dudenhoeffer**  
Owners

**(573) 744-5888**

**James O'Donnell** 

A Life Celebration® Home



*The mark of excellence  
for five generations.*

302 South Fifth  
Hannibal, Missouri

573.221.8188 • [www.jamesodonnellfuneralhome.com](http://www.jamesodonnellfuneralhome.com)  
© 2018 The James O'Donnell Funeral Home, Inc.

MORE CONVENIENCE THAN EVER

— with over —

**100**  
BRANCHES



**200**  
ATM's

THROUGHOUT MISSOURI.



**Central Bank**  
Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™

CENTRALBANK.NET | 634.1111 | MEMBER FDIC



## Seminarians share some of their prayers for 2022

By Jay Nies

*“Lord, make known Your will throughout the earth; proclaim Your salvation to every nation.”*

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight led the antiphon for one of the psalms during a Holy Hour and Vespers for Vocations on Dec. 21 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The seminarians of the Jefferson City diocese, home for Christmas, joined him in worshipping Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar and praying for men and women of all ages to hear and answer God’s call to serve Him in their appointed way in the Church.

“Please continue to pray for and encourage our young people to make a generous response of their hearts to our God, Who is truly with us,” the bishop prayed.

A few days later, the seminarians were asked to share something they’re praying for in 2022, and what they hope to



**LEFT: Bishop W. Shawn McKnight joins the seminarians of the Jefferson City diocese in Adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament during Evening Prayer and a Holy Hour for Vocations in the diocese, on Dec. 21 in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Several priests and laypeople joined them. RIGHT: Seminarian Christopher Hoffmann proclaims a reading during Evening Prayer.**

— Photos by Jay Nies

be giving thanks to God for by the beginning of 2023.

Here’s how several of them responded:

•**Shane Kliethermes**, a third-year collegian at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas, said he will be praying for people who are battling mental illness, especially those who are experiencing anxiety and depression.

“Looking ahead toward the end of 2022, I am going to be especially grateful for all those supporting and praying for an increase in priestly vocations in our diocese,” said Mr. Kliethermes, a native of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.

•**Christopher Hoffmann**, a third-year theologian and recently instituted acolyte at the

Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio, said he plans to pray in 2022 for communities, especially families and parishes, to find ways to reconnect and grow closer to each other and Christ after being separated due to the pandemic, “and that all people may be able to find a community to be a part of.”

“I am looking forward to being thankful for all the pastoral experiences and new relationships that will come from them over the next year, as I am able to visit and serve in places that were closed months previously,” said Mr. Hoffmann, a native of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.

•**John Paul McGuire**, a first-year college seminarian at Holy Trinity Seminary, said he is praying for another good semester in the seminary “and also for the continuation of growing in my seminary formation.”

Mr. McGuire is a native of

St. Brendan Parish in Mexico.

•**Jacob Hartman**, a fourth-year college seminarian at Holy Trinity Seminary, said that throughout 2022, he will be praying for the people of the diocese to gain a renewed love of Christ and His Church.

Mr. Hartman is a native of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit.

He will also be praying “for those who have fallen away from the Church during the pandemic — that like Joseph and Mary, they will experience the joy of finding Christ in the Temple, which is the Church.”

For himself, he will be praying “that I may grow to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, the High Priest.”

•**Gage Neisen**, a second-year college seminarian at Holy Trinity Seminary and native of Queen of Peace Parish in Ewing, said his prayer intentions always consist of and center on the family — “especially for my family and a continually deep-

ening relationship within the faith.”

“I pray that all families can feel the love of the Holy Family this New Year,” he said. “I also pray for our country and for a greater sense of unity with itself and the other countries throughout the world.”

He will also continually pray for an end to the evil of abortion.

“I believe the Rosary is a great tool for praying for specific intentions such as these,” he said.

He’s looking forward to being grateful a year from now for seeing his family continue to be in a healthy and happy state.

“I have the great honor of being able to call myself an uncle and I look forward to seeing my niece turn another year older in November 2022,” he said.

“I also look forward to having grown in a deeper relationship with Jesus and becoming a better servant for the ever growing beauty of the Catholic Church,” he stated.

## Catholic Extension honors Cdl. Dolan with Spirit of Francis Award

Catholic News Service

New York

Catholic Extension named New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan as the recipient of its seventh annual Spirit of Francis Award for his solidarity with the Catholic Church in Cuba and his “advocacy for the weak and marginalized.”

Both qualities are central to the mission of Extension, said the Chicago-based papal mission society in a news release.

The cardinal was honored Nov. 30 in New York City at a dinner hosted by Father Jack Wall and Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, Extension’s president and chancellor, respectively. Attendees at the dinner included Cardinal Joseph

W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey; Rabbi Arthur Schneier, senior rabbi of New York City’s Park East Synagogue; and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to the United States.

The award has three “Francis” namesakes — St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis and the founder of Catholic Extension, Father Francis Clement Kelley.

The award and what it stands for “means a lot to me,” Cardinal Dolan said in accepting the honor. “Pope Francis reminds us that every place is a mission country. Francis Clement Kelley realized that and we are all beneficiaries of that fortitude. People look to the Church for basic necessities and Catholic Extension has not let them down.”

**FRED VOGEL**  
Insurance Inc.

301 Monroe  
Jefferson City  
(573) 635-6101

Charles Prather • Rick Prather  
Tom Kummer

### GEOTHERMAL HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING



**BOSCH**

Invented for life

Stieferman Heating Company 573-635-3547

**100% GREEN, 101% COOL**

**Divinity Religious  
Gift Shop**



Open Wed-Fri 9:30-5:30 & Sat 10-4:30

320 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City  
(573) 636-5470



## Landmark tree outside St. George School in Linn transformed into a crucifix

By Neal A. Johnson

For many years, the tree in front of St. George School in Linn has been part of the landscape, something that might have been taken for granted.

Now, however, the area has been transformed as the tree was cut down, and what remains is a crucifix carved by Joe Dudenhoeffer at the request of the St. George Home and School Association.

Abby Bradford and Kelly Frank, co-presidents of the association, took on the project after Father Colin Franklin, pastor of St. George Parish and of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Frankenstein, asked that something be done.

"The tree was dead and we were asked to take it down," said Ms. Bradford. "Kelly and I got started right away. We like to get things done quickly."

On Friday, Dec. 3, the first part of the project was handled by Matt Seifert and his crew at Three Rivers Electric Cooperative, which cut down the tree.

Several volunteers were on



**TOP:** The old dead tree in front of St. George School in Linn was cut down by Matt Seifert and his crew at Three Rivers Electric Cooperative on Dec. 3. **BOTTOM:** Joe Dudenhoeffer works to transform the tree into a crucifix. The carving was completed on Dec. 5.

— Photos by Neal A. Johnson

hand with a wood chipper to speed up the process, and wood from the tree was of-

fered to anyone who wanted to come and collect it.

"We appreciate Matt and

his crew for getting this done so fast," said Ms. Bradford.

"They got it done in one day

and saved us a lot of money."

Ms. Bradford also expressed her appreciation to everyone who worked so hard and volunteered their time doing clean-up, including Mark Loethen, Rick Hock and his brother, Kelly Frank, and Will Bradford.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, Mr. Dudenhoeffer and his wife, Alice, began carving with a chainsaw, just like they did several years ago when a tree was cut down at Linn R-2 School, where a Wildcat sculpture remains in place.

Mr. Dudenhoeffer said he was happy to do the project, adding he loves working with wood.

The project was completed on Sunday, Dec. 5.

"It's the Easter story retold," said Lisa Grellner, principal of St. George School. "Great beauty has come out of something that has died. Students are reminded of the sacrifice that God gave us by giving us His Son to die for us."

*This article and these photos were originally published in the Unterrified Democrat newspaper in Linn, and are republished here with permission.*





## QUESTION CORNER

## Hosting unmarried couple / Call no man 'father'

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. When grandchildren who have been living together for years without being married come to visit, do I put them in separate bedrooms? People laugh at me for this, but I have a real problem: Is living together no longer a sin? (Sorry — I can't move on from my upbringing.) (City and state withheld)**

A. I am glad that you haven't "moved on from your upbringing." The value you are upholding is a perennial one. Yes, living together without being married is still a sin and always will be. You have every right, if unmarried grandchildren come to visit you, to assign them to separate bedrooms — and you should.

And it would be helpful to explain to them the reason: that you love them deeply and are glad to see them, but not at the expense of the values you cherish and choose to live by. If they are close to you and respect you, it might also be good, once in a while, to mention the prospect of their marriage (in a Church-approved ceremony).

**Q. When I came into the Church a few years ago, one of the hurdles I had to get past was addressing the priest as "Father." My understanding of the prohibition against this was based on Jesus' comment in Matthew 23:9, "Call no one on earth your father." What is the wider Catholic understanding of this verse? (Indiana)**

A. Let's put Jesus' directive that you reference into context by quoting the surrounding verses (Matthew 23:8-10): "As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one father in heaven. Do not be called 'master'; you have but one master, the Messiah."

The "Catholic understanding" of this passage is that it was not meant to be taken literally. Otherwise, it would contradict other significant verses in the Scriptures. Doesn't the Lord instruct us (in Deuteronomy 5:16): "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord, your God, has commanded you?"

So it seems reasonable to conclude that God Himself considers others to be "fathers." And doesn't Paul say (in 1 Corinthians 4:15): "Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel?"

The passage from Matthew to which you refer (23:9) came in the context of Christ's criticizing the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of His day, the scribes and the Pharisees, because they were doing all they could to achieve rank and standing, because they (23:6-7) "love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces and the salutation, 'Rabbi.'"

The focus of that entire passage was on humility and servanthood (23:11-12): "The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

So as a priest, when parishioners call me "Father," I don't feel it grants me status; instead, it serves as a reminder that I am there to serve them, as any father is pledged to serve his family.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

## Papal Audience January 5, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on St. Joseph, we now consider Joseph's dignity as the foster-father of Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary. As Mary's husband and Jesus' legal father, Joseph had all the rights of a father, including that of naming their child. Yet Joseph had learned from the angel that, in God's plan, Mary's Son was to be named Jesus, which means "the Lord saves." Joseph's docility to God's will and his fatherly care for the child Jesus can teach us much about the authentic meaning of parenthood. To be a mother or father is not simply a matter of biology; more profoundly, it entails caring for the life of a family. In this sense, one of the highest forms of parenthood is to take on the responsibility of becoming adoptive parents, prepared to welcome an orphaned or abandoned child as part of one's own family. Let us pray that through Joseph's intercession, fathers of families will be given the grace to respond to their noble vocation, and that the many children in our world who long for a secure and loving home will find a welcome on the part of good and generous families.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors. In the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, may each of you, and your families, cherish the joy of this Christmas season, and so draw near in prayer to the Savior Who has come to dwell among us. May God bless you!



## Colorado family finds hope in Mary statue largely untouched by wildfire

Catholic News Service

Louisville, Colorado

Amid the smoldering ashes of his family's recently remodeled Louisville, Colorado, home that was destroyed by a Dec. 30 wildfire, Tom Greany found hope in a symbol of his deep Catholic faith. A statue of Mary that he and his wife Kat had placed outside their home was left unscathed except for the soot that covered its right side. "Bricks appeared to have fallen all around her — some probably even hit her. But she didn't even fall over," Greany

wrote in a reflection shared with Catholic News Service by a friend, who asked to remain unidentified. He wrote about what happened just hours after the blaze raced through the suburban communities of Louisville and Superior, about 20 miles northwest of Denver. Greany wrote that the discovery of the statue is a reminder

of how their faith provides protection and can "sustain us through everything." The Greany's were among hundreds of families who lost their homes in the wildfire driven by winds estimated to top 100 mph. In the Greany's Louisville neighborhood, 50 of 55 homes were destroyed. The other five were untouched.

## Newspaper schedule

The Catholic Missourian publication dates for 2022 are as follows:

January 7	May 13	September 2
January 21	May 27	September 16
		September 30
February 4	June 10	October 14
February 18	June 24	October 28
March 4	July 8	November 11
March 18	July 22	November 25
April 1	August 5	December 9
April 15	August 19	December 16
April 29		

## EPIPHANY

From page 3

the order of the universe, and they somehow perceived the birth of a child Who was destined to be great — as their gifts of gold and frankincense indicated," the bishop said.

As the Prophet Isaiah foretold: "Nations shall walk by Your light, and kings by Your shining radiance," (Isaiah 60:3).

"May the light of the Christ-child fill your hearts with gratitude in the Year of Grace, 2022," Bishop McKnight proclaimed.

The deadline for article submissions, photos and names for the "People Page," is 15 days prior to the issue date. Submissions can be sent to Jay Nies, Editor, at [editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org).

Advertising requests for events can be made by completing the form at [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](http://diojeffcity.org/event-listing). The deadline for requesting a display ad is 10 business days in advance of the issue. Any questions regarding advertising can be directed to Kelly Martin at [advertize@diojeffcity.org](mailto:advertize@diojeffcity.org).



## It's Christmas, give Jesus

By Hosffman Ospino  
Catholic News Service



As far as memory and historical records go, gift-giving has been part of every culture. There is something ingrained in our human nature that prompts us to be generous and give.

In the Scriptures we find classic examples of people bringing gifts to others. The Arabian Queen of Sheba came to visit King Solomon in Jerusalem bringing “camels bearing spices, a large amount of gold and precious stones” (1 Kgs. 10:2).

A most popular story in the New Testament about bringing gifts is that of the Magi visiting the newborn Jesus: “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh” (Mt. 2:11).

Why do people give? We could answer this question in many ways.

People give because they love. Others like to please their friends and loved ones. Others give as a sign of gratitude. Others want to honor someone's dignity. Others give because they expect something in return. I bet you can name a few other reasons.

It is wonderful that Christmas is perceived in our social imaginary as the season of giving. I think it is. After all, it is

a time of the year in which we remember God's most generous gift to humanity: Jesus, the Savior.

We must be cautious, nonetheless. The word “season” is used in our society too loosely, often in association with rather arbitrary marketing strategies. Also, the idea of “giving” is often reduced to consumeristic practices.

Catholics and other Christians really need to reclaim the use of those two categories: season and giving. This is the least we can do if we want to preserve the religious dimension of Christmas.

During this time of the year, it is common to hear many Christians raising concerns about a “war on Christmas.”

As I read and listen about what people

say in this regard, there seems to be a perception that someone out there — individuals, groups, organizations — is working hard to get rid of Christmas.

There may be some elements of truth about this. We cannot deny the winds of secularization that blow rampant in our society, some with activist impetus.

Yet, I think that if there is a war out there, it is more an internal one: We Christians are not doing enough to celebrate Christmas as a religious time with our families, friends and faith communities.

I want to propose that upon entering the season of Christmas, we become truly

See OSPINO, page 19

## Joy and encouraging vocations

By Sr. Constance Veit, I.s.p.



I do a lot of outreach to the young on behalf of my religious congregation, so I try to be aware of trends in vocations work and the common traits of emerging generations.

Recently I took some time to review the latest Study on Religious Vocations, co-sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) and the Center for Applied Research (CARA) in the Apostolate, hoping that it would give me an “aha moment” on how to interest young women in our community of Little Sisters of the Poor.

I was struck by a section of the report entitled Intergenerational Living. According to the 2020 NRVC/CARA study, a mere 13 percent of perpetually professed members of religious communities are younger than 60, while the same proportion are at least 90 years of age.

These are pretty sobering statistics!

I was consoled to read the following testimony from a young religious: “It is beautiful to have all different generations and ethnicities in one community, in one house, if we allow ourselves to see that beauty.”

What a hope-filled attitude on the part of a young religious! It really inspired me to stop bemoaning the aging of our religious communities and start seeing the beauty.

So, in light of the recently observed National Vocations Awareness Week, I would like to address a message of hope to my fellow women and men religious who, like me, are not so young anymore!

May you too take heart in realizing that young people seeking religious life are not as deterred by the older demographics of most of our communities as we thought. They don't seem to mind

that many of us are older — but they do hope that we will live simply, in solidarity with the poor, and that we will live and pray together in a spirit of joy.

So how do we connect with the young? Let's take a few cues from Pope Francis!

We might begin by striving to become young again. The pope has suggested that we seek to renew our youthfulness at every stage of life.

“As we mature, grow older and structure our lives,” he wrote, “we should never lose that enthusiasm and openness to an ever greater reality.”

In *Christus Vivit*, our Holy Father encouraged us to let ourselves be loved by God, for he loves us just as we are.

A young friend and former FOCUS missionary told me that this is the essential message we need to communicate to young people. They need to know that they are loved as they are, even though God wants to give them more.

God “values and respects you,” we might say to them, borrowing from the pope's words “but He also keeps offering you more: more of His friendship, more fervor in prayer, more hunger for His Word, more longing to receive Christ in the Eucharist, more desire to live His Gospel, more inner strength, more peace and spiritual joy.”

This joy is something about which the pope very often speaks, and it is something that speaks deeply to young people in their vocational discernment.

It is something they see in the quality of a gaze or a smile, in the serenity with which a consecrated person embraces trials or suffering, and in the generous gift of self to the poor day after day.

Pope Francis insisted on joy in a recent speech to Discalced Carmelites,

“It is ugly to see consecrated men and women with a long face. It is ugly, it is ugly. Joy must come from within: that joy that is peace, an expression of friendship.”

God forbid that any of us become ugly as we grow older!

In *Christus Vivit*, the exhortation he wrote following the Synod on young people in the life of the Church, Pope Francis reminded us that Christ is alive and He wants us to be fully alive.

“When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear,” he wrote, “He will always be there to restore

See VEIT, page 18

### REFLECTION

## Living in the moment

By Mark Saucier

We received a video of our youngest grandchild who just turned 1.

This was her first Christmas in which she was a conscious participant, and she loved every minute of it.

That was until Daddy started taking down the Christmas tree. As she watched him pack away the pretty things, she stared in disbelief, then her whole face puckered and soon she was sobbing with full-throated sadness.

Of course, there are those — almost exclusively adults — who can be found the day after Christmas, taking down lights, dismantling the display and storing everything in its proper place.

It's not that they dislike Christmas, it's just that it's time for things to get back to normal.

I'm in between. On one hand, I'd like the season to linger because it all goes too fast. On the other, repacking and schlepping everything up to the attic is a pain, and I'd like to get it over with.

In both, there are questions I want to answer but am afraid to confront. Really, what was this Christmas thing about? What difference does it make?

Then I heard Auden's “For the Time Being.” Subtitled, “A Christmas Oratorio,” it is a long poem influenced by the suffering of a second world war in Auden's short life and his growing attraction to Christianity.

Like many Scripture readers, Auden sees the Bible, not as a history, but as a historical well. Events of the past do not remain in the past, but are drawn into the present, and assure the future.

For Auden, the Incarnation changes everything. As his chorus sings to Simeon, “Now and forever we are not alone.”

We despaired that we were on our own, but now, then, and forever, God is with us.

We felt hopelessly lost, but now we have the hope of understanding and, with it, the hope of redemption.

And the shepherds proclaim, “O here and now our endless journey starts.”

But Auden knows it is not that easy. He confesses that, “As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed / To do more than entertain it as an agreeable / Possibility.”

Still, the poet believes that, in the time being, we can recapture that moment “in the stable when everything was a You and nothing was an It.”

“Time is our choice of How to love and Why,” he concludes.

It's a life lived, for the time being, between the manger and the cross.



## “My ways are not your ways”: God’s directives led Deacon Kazmierczak into hospital ministry

*Deacon Gene Kazmierczak, a deacon of the Jefferson City diocese and recently retired hospital chaplain in Columbia, offered the following message to fellow parishioners of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia on Nov. 11, 2021:*

**By Deacon Gene Kazmierczak**

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways,” says the Lord.

After spending four semesters at Loyola, Chicago, I still didn’t know what to do.

I came up with some ideas, but when I consulted the Lord, He just laughed. So I said to Him, “Why the laugh? This is not funny. I need to know what to do with my life!”

He then said, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, and My ways are not your ways.”

That interaction took place in 1959.

I was drafted, and after basic training, I was sent to Advanced Individual Training as a Medic.

After 16 weeks of schooling, I became a hospital corpsman. I never ever considered this aspect of life.

Then I remembered what the Lord said: “My thoughts are not your thoughts...”

At the completion of my service, I was asked by one of the nurses what I would do when I “got out.”

I didn’t know. She said I should go into nursing.

This was the early ’60s, so I felt perfectly comfortable replying, “Nursing is for girls”

Then, I heard the Lord say, “My thoughts are not your thoughts.”

So, after getting my RN, I obtained a BSN and later an MA.

After a successful 30-year career as an Army Nurse Corp officer, I heard the Lord

say, “I told you — ‘My ways are not your ways.’”

End Career 1.

I then accepted an administration position at a local hospital. I realized that direct patient care gave me greater satisfaction. I then worked in Outpatient Recovery and Skilled Nursing Unit.

End Career 2.

My pastor at that time in my life asked if would consider becoming a permanent deacon. To make a long story short, I was ordained in 1999 and became qualified to be a hospital chaplain for the Columbia Catholic Hospital Ministry.

In 2021, due to my “advanced age” and COVID, I retired as coordinator of the ministry.



**Deacon Gene Kazmierczak**

I believe that I was blessed because I was assigned to two parishes — St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, and being involved with

the Catholic Hospital Ministry. In that way, the diocese became my second parish.

I have been asked “how come you only preach once a month?” I preach every day at the bedside, and sometimes I use words. I am sure that when I preached at Newman, some soul was released from Purgatory.

End Career 3.

My wife Ginger and I came to Newman in 1992. It’s time now to be close to the “kids.” We will miss you all and you will be in our prayers. We will be living in Madison, Wisconsin, where our daughter lives.

“My ways are not your ways.”

Be careful what you ask for. You just may be surprised and love what you receive!

## Rest in peace, Brunswick native Sister Kathleen Reichert O.S.F.

Brunswick native Sister Kathleen Cecilia Reichert O.S.F., 76, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Savannah, died on Dec. 24, in Kansas City, Mo., following a prolonged and intense struggle with pulmonary hypertension and CREST (an auto-immune disease).

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated privately on Jan. 12.

Sr. Kathleen was born on Sept. 9, 1945, in Brunswick, a daughter of George V. and Inez E. (Manson) Reichert.

She was the 10th of 16 children.

In 1963, she professed vows at the Convent of the Sisters of St. Francis in Savannah, Mo.

She served as teacher,



**Sr. Kathleen Cecilia Reichert O.S.F. (1945-2021)**

school administrator, formation director and provincial superior.

She was dedicated to her faith, her religious community and to serving others.

Surviving are six brothers;

four sisters; two sisters-in-law; and her fellow sisters in her religious community, both here and in Austria, Germany and Kazakhstan.

Also surviving are numerous nieces, nephews, greats and cousins.

Preceding her in death were her parents; three brothers; two sisters; two brothers-in-law; two sisters-in-law; one nephew; and one niece.

Masks are required for the Scriptural Wake Service, which will be open to the public and will be held at 7 p.m.

on Tuesday, Jan. 11, in the Convent’s Mother Pia Ministry Center in Savannah, with visitation from 5 to 8 p.m.

Memorials may be left to the Sisters of St. Francis’ Retirement Fund or Ministry Fund.

## R.I.P., Desmond Tutu, 90, known for commitment to justice, peace

Catholic News Service

**Cape Town, South Africa**

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s compassion and sense of humor, as well as his commitment to justice and processes of peace, were among the many reasons he was an icon, said Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg.

The retired Anglican archbishop of Cape Town — who in 1984 won the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts to bring about a peaceful transition to a society with equal rights for all — died in Cape Town Dec. 26 at the age of 90.

When he was asked at a meeting of young people why he was always so positive, Archbishop Tutu told them,

“I’m a prisoner of hope,” Bishop Dowling said. “That sums up his life,” the bishop said in a Dec. 26 telephone interview. Bishop Dowling said there was a great affection and respect among the

late Catholic Bishop Denis Hurley of Durban, the late Rev. Beyers Naude, an Afrikaner cleric who condemned his church’s support for apartheid, and Archbishop Tutu.

Like Bishop Hurley — “on whose shoulders we stood,” as Archbishop Tutu once put it — the Anglican cleric condemned apartheid as a heresy.

The blasphemy of apartheid, Archbishop Tutu said repeatedly, “is that it can make a child of God doubt that he or she is a child of God.”

**Find us online**

**@  
cathmo.com**



## An array of intercultural festivity and prayer in December



**LEFT:** Children of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County give a dramatic reenactment of the story of St. Juan Diego and our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia on Dec. 12. **RIGHT:** Members of the parish take part in Las Posadas, a nightly reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter and welcome in the days leading up to Christmas.

— Photos from the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish Facebook page

By Father Joseph Corel

The apostle Paul encourages us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

That is possible when we begin our morning with prayer and ask the Lord to show us how to act, what to say and how to respond throughout the day.

Then during the day, we are encouraged to take short moments so we can continuously integrate prayer within the activities of our day.

However, sometimes we are invited to spend more time in prayer deepening our relationship with God.

For several parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County, they spent time in prayer for nine nights, Dec. 3-11, leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Each day, a group of people came to the St. Patrick Chapel in Sedalia to reflect on the story of St. Juan Diego and the Blessed Mother's miraculous apparitions to him in 1531, and to pray the Rosary.

Shari Brown and her daughter Betty attended the novena.

"With the help of the bilingual booklets provided, and the guidance of the daily leader, it was very easy to follow along and fully participate," said Shari.

She said she enjoyed learning new songs and was truly blessed by being able to participate in this novena.

"I have a special place in my

heart for Our Lady of Guadalupe, as my father died on Dec. 12, her feast day," Shari stated.

She encourages everyone to join this Novena when it is available as they will be richly blessed.

Young parishioners also found value in this rich devotion, as explained by Jessica Tienda:

"Regardless of the previous years of praying the Rosary for the Guadalupe Novena and getting ready for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, this year has truly opened the eyes of the youth in our community.

"As we recognize the significance of this special day, many of us acknowledge that this is not only part of our Hispanic culture, but also our Catholic faith.

"Initially, most parents do not explain the importance of this event to their children, but as the youth have grown spiritually, we have become curious about the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and how the novena ties with it.

"Thus, this year, I was fortunate to participate in the feast along with many friends. We participate by singing during the nine days of novena. This was an experience that allowed us to discover the profound meaning of St. Juan Diego and the apparition of Mary.

"In addition, we gained strong connections with each other as we spent consecutive

hours preparing for this special celebration.

"Also, this annual feast has become even more important in our parish since we had a goal this year of involving the English-speaking community to participate more completely."

Then, on Dec. 12, the traditional Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (which landed on the Third Sunday of Advent this year), parishioners gathered for an hour of praise and worship music prior to Mass.

After Mass, a play was performed acting out the story of St. Juan Diego and Mary's appearance to him. Then, everyone gathered downstairs for a fiesta and traditional dance.

The dance, legend says, was important when the land was attacked by soldiers. The elderly would put on costumes and masks and dance with their canes in such a way that the soldiers would watch them — all the while giving the women and children of the village the ability to hide or flee to safety.

Deacon Nestor Montenegro, who assists the pastors *in solidum* of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, explained the importance of this Feast day:

"The celebration of the Virgin Mary unites people and prepares for the great party where, many who do not practice the Catholic faith, are present everywhere that day.

"It's a way of giving thanks to the Virgin for the received



favours, bringing flowers and/or meals. The children are dressed as Juan Diego and the women in typical dresses. It definitely unites our people."

This year, the young man who played Juan Diego in the play was Diego DeLeon, who has this to say about it:

"For me, the play shows great determination and humbleness. St. Juan Diego was very determined to complete the wishes of the Virgin Mary. He was rejected, insulted and beaten but nevertheless, he still got up, he still was strong in his faith.

"San Juan Diego is a role model that demonstrates the struggles, but also what it takes to do that good. That is why the Virgin Mary chose him overall all people at the time."

On Dec. 15, three Days after Our Lady of Guadalupe,

Las Posadas began.

Marlene Rivera explains the significance of this popular Advent ritual:

"The Posadas are a big thing in the Latino community. We know that Christmas is around the corner when we hear about the Posadas starting.

"Posadas means that we are traveling with Mary from house to house, receiving shelter in various places. Whoever hosts the posada is receiving Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

"I participate in this because there are songs and a variety of food given in each household. It also gives me a chance to celebrate with my community that Jesus is almost here.

"It is important to me because not everyone thinks Christmas is about Jesus.



## Carmelite prayers

The ministry of the Carmelite Nuns is to pray for the intentions of the people and Church of the Jefferson City diocese. Email prayer intentions to: [Carmelofjc.prayers@gmail.com](mailto:Carmelofjc.prayers@gmail.com).

## Virtual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

For more than 30 years, the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) has served as the major annual gathering organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and

20 national Catholic organizations.

This central gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders in the U.S. usually draws over 500 participants whose faith inspires them to respond to pressing current domestic and global challenges.

This year's event is a virtual gathering, Jan. 29-Feb. 1, making it more accessible to many people.

Learn more at [bit.ly/CSMG-2022](https://bit.ly/CSMG-2022).



COLUMBIA ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP



**Alan Anz, M.D.**  
Parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes

Specializing in adult hip & knee pain  
For an appointment call  
**(573) 876-8158**

[www.columbiaorthogroup.com](http://www.columbiaorthogroup.com)

TERM & WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE | RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



**Catholic Financial Life**



**Mark E. McCurry, FIC**  
Independent Agent

(816) 820-1638 | 309 E Harrison St | Brunswick MO 65236  
[mccurryinsurance@gmail.com](mailto:mccurryinsurance@gmail.com) | [catholicfinanciallife.org](http://catholicfinanciallife.org)  
15-0156-11/17 Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis.  
Products and services not available in all states.

# RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT WE DO BEST.



\* Knights of Columbus ranked #6 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes 2022 America's Best Insurance Companies list. Forbes partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.

LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE  
LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



**Larry Hoelscher**  
573-645-4646



**Stan Strope**  
573-424-6172



**Dan Bax**  
573-694-5968



**Dustin Dolce**  
573-230-6902



**Paul Oligschlaeger**  
573-680-9800



**Kevin Schubert**  
573-480-1703



**Chris Bohr**  
573-721-4613



**Dale Logan**  
573-644-3124



**George Spinelli**  
General Agent  
573-836-5632  
[george.spinelli@kofc.org](mailto:george.spinelli@kofc.org)



**Knights of Columbus**



**Joe Pehar**  
Assistant General Agent  
314-220-9146  
[joe.pehar@kofc.org](mailto:joe.pehar@kofc.org)



**Doug Luetticke**  
660-542-6500



# September 2022 date set for beatification of John Paul I

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Pope Francis will beatify Pope John Paul I Sept. 4, 2022, at the Vatican, according to Stefania Falasca, a journalist and vice postulator of the late pope's sainthood cause.

In October, Pope Francis had signed a decree recognizing a miracle attributed to the intercession of Pope John Paul I, clearing the way for his beatification. At the time, a date for the ceremony was not announced.

Writing Dec. 23 in *Avvenire*, the daily newspaper owned by the Italian bishops' conference, Falasca said the date had been set.

Pope John Paul I, an Italian who was born Albino Luciani, served only 33 days as pontiff;



**Pope John Paul I, who served as pope for 33 days in 1978, is seen in this photo released by the Vatican Dec. 7, 2010. Pope Francis will beatify Pope John Paul I on Sept. 4, 2022, at the Vatican, according to Stefania Falasca, a journalist and vice postulator of the late pope's sainthood cause.**

— CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano

he died in the papal apartments Sept. 28, 1978, three weeks shy of his 66th birthday, shocking the world and a Church that

had just mourned the death of St. Paul VI.

The miracle approved in his cause involved a young girl in

Buenos Aires, Argentina, who developed a severe case of acute encephalitis, experienced uncontrollable and life-threatening brain seizures, and eventually entered septic shock.

After doctors told family members her death was "imminent," the local priest encouraged the family, nurses and others to pray to the late pope for his intercession, according to the website of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. A panel of experts studying the cause determined there was no scientific explanation for her complete recovery in 2011 and that it could be attributed to the late pope's intercession.

Although his was one of the shortest papacies in history, Pope John Paul I left a lasting impression on the Church that

fondly remembers him as "the smiling pope."

Born in the small Italian mountain town of Canale D'Agordo Oct. 17, 1912, the future pope and his two brothers and one sister lived in poverty and sometimes went to bed hungry.

He was ordained a priest in 1935 and was appointed bishop of Vittorio Veneto in December 1958 by St. John XXIII. More than 10 years later, he was named patriarch of Venice by St. Paul VI and was created a cardinal in 1973.

His surprise election, after St. Paul VI's death, did not sway him from continuing his humble manner of living, such as rejecting the use of the traditional papal tiara and calling his first Mass as pope the "inauguration" of his papal ministry rather than a coronation.

## Religious persecution an 'insane' act

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

To discriminate against or

persecute those who profess their faith is an intolerable act that threatens the fraternal

bonds shared by humanity, Pope Francis said.

"How can we allow that in this society — which is so civilized — there are people who are persecuted simply because they publicly profess their faith? Not only is it unacceptable; it's inhuman, it's insane," the pope said.

In a video message released by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network Jan. 3, the pope offered his prayer intention for the month of January, which he dedicated to people who suffer from religious discrimination and persecution.

Supplying ice for parish picnics, weddings and any occasion you might have.

**Call us today!**  
**HILKE'S ICE**  
Freeburg, Mo.  
**573-744-5500**

HILKE'S ICE CO.  
FREEBURG, MO  
573-744-5500

**FEELING ANXIOUS OR SAD?**  
**HI, I'M HOPE. HOW CAN I HELP?**

Hope is a FREE chat service providing encouragement and strategies on how to manage everyday stress and anxiety using Chatbot technology.

Text "Hi" to Hope at 1-202-949-7249 to get instant support or visit <https://www.facebook.com/HopeCCUSA>  
Start Code: CCCNMO

- Hope is confidential, private, and available 24/7.
- Proven, faith-based, emotional and mental support service.
- Hope offers proven technology to offer custom mental health help when and where you need it. She is used by over 13 million users world wide.

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, please contact the Suicide Hotline • 800-273-8255

Catholic Charities  
of Central and Northern Missouri  
2011 CELEBRATING 10 YEARS 2021

Catholic Charities  
USA.

Questions? E-mail [hope@cccnmo.org](mailto:hope@cccnmo.org)

**Planned Giving**  
LEAVING A LEGACY

You may have gone to your local parish school, you may have sent your children there, and you may currently have grandchildren there.

You can continue the legacy of sending future generations to your local parish school by remembering it in your estate plans.

Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!

**Jake Seifert**  
Director of Development  
573-635-9127 x-227  
[development@diojeffcity.org](mailto:development@diojeffcity.org)

DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY  
2207 W Main | PO Box 104900  
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900  
[diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org)

**LEGENDS BANK**  
MEMBER FDIC

Don't just live life... make it LEGENDARY!

HOME LOANS • COMMERCIAL LOANS • AG LOANS • AUTO LOANS • HELOC

Your town, your bank.

Member FDIC



## REFUGEES

From page 1

### Home at last

Kyrell and Dr. Michaela Newell had bought, restored and lived in an originally foreclosed home in Jefferson City when Dr. Newell was hired as executive director of St. Nicholas Academy.

The academy, conducted in partnership with Catholic Charities and with St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City, is a boarding school offering the opportunity of an excellent education to children who can use the help.

The couple are active members of First United Methodist Church, one of a group of congregations serving together in a Community Sponsorship for refugee families in Jefferson City.

The home the couple bought had been vacant since they moved into the St. Nicholas Academy building.

"We were waiting for an opportunity to do something nice with our beloved renovated home, something creative and different," said Dr. Newell.

Now, one of the families from Afghanistan lives there.

"God had a plan all along for this," Dr. Newell stated.

She and her husband now visit the family a few times a week, contributing essential fellowship to the exhaustive list of services the Community Sponsorship group provides.

"We come and have tea, say 'hi' and play with the kids," she said.

Absent a common language, she and the other women bond over fashion, soccer fandom, and a love of being with children.

Even with 11 people now living there, the Newells' former home is filled with love and joy — "and honestly, a level of peace and tranquility that I don't think would be there without Christ's presence," said Dr. Newell.

She had never experienced the level of hospitality that is common in Afghan culture.

"At first, I felt uncomfortable with it," she acknowledged. "But then I realized that they really find joy in it."

For people feeling called to help, Dr. Newell recommended letting go and letting God



**LEFT:** Hosts at the Islamic Center of Central Missouri showcase the cuisine at the Welcome Dinner for refugees and their Community Sponsors. **RIGHT:** The Islamic Center of Central Missouri hosts fellow Community Sponsorship group members for a meal with Afghan refugee families.

— Photo by Ashley Wiskirchen

take charge.

"It's like a roller coaster to say yes to God," she said. "It's a blast! It's still scary like a roller coaster, but it's way more fun to say yes to God, with all the ups and downs (learning and growing) that comes with it."

### "What Jesus would do"

Sarah Alsagar is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, which is part of the ecumenical Community Sponsorship group.

When asked to help the arriving family of refugees get settled, she thought back to the work her father had done as a member of the parish's Social Concerns Commission to help resettle refugees from the Congo about 20 years ago.

"I remember the incredible act of service he and others in the parish did to assist those gentlemen who were trying to make a better life for themselves and their families," Ms. Alsagar stated.

Warmed by those memories, she could not help but say yes to helping these new refugees begin their new life here.

"It is without a doubt what Jesus would do, and what He wants us to do as followers of His teachings," she said.

She doesn't dare imagine what the arriving families are going through, "but it must be just a little bit easier if you

have people who are genuinely invested in your success and show you kindness and compassion," she said.

Other participating Jefferson City congregations include: First Baptist Church, Wesley United Methodist Church, the Islamic Center of Central Missouri, Oasis United Church of Christ, and Living Hope Church.

### "The Lord's work"

Rev. Dr. Steve and Becky Buchholz have been involved in ministry for nearly half a century.

As such, "every day is an experience of stepping out of one's comfort zone," stated Rev. Dr. Buchholz, pastor of congregational care for First United Methodist Church in Jefferson City.

He noted that many of the people who are being resettled had to leave their homeland after the United States withdrew its military presence last year, because they had worked with the U.S. government and their lives were suddenly in danger.

"The least we can do for them is help them establish a new life in our country," he said. "This is humanitarian work."

The Buchholzes helped resettle a refugee family from Vietnam in the 1970s.

"That was such a rewarding experience that we felt that we

needed to help again and draw from our previous experiences," said Rev. Dr. Buchholz.

He said helping "these kind, deeply appreciative people" is a spiritual experience.

So is working toward a common goal with people who understand and worship God differently.

"We have learned that regardless of religious doctrine, theology or ecclesiology, the main focus of the Christian faith is mission and ministry," he said. "We share a common love for the Lord, and a desire to reflect that love to one another, and now especially to these refugees."

He called to mind how the people who are being helped place their hand over their hearts and gently pat their chest in the universal gesture of love and gratitude.

"We see Christ on their faces," he said. "I see Christ in the hearts of the refugees and in all the volunteers from the various churches who are doing such great work with the refugees."

"No volunteer is seeking to gain glory or praise — we are a community team doing the Lord's work together on this project," he said.

He pointed to Jesus's words in Matthew 25:40 — "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me."

### "Faith walk"

Mrs. Schlueter and her husband Bob joined Sacred Heart Parish this past June, shortly after moving to Columbia.

"I must say, Sacred Heart is one of the most generous and open-hearted parishes I've ever been a part of," she said. "We haven't been here very long, but what stands out to me is the amount of outreach this parish does. It's truly amazing."

For several years, volunteers from the parish have spent time each Thursday evening helping people from all over the world learn English.

Mrs. Schlueter has now become one of those volunteers.

"The need is overwhelming right now," she stated. "With the influx of new people, each volunteer is helping multiple students."

The time they spend is only enough to work on basics and essentials, helping people with vastly different levels of education learn how to strike up conversations and ask for what they need.

"I'd say we have 10 or 12 countries represented each Thursday night," said Mrs. Schlueter. "It sounds hard, and I'm not a teacher. But honestly, once you get through the awkward phase, it's pretty obvious

See SPONSORSHIP, page 15



## REFUGEES

From page 14

what you need to be helping people learn.”

The need is so great that Catholic Charities and the Adult Learning Center in Columbia are working together to recruit and train more volunteers to help teach English to refugees.

Mrs. Schlueter believes it's well worth the effort.

“I've made a commitment to myself and to Jesus that I would be more willing to venture outside my comfort zone,” she said. “That is part of your faith walk. You have to get out of your lane in order to grow.”

She and fellow Sacred Heart parishioner Pat Gerke are co-coordinators for the parish's refugee Community Sponsorship.

Volunteers serve on committees devoted to various aspects of helping the refugees become as self-sufficient as possible, as quickly as possible.

Catholic Charities provides

considerable guidance and assistance to the volunteers.

Mrs. Schlueter noted that Community Sponsorship requires a hefty commitment of time and energy, which is why it's good to have as many volunteers with as many backgrounds and specialties as possible.

“Your objective for volunteering, of course, is to help people,” she said. “But the warmth of the relationship you get to experience in the process simply overwhelms you.”

She spoke of hugs and of children proudly reciting their “A-B-Cs” to show their desire to learn the language of their new homeland.

The volunteers cooperate with each other, taking on unexpected tasks as needed.

“It's completely uplifting to see how many good, generous, loving people there are that you have the pleasure of doing this with,” said Mrs. Schlueter. “We're all working

together. And God is always providing. Always. Always!”

### “Open hands and hearts”

Ashley Wiskirchen, CCCNMO's new communications director, attended a welcoming celebration with the Jefferson City Muslim Community, part of the ecumenical Community Sponsorship group, hosted the day after several refugee families arrived.

People from each of the cooperating congregations attended.

“Our agency and these families are so blessed by these volunteers — their willingness to serve, their open hands and hearts to encounter those in need, their flexibility to meet those needs, sometimes under time constraints or last-min-



The Catholic Charities ecumenical Community Sponsorship group awaits refugee arrivals at Columbia Regional Airport.

— Photo by Ashley Wiskirchen

ute changes” Mrs. Wiskirchen stated.

She said the work is built on relationships, trust and compassion.

“As I watch these relationships grow, I am filled with so much hope,” she said. “It is a

beautiful thing to witness people from different faiths, backgrounds, career experiences, ages and abilities come together and serve our new neighbors.”

Mindful that prayer is as essential as the work, Mrs. Newell asked for prayers for the refugees to be able to overcome the many “little frustrations” that come with resettling in a new country.

“I pray for them to be at peace,” she said. “I pray for their health. And

for them not to feel lonely!”

Mrs. Schlueter suggested praying “for everyone to understand how sacred these people are and be more sensitive to the fact that they are here out of necessity.”

“They are happy to be here, but they are also carrying a lot of pain,” she noted. “I know that through this sponsorship, they will be safe, fed, warm and taken care of. Their needs will be met. We just pray for everyone to be kind and compassionate to them while they go about the work of integrating into this society.”

Rev. Buchholz suggested praying “that God will give us the ability to meet the refugees' needs: spiritually, mentally, emotionally, as well as their physical needs.”

“My prayer,” said Ms. Al-sagar, “is that these families can find peace and comfort in our community, and that we can grow in our faith through service to them.”

*For information about Community Sponsorship of refugees, visit:*

**[cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/community-co-sponsorship](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/community-co-sponsorship)**

*For additional assistance with resettlement efforts, the public is encouraged to donate by texting “WelcomeMO” to 91999, giving online at [cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give](http://cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/give), or mailing a check payable to CCCNMO to PO Box 104626 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4626.*

## Pew: Catholic numbers hold steady, ‘nones’ rise, Protestants decrease

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

The percentage of Catholics in the U.S. population in 2021 held steady at 21% in the latest Pew Research Center survey, issued Dec. 14.

The percentage of Protestants, however, dropped, while the percentage of “nones” — those who profess no particular denominational attachment — continued to rise, said the report, “About Three-in-Ten U.S. Adults Are Now Religiously Unaffiliated.”

The survey results also indicate the proportion of Christians in the U.S. population continues to slide. A decade ago, they constituted 75%, or three out of every four Americans. In the new survey, that percentage is down to 63%, or five out of every eight Americans.

“Christians now outnumber religious ‘nones’ by a ratio of a little more than 2-to-1,” the report said. In 2007, when Pew began asking its current question about religious identity, the ratio was almost 5-to-1, or 78% vs. 16%.

Since 2007, Protestantism has dwindled from 52% of all Americans to 40%, not quite twice the percentage of Catholics today. Within Protestantism, the per-

centage of those adults who profess evangelical or “born again” Christianity has shrunk by 6%; the number of those who are not evangelical or “born again” also has shrunk by 6%.

The dip in the percentage of Catholics is less pronounced; it was 24% in 2007 and 14 years later is 21%. The Orthodox churches make up about 1% of Americans, and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints comprises 2%.

Prayer also has taken a hit since 2007. The percentage of those who said they prayed every day then was 58%; today, it's 45%.

So too are those who consider themselves “very” religious. Fifty-eight percent of Americans had described themselves that way in 2007. Now, just 41% do. The number of those who feel “somewhat” religious has drifted downward from 28% in 2007 to 25% today. But those who say they're either “not too” or “not at all” religious has more than doubled over the past decade and a half, from 16% to 33%.

The trend lines maintained themselves on the religiosity question even after Pew switched from a random-digit-dial protocol to find survey respondents, which ended in 2019, to its National Public Opinion Reference Survey, which de-

buted in 2020.

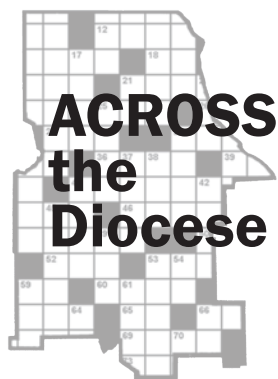
Thirty-five percent of Catholics say they go to Mass at least monthly, with Hispanics outpacing whites, 36% to 33%. But those numbers are dwarfed by the 46% of Protestants who say they attend services at least monthly.

Catholics straddle the halfway mark about how often they pray — 51% say they pray daily — while 48% say religion is very important in their lives. Of this 48%, 54% of Hispanic Catholics say this is true for them, vs. 41% of their white counterparts.

While a combined 29% of those surveyed profess no specific religious identity, the percentage of those who say they're “nothing in particular” (20%) is more than double the combined percentage of atheists and agnostics (9%).

The Pew survey interviewed 3,937 Americans who responded either on paper or online. The margin of error for the entire respondent group is plus or minus 2.1%. Among the 860 Catholics surveyed, the margin of error is plus or minus 4.5%.

*The Pew report “About Three-in-Ten U.S. Adults Are Now Religiously Unaffiliated” can be found online at [pewrsr.ch/3F3lx22](http://pewrsr.ch/3F3lx22).*



By Father Don Antweiler

**ACROSS**

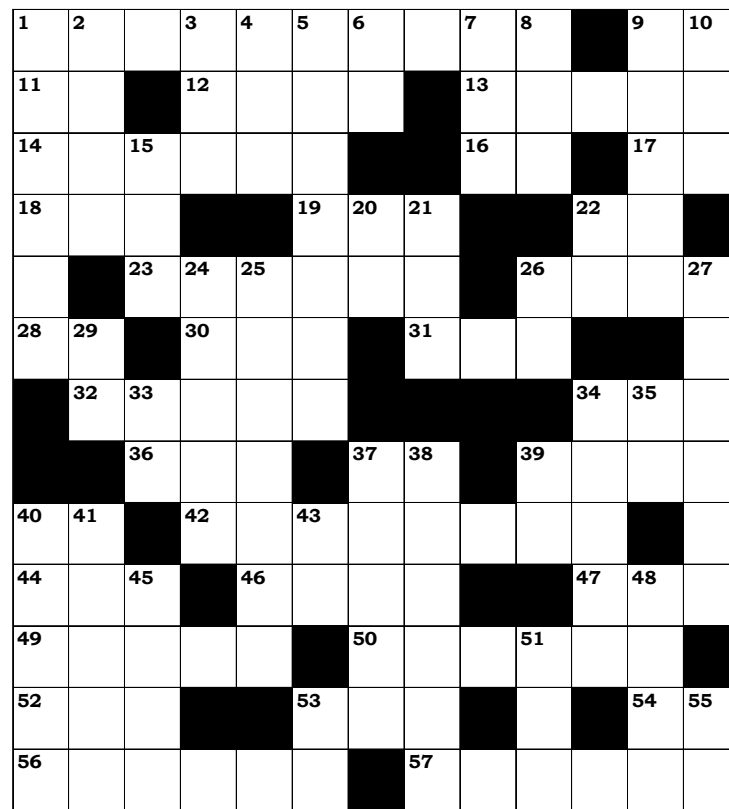
1. Howard Rusk, born in Brookfield, Mo. in 1901, developed a passion and mission and a world-wide \_\_\_\_\_ for innovative rehabilitative medicine.
9. \_\_\_\_\_. Comics is the largest and oldest comic book company, publishing such iconic heroes as Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, etc.
11. Walmart's headquarters in Bentonville is in this State (abbr.).
12. "...but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on \_\_\_\_\_," (Matthew 7:26).
13. Donkey in the wild west.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Inn; old hotel chain.
16. Do \_\_\_\_\_ right this time!
17. Letters for Univ. of Mo.
18. Letters in an airport.
19. Prefix for angle or cycle.
22. Abbr. for millimeter, one of which equals 0.0394 of an inch.
23. In 1922, Rusk studied

- medical bacteriology at Mizzou's \_\_\_\_\_ of Medicine, attained a medical degree at the Univ. of Penn. and returned to Mo. as an intern at St. Luke's Hosp. in St. Louis.
26. Short for system.
28. 7th note on the music scale.
30. The gentle \_\_\_\_\_ of the machines in the background put me to sleep.
31. There have been 13 popes with this name, which means lion.
32. The party became so \_\_\_\_\_ and loud that the neighbors called the police.
34. America's uncle.
36. \_\_\_\_\_ Bush, former Governor of Florida from 1999-2007, second son of President H.W. Bush; younger brother of President George W. Bush.
37. Abbr. for pound.
39. First syllable word for ladder or mother.
40. Possible letters before a woman's name.
42. With Rusk widely acclaimed as the founder of rehabilitative medicine, the Univ. of Mo. in Columbia dedicated its rehabilitation \_\_\_\_\_ in his honor: the Rusk Rehabilitation Center.
44. Gov't. agency dealing with the environment.
46. "Finding \_\_\_\_\_"; 2003 Disney movie about a little

- lost clown fish.
47. "When you \_\_\_\_\_ down, you need not be afraid, when you rest, your sleep will be sweet," (Proverbs 3:24).
49. "Thus \_\_\_\_\_ overcame the Philistine (Goliath) with sling and stone..." (1 Samuel 17:50).
50. Howard Rusk died in 1989 and is \_\_\_\_\_ in his hometown of Brookfield, Mo.
52. \_\_\_\_\_ Fletcher, White House Press Secretary for Pres. George W. Bush, or nickname for Onassis, husband of Jacqueline Kennedy.
53. "You shall not plow with an ox and an \_\_\_\_\_ harnessed together," (Deuteronomy 22:10).
54. This State has the largest Native-Am. population in the country (abbr.).
56. "All the \_\_\_\_\_ are brown, and the sky is gray..." — lyrics from the song "California Dreaming" by the Mamas and the Papas, 1966 hit and staple of 60's counterculture.
57. Peers.

**DOWN**

1. "The Christians seemed capable of performing virtuous acts such as dying peacefully for their beliefs that only the \_\_\_\_\_ philosophers of antiquity had done," *The God That Did Not Fail*; Robert Royal.
2. Part of QED.
3. Although 178 countries have an official language enshrined by law, Mexico, Australia and this country are not among them.
4. Affectionate nickname of Lincoln's youngest son.
5. As a young man Rusk gained experience in human \_\_\_\_\_ at his father's funeral home in Brookfield and was an apprentice to a local country doctor, going on house calls and observing surgeries.
6. Six points in football.
7. \_\_\_\_\_-Wan Kenobi; Jedi Master of Star Wars who mentored Luke Skywalker.
8. "Sometimes I feel like a \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes I don't..." — Almond Joy candy bar jingle.
9. "The most persistent sound which reverberates through man's history is



- the beating of war \_\_\_\_\_," —Arthur Kolstler.
10. Common ending for an email address.
15. "Live \_\_\_\_\_!" Taco Bell slogan.
20. Letters for reverse osmosis, a water purifying process.
21. Rusk's passion to find unique and effective ways to rehabilitate wounded and \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers led to a wide awareness of the importance of graduated exercise and the effectiveness of practices that led to self-motivation and self-pride in the soldiers.
22. "\_\_\_\_\_ Way"; song popularized by Frank Sinatra in 1969.
24. Rusk volunteered in WW II and became \_\_\_\_\_ of medical services at the 1,000-bed hospital at Jefferson Barracks military base south of St. Louis.
25. "An archaeologist is the best \_\_\_\_\_ a woman can have. The older she gets, the more fascinated he is with her," —Agatha Christi.
26. "As a teenager I was \_\_\_\_\_, insecure. I was the type of guy that never fit in..." — Johnny Depp, actor.
27. "Do you not know that your body is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit within you...? (1 Corinthians 6:19).
29. "One hard lesson Kirk had learned early \_\_\_\_\_ his space career — the innocent were rarely treated innocently," *The Great Space-*
- ship Race*; Diane Carey.
33. Breakfast drink (abbr.).
34. E.B. White's *The Elements of \_\_\_\_\_*, is a classic that needs to be read by anyone serious about being a writer.
35. \_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_; cable station featuring shows such as Court Cam, The First 48, 60 Days In, etc.
37. "If it keeps up, man will atrophy all his \_\_\_\_\_ but the push-button finger," —Frank Lloyd Wright, architect.
38. A woman's dress shirt.
39. Abbr. before the name of one who is canonized.
40. For his work, Rusk was promoted to Lt. Col and earned many honors (e.g., Distinguished Service \_\_\_\_\_). His methods were adopted by all branches of the military. He founded the NYU's Physical Medical Instit., later named the Rusk Instit.
41. In bowling, the knocking down of all remaining pins on a bowler's 2nd throw.
43. Short for Common Era, often used instead of A.D.
45. A brand of sneakers.
48. American \_\_\_\_\_; TV show that has been auditioning singers for 19 seasons.
51. Debt letters.
53. \_\_\_\_\_ I live and breathe!
55. Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Presidential Library is in this State (abbr.).

ANSWERS on page 19

**FRANK SCHRIMPF**  
PLUMBING COMPANY, INC.

615 A Clark Ave • Jefferson City  
**573-636-9661**  
www.SchrimpfPlumbing.com

Factory Authorized Dealer  
**BEAM**  
CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS

**BUILDING DEMOLITION?**

**ARSI**  
INCORPORATED

Contact Us  
1-800-769-5798  
www.arsi-mo.com

**Asbestos Inspection and Abatement**

Serving clients throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City since 1985 with asbestos, lead, mold, and environmental services.



## LISTENING SESSIONS

From page 1

be structured so as many people's perspectives as possible can be heard. There will also be the opportunity for people to participate in online sessions.

Helen Osman, diocesan communication director and chair for this diocese's commission for the diocesan phase of the Synod 2021-2023, emphasized that this phase is only the beginning of a two-year process.

"There's going to be some back and forth on this," she stated. "It's going to go to the Vatican and then come back to us again."

Bishop McKnight stated clearly this is not a process designed to change Church doctrine.

"We will not be encouraged to assert or advance our own pet issues or projects," he said. "We are all called, instead, to listen together, with openness, to what the Holy Spirit is asking of us in how we are to be the Church in our present context."

He pointed to two questions Pope Francis wants people to consider in this phase of the Synod:

• "How is our journeying together happening today in our diocese?"

• "What steps does the Holy Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?"

The bishop has emphasized repeatedly that discernment means listening openly and prayerfully in order to determine the best way of following God's will.

"I'm not asking you to think about what you want," he said. "I'm asking you to discern through this process, 'What is God asking of us, here and now?'"

Toward that end, the listening sessions will give people a place to speak openly about

their experience of the Catholic Church, and really listen to each other.

"This is about the people of God listening to the Holy Spirit," said Mrs. Osman. "At each of the listening sessions, after several people have spoken, we will stop and give ourselves a couple of minutes to reflect on what they said."

All perspectives will be heard and taken into account when preparing the diocese's report for the synod.

The people of the diocese are being encouraged to leap

want them to invite at least one other person who might not otherwise consider themselves invited," said Mrs. Osman.

That may include people who are not Catholic, or people who feel in some way separated from or ostracized by the Church.

"Listening to their experiences will be an important part of pre-

paring our final report," said Mrs. Osman.

Peo-

ple who want to take part in the process but cannot attend one of the sessions can fill out a form online or even upload a video of themselves speaking candidly.

"I have made the promise that I will listen to, I will read everything, that comes in," said Mrs. Osman.

She noted that most Americans aren't used to this kind of dialogue, which involves listening and not immediately responding.

"When someone speaks, we're so accustomed to this idea that the way I honor your speaking is I respond immediately, with my perception of what you said; or what I think you meant to say; or if I think you're wrong," she said.

"Instead, we are asking people to exercise discernment in that you spend some time thinking about what the other person said," she stated.

"And not just from your perspective but from the other person's perspective and the whole Church's perspective."

She noted that people in

other dioceses who have taken part in similar listening sessions for the Synod— especial-

ity and mercy — the Church's mission."

He said the work and discernment that have already taken place will be helpful in creating the diocese's report for the Synod.

Other members of the diocesan pre-synodal commission include: Deacon Enrique Castro, executive director of the diocesan Faith Formation Department; Father Jason T. Doke STL, moderator of the curia; LeAnn Korsmeyer, diocesan

director of women's ministry; Benjamin Roodhouse JD JCL, diocesan director of Canonical Services; and Sister Kathleen Wegman SSND, the bishop's delegate for religious.

"I am tremendously grateful to each of them," said Mrs. Osman. "They have been doing a really thoughtful job of reflecting on what we are being called to do."

More information on Synod 2021-2023 is available at [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va), or email [synod@diojeffcity.org](mailto:synod@diojeffcity.org). The full schedule of diocesan listening sessions is at [diojeffcity.org/synod](http://diojeffcity.org/synod).

## Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus



We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.



## Listening sessions

All sessions are open to the public. However, individuals are asked to register in advance so that adequate hospitality and materials will be available. Registration can be made online at [diojeffcity.org/synod](http://diojeffcity.org/synod).

### Jan. 25

7 p.m. — via Zoom

### Jan 29

10 a.m. — St. Pius X, Moberly  
3:30 p.m. — Holy Family, Hannibal

### Jan. 30

2 p.m. — St. Patrick Chapel, Sedalia (still to be confirmed)

### Feb. 1

7 p.m. — via Zoom

### Feb. 5

10 a.m. — Our Lady of Lourdes, Columbia  
2 p.m. — Immaculate Conception, Macon

### Feb. 6

5 p.m. — St. Patrick, Rolla

### Feb. 8

7 p.m. — via Zoom

### Feb. 11

7 p.m. — St. Peter, Marshall

### Feb. 12

10 a.m. — St. George, Hermann  
1 p.m. — Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City

### Feb. 13

1:30 p.m. — St. Brendan, Mexico

### Feb. 15

7 p.m. — via Zoom

out of their comfort zone.

"Not only are we asking people who are reading this article to come and participate in these sessions, but we

ly those who feel marginalized or separated from their fellow Catholics — often welcome the invitation to share their experience

"The Holy Father is asking us to hear people's pain and frustration and not immediately jump to the next stage," said Mrs. Osman. "He wants us to sit with it and be present to it and let it sink in, mindful that the Holy Spirit is here with us."

Bishop McKnight noted that diocese has already been engaged in deep and prayerful discernment through the process of developing pastoral plans for parishes and the diocese as a whole.

He referred to the diocesan pastoral plan as "our road map to strengthening the spirituality of stewardship — or participation — of individuals in the life of their parish; to strengthen co-responsibility for all and a mutual respect for the different roles the clergy and laity have — communion; so that our parishes may be better recognized as center of char-

**CAPITAL**  
**INSTALLERS**  
INC.

Overhead Garage Doors  
& Openers — Installation

**RAYNOR**  
AUTHORIZED DEALER

3012 S. Ten Mile Dr. Jefferson City

**(573) 893-4998**

**Religious Gifts**  
For All Occasions:

Baptism - Confirmation - First Communion - RCIA - Wedding



**The I. DONNELLY Co., Inc.**

6601 TROOST AVE. • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64131

Phone: **(816) 363-2828**

Nationwide Toll Free Order Desk: **(800) 821-5372**

Visit our online catalog at: **www.idonnelly.com**

Need more info about an event or want to see more events?  
Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at [diojeffcity.org/events](http://diojeffcity.org/events).  
Want your event listed?  
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at [diojeffcity.org/event-listing](http://diojeffcity.org/event-listing).

## Fundraisers & Social Events

Jan. 8

**Columbia**, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Contemporary Group "Farewell to Christmas" Epiphany concert, 7-8:30 pm

Jan. 9

**Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish (Rhineland) breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall

Jan. 12

**Sedalia**, K of C family buffet dinner, 4-7 pm

Jan. 15

**Linn**, St. George Home & School Taste of Italy dinner & auction, 4-8 pm

Jan. 16

**St. Thomas**, K of C pancake, egg & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am

Jan. 21

**Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C #14414 fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, Burr Oak Brewery (825 Trade

Center Drive); **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School marching band trivia fundraiser, 6-10 pm, old gym

Jan. 22

**Fulton**, K of C Ladies Auxiliary candlelight lasagna dinner, 6-8 pm

Jan. 29

**Linn**, St. George School alumni basketball game, 2-8 pm, school gym

Jan. 30-Feb. 5

**St. Thomas**, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish online silent auction, on Facebook search "St. Thomas the Apostle Church"

## Adult Faith Formation

Jan. 7-9

**Moberly**, Engaged Encounter weekend, St. Pius X Parish, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/engaged-encounter](http://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/engaged-encounter)

Jan. 11, 18, & 25

**Jefferson City**, "Cookies, Coffee & Catholicism," featuring Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series, 6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

Jan. 15

**VIRTUAL**, Couple to Couple League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 am, to RSVP email [MidMoNFP@gmail.com](mailto:MidMoNFP@gmail.com)

## Health & Wellness

Jan. 12

**St. Robert**, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish fellowship hall

Jan. 14

**Camdenton**, "Get Real, Get Healthy," free discussion on simple processes to create your personal total wellness plan, 9:30-10:30 am, St. Anthony Parish lower level, to RSVP call or text 816-809-7739

# Vatican pays tribute to 22 Church workers murdered in 2021

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

In situations of extreme poverty, war or civil tensions, 22 Catholic church workers were murdered in 2021, according to Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Presenting its annual list of missionaries killed during the year Dec. 30, the news agency explained, "We use the term 'missionary' for all the baptized, aware that 'in virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples.'"

None of the 13 priests, one religious brother, two religious sisters and six laypeople "carried out striking feats or actions," Fides said, but they gave witness to their faith "in impoverished, degraded social contexts, where violence is the rule of life, the authority of the state was lacking or weakened by corruption and compromises and in the total lack of respect for life and for every human right."

"From Africa to America, from Asia to Europe, they shared daily life with their brothers and sisters, with its risks and fears, its violence and its deprivations, bringing in the small daily gestures Christian witness as a seed of hope," Fides said.

The 22 include Nigerian Father John

Gbakaan Yaji of the Diocese of Minna, who was killed Jan. 15 by armed men who attacked his car; his body was found near the road, tied to a tree, Fides said.

And French Father Olivier Maire, provincial superior of the Montfort Missionaries, who was killed Aug. 9 in the provincial house of Saint Laurent sur Sèvre, in France, by a Rwandan migrant he had offered housing to.

The women on the Fides' list are Sacred Heart Sisters Mary Daniel Abud and Regina Roba, who were killed in August, along with several other people, when their chartered bus was attacked on the road between Juba and Nimule, South Sudan.

In publishing the list, Fides said it was not looking only at Church workers killed in traditional mission territories and it was not proclaiming any of them as "martyrs" in the technical sense of having been killed out of hatred for their faith.

While not included in the count, the Fides report also paid tribute to the 35 "innocent civilians, all of whom were Catholic," who died Dec. 24, reportedly at the hands of the Myanmar military in Mo So village in Kayah state as they were fleeing fighting in the area. The victims, including elderly women and children, were shot and then their bodies were burned.

## Hand Bell concert in J.C. Cathedral

DATE: January 9  
TIME: 3 pm

held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9, in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2305 W. Main St.

Donations of canned food items or cash gifts will benefit the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City.

"Bells of Christmastide," the Jefferson City Community Hand Bell Concert, will be

## Bible study on Ephesians at St. Peter in J.C.

St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City will host a Bible Study this fall on St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

The eight-week class will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning, Jan. 20, in the lower-level Hospitality Room of the Selinger Centre, next to St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway.

Parishioner David Wurst will lead the sessions, which will include a video series by Ascension Press, hosted by Jeff Cavins.

There will be room for proper social distancing.

There is no charge for the course itself. The study guide is helpful but not mandatory. The cost for the study guide is \$30, which includes one year's online access to the videos.

Participants should bring a Bible and a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Contact Mr. Wurst as [davidfwurst@gmail.com](mailto:davidfwurst@gmail.com) for information or to register.

## "Cookies, Coffee & Catholicism" in J.C.

Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City will host a weekly "Cookies, Coffee & Catholicism" series from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in Pleus Hall, next door to Immaculate Conception Church at McCarty Street and Clark Avenue.

The gatherings will continue through March. 22.

Sessions will consist of desert and discussion, and viewing portions of the "Catholicism" series by Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire ministry. The program takes viewers on a journey around the world and deep into the Catholic faith in all its richness, history, beauty, goodness and truth.

"Through this series, we can

better understand the message of Christ and the Church so we can better share our faith," organizers stated.

[icangels.com/upcoming-events](http://icangels.com/upcoming-events)

## 3 p.m. daily prayers

St. Peter Parish in Fulton will offer a virtual prayer service at 3 p.m. each day for the foreseeable future.

Contact Deacon John Neudecker at [jneudecker11@gmail.com](mailto:jneudecker11@gmail.com) to be added to the email invitation list.

A web link will be sent to everyone on the email list. Click the link by 3 p.m.

## VEIT

From page 9

your strength and your hope."

So, let's ask Jesus, "Himself eternally young," to give us hearts that are ever young and capable of loving, ready to welcome the new generations who knock on our doors just as Elizabeth welcomed the Virgin Mary into her home in the Visitation.

Let's witness to these young women and men the JOY that fills our hearts, and is eager to fill theirs as well, if only they give themselves to Him!

*Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.*



## Anniversaries

**Boonville, St. Peter & Paul**  
 Ralph & Milly Rapp, 69 years  
 Lyndel & Marilyn Adkins, 65 years  
 Gene & Marjorie Walje, 54 years  
 Ron & Rita Rapp, 45 years  
 Rustie & Christy Linhart, 44 years  
 Hoke & Christie Eichelberger, 43 years  
 Barry & Patty Price, 42 years  
 Paul & Janet Milne, 38 years  
 Warren & Debbie Kraus, 36 years  
 Chuck & Genola Hodges, 30 years

**Brinktown, Holy Guardian Angels**  
 Tim & Dana Simmons, 25 years

**Fayette, St. Joseph**  
 Bobby & Tess Hayes, 65 years  
 Jerry & Sally Coats, 55 years  
 Bill & Adrienne Thies, 31 years  
 Mike & Paula Thies, 27 years

**Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
 Rich & Kathy Anderson, 42 years

**Jefferson City, St. Peter**  
 Shawn & Sarah Goldman, 25 years

**Jonesburg, St. Patrick**  
 Bob & Pat Geisz, 66 years  
 Ken & Laura Hocke, 27 years  
 Chad & Linda Stewart, 20 years

**Kahoka, St. Michael**  
 Adrian & Mary Rose Meierotto, 50 years

**Kirkville, Mary Immaculate**  
 Larry & Madonna Sorrell, 65 years  
 Clayton & Janet Dillavou, 59 years

**Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake**  
 Tom & Carolyn Loraine, 50 years

**Martinsburg, St. Joseph**  
 Dale & Donna Isgrig, 51 years  
 Mike & Vicki Duenke, 29 years

**Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows**  
 Chuck & Jackie Berendzen, 45 years  
 Mathew & Melissa Koetting, 15 years

**Milan, St. Mary**  
 Bill & Barb Phillips, 55 years

**Palmyra, St. Joseph**  
 W T & Cynthia Johnson, 46 years  
 Jeff & Nancy Keim, 29 years  
 Shane & Lacey Timbrook, 10 years

**Rolla, St. Patrick**  
 Arlo & Barbara Robb, 67 years

**St. Patrick, Shrine of St. Patrick**  
 Earl & Carol Huston, 49 years

**Tipton, St. Andrew**  
 Benny & Reta Bestgen, 45 years  
 Travis & Ashley Kliethermes, 10 years

**Vienna, Visitation**  
 Mick & Debbie Byrd, 42 years  
 Ron & Judy Mitchell, 42 years

**Wien, St. Mary of the Angels**  
 Kenny & Conie Clark, 12 years

## Names for the People Page

Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers. Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to [editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org) or mailed to *The Catholic Missourian*, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

## Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Troy Wieberg**, son of Austin & Kylee Wieberg

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Karson Kaiser, Christian Patterson**

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua — **Hank Andrew Luecke**, son of Andrew & Brook Luecke

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Adrienne Eleanor Holterman**, daughter of Ethan & Bethany Holterman

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Kamden Bax**, son of Taylor & Cassidy Bax; **Adler Ray Biddle**, son of Drew & Melinda Biddle; **Marcella Crider**, daughter of Jacob & Elizabeth Crider; **Maximilian Thomas Myren**, son of Peter & Cory Myren; **Sutton Gray Schubert**, son of Austin & Kayla Schubert

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Easton Mitchell Berendzen**, son of Cameron & Whitney Berendzen; **Lucy Etta and Drew Alton Carnes**, children of David & Kelsey Carnes

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **William Gerard Amick, Camille Emery and Olivia Estelle Rivers**

Martinsburg, St. Joseph — **Colton Robert Chism**, son of Dustin & Mackenzie Becker

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Baylor Rhett Fletcher**, son of Christopher & Rachael Fletcher; **Charles Lee Matthews**, son of Charles & Jennifer Matthews

Russellville, St. Michael — **Clara Nan Gilpin**, daughter of Colby & Olivia Gilpin

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Joseph John Swedo IV**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **William Daniel Bradley**, son of Zackery & Cheyenne Bradley; **Areil Paige Eichholz**, daughter of Chris & Shaunda Eichholz

## Birthdays

**Sister Christine Jamros**, a Franciscan sister of Our Lady of Angels Convent in Mishawaka, Indiana, who was principal of St. George School in Hermann from 1974 to 1989, her 100th birthday in 2021.

**Franciscan Father Irenaeus Kimminau**, who was pastor of St. George Parish in Hermann from 1981-84, his 100th birthday in 2021.

## Deaths

**Sister Rose Rita Orf**, of the Sisters of the Precious Blood of O'Fallon, who taught at St. Peter School in Marshall from 1950-51 — on Dec. 3

**Sister Sheila Ruane** (formerly Sister Honorata) of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, 101 — a former teacher at Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City — on Dec. 1 in San Antonio, Texas. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 7 in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. Interment in the convent cemetery.

Boonville, Ss. Peter & Paul — **Henry Oser, Norman Schwartz**

Camdenton, St. Anthony — **Mary DeLacy**

Clarence, St. Patrick — **Donald J. Schumann**

Eldon, Sacred Heart — **Doris M. Sanning**

Glasgow, St. Mary — **Florence Kivett**

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Frankie Morgan**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Regina D. McClurg, Janice L. Weavers**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Betty J. Hammond, Claudia E. Lee**

Linn, St. George — **Marilyn A. Jahnsen, Roger J. Voss**

Marshall, St. Peter — **Jersita Joakim Samo, Oden Sullivan, Pompeyo Vasquez, Joyce Weaver**

Meta, St. Cecilia — **Thomas M. Gragert**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Herbert E. Lawrence**

Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception — **Martha L. Boes, James R. Cochran**

Palmyra, St. Joseph — **Franklin Tuley**

Perry, St. William — **Wanda L. Lehmen**

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Charles F. Rudroff**

Vandalia, Sacred Heart — **Kathleen Lowe**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Shirley J. Porting**

Salisbury, St. Joseph — **Shirley Buysse, Anna Mae McSparren**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Helen Franken**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Michael H. Feltrop**

## Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Ashley Eggemeyer & Thomas Kelley**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Marli Hays & Kyle Henke**

## Elections

Hermitage, St. Bernadette — **Jim Huening, Bonnie Juene, Mike Kern, Jane Klenke**, to the Parish Pastoral Council

Linn, St. George — **Alfred Brandt, Brendan Koenigsfeld**, to the Parish Pastoral Council

## OSPINO

From page 9

intentional in doing something that should be a nonnegotiable for us as believers: Give Jesus.

Here are two simple ways in which we can give Jesus to one another during Christmas, ensuring that the season remains focused on Our Savior.

One, reclaim Christmas by celebrating this time with your family and friends during the actual season. The liturgical season of Christmas begins on December 25th and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

It is striking, yet disappointing, that exactly at the time when Christmas begins, many people stop singing carols, throw away their decorations, stop giving gifts, and go somewhat silent about Jesus. Catholics should do better.

Two, while keeping the spirit of generous giving, give something that invites others into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. In other words, give something with explicit religious meaning and focused on Jesus.

Give a Bible, a theology or spirituality book, a religious object, perhaps an icon.

Write a letter or a poem about Jesus. Have your children or grandchildren draw something about Jesus' life. Then share these as gifts.

It's Christmas, a time to be generous and to celebrate God's generosity. Give Jesus.

*Ospino is professor of theology and religious education at Boston College.*

## Crossword puzzle answers

S	T	V	U	D	E	S	E	V	V	E	T
K	O	O	S	S	V	I	R	V			
D	E	I	R	U	B	D	I	V	V		
E	I	T	O	E	M	N	V	P			
T	X	L	I	T	I	C	F	S			
P	E	L	B	B	J	E	B				
M	V	S	X	S	I	O	N				
E	O	E	M	U	H	I	J				
L	S	X	T	O	O	H	C	S			
M	M	I	R	L	V	A	L	E			
M	U	L	I	A	D	V	M	V			
O	R	R	U	B	D	N	V	S			
C	D	N	O	I	L	V	L	P			



# The gift of giving



The Sacred Heart School freshman class in Sedalia got into the spirit of the season by “adopting” a local foster child this Christmas rather than doing the traditional class gift exchange. Each year, the Missouri Children’s Division collects a Christmas wish list for kids in foster care. The freshmen fulfilled the list and wrapped up a few more surprise presents. “This is truly what the Christmas Season is about and I’m so proud of their selflessness and thoughtfulness of others,” said Marlo Siron, Class of 2025 moderator. This group, led by Class President Sophia Carney, organized, collected and delivered the items to the business that was one of the sites for the Missouri’s Children’s Division. “Helping others is truly one of the things that God calls us to do.”

— Photo by Liz Suter-Van Leer

# Capitol Nativity



The youth choir from St. Francis Xavier School in Taos gathers on the steps of the Missouri State Capitol after singing songs in the Capitol Rotunda on Dec. 16 during the Nativity at the Capitol Happy Birthday Celebration, sponsored by the St. Andrew Parish ProLife Committee and Team PLAY in Holts Summit. Student choirs and bands from throughout central Missouri participated.

— Photo from the St. Francis Xavier Parish bulletin

# “Shall I play for Him?”



Sam Sherman was one of five junior high and high school students who volunteered to help with the music during the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in St. Peter Church in Marshall.

# Heaven and nature sing



A children’s choir made up of students in grades kindergarten through 6 at St. Andrew School in Tipton gathers to sing Christmas carols before the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in St. Andrew Church. Other students, families and teachers participated in roles at the Mass as well.

— Photo by Kara Higgins

# King of Kings

Children of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg reenact the birth of Jesus on Dec. 21 in St. Joseph Church.

— St. Joseph Catholic Church-Martinsburg, MO



Like Us On  **Diocese of Jefferson City**



# God reveals Himself to Samuel

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

Elkanah, a man from the hill country of Ephraim, had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Peninnah picked on Hannah because she was childless, which made Hannah very upset.

Every year, Elkanah and his family went to the temple in Shiloh to offer sacrifices to God. One year, Hannah poured out her troubles in prayer and asked God for a son. She promised that the boy would be dedicated to God's service.

God heard Hannah's prayer. She had a son named Samuel, whom she brought to the temple in Shiloh after he was weaned.



Samuel became minister to the Lord under the priest Eli. During this time, a revelation of the Lord was uncommon, and visions were infrequent.

One night, Eli was asleep

in his usual place, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple where the ark of God was.

The Lord called to Samuel. "Here I am. You called me," Samuel said after running to Eli.

"I did not call you," Eli answered. "Go back to sleep."

Samuel went back to sleep. God again called to Samuel, who again ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me."

"I did not call you, My son," Eli said. "Go back to sleep."

The Lord called Samuel for a third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me."

Eli finally realized that God was calling Samuel.

"Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening,'" Eli said.

When Samuel went to sleep, the Lord came and stood there, calling out as before: "Samuel, Samuel!"

"Speak, for your servant is listening," Samuel replied.

God told Samuel that He would carry out everything He had previously said about Eli and his family.

"I announce to him that I am condemning his house once and for all, because of this crime: Though he knew his sons were blaspheming God, he did not reprove them," God said.

The next morning, Eli asked what God had said. He told Samuel to hold nothing back, so Samuel told him everything.

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and he became known as a prophet of God.

**Read more about it...  
1 Samuel 1 & 3**

1. Who was calling Samuel?
2. Who was God condemning?

## Bible Accent

At the time that God revealed Himself to Samuel, the Philistines gathered for an attack on Israel.

In 1 Samuel 4:2, we read that after a fierce battle, the Philistines prevailed, and Israel lost about 4,000 men.

"Why has the Lord permitted us to be defeated today by the Philistines?" the elders of Israel asked when the troops returned to camp. "Let us fetch the ark of the Lord from Shiloh that it may go into battle among us and save us from the grasp of our enemies."

Word was sent to Shiloh for

the ark to be brought to the camp. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, accompanied the ark. Eli's sons were wicked. They had no respect for God and sinned grievously in His presence. They also had no respect for their priestly duties toward the people.

The two armies clashed again, and Israel was defeated once more. This time, 30,000 men were lost, Eli's sons were killed and the Philistines captured the ark of God.

A man fled the battlefield and went to Shiloh to announce the news. When Eli

heard that his sons were dead and the ark of God was captured, he fell backward from his chair and died.

And just as God told Samuel, the house of Eli was condemned because Hophni and Phinehas blasphemed God and Eli did not reprove them.

## Essay

Have you ever been afraid to deliver bad news to someone?

## Saint Spotlight



St. Fabian was a Roman layman who lived in the third century. He attended a papal conclave as an observer in 236 and was elected pope after a dove landed on his head. He was among the first to be martyred during the Roman Emperor Decius' persecution of Christians. St. Cyprian called Fabian "an incomparable man, the glory of whose death corresponded with the holiness of his life." Fabian died in 250, and we honor him on Jan. 20.

## Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a quotation from the children's story.

ot      peels      akcb      og

Sentence:



Answers: to, sleep, back, go; Go back to sleep.

**Schulte's**  
Fresh Foods

**JEFFERSON CITY**  
1904 Southwest Blvd.  
(573) 636-8413

Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**CATHOLIC SUPPLY**  
OF ST. LOUIS, INC.

Inspirational Gifts for All Occasions!  
Especially First Communion, Baptism, & Weddings

**www.catholicsupply.com**  
or Call Today for a Free Catalog 1-800-325-9026

**W.D. WINTER-DENT**  
100% EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

Insurance • Bonds  
Employee Benefits • Financial Services

Offices located in Jefferson City and Columbia  
800-769-3472  
**www.winter-dent.com**



## Two books aim to guide married couples on journey to holiness

*30 Days with Married Saints: A Catholic Couples' Devotional* by Kent and Caitlin Lasnoski. Pauline Books and Media (Boston, 2021). 256 pp., \$18.95.

*Holy Together: Reflections on Married Spirituality*, by Kathleen Finley. Resource Publications (Eugene, Oregon, 2020). 122 pp., \$17.

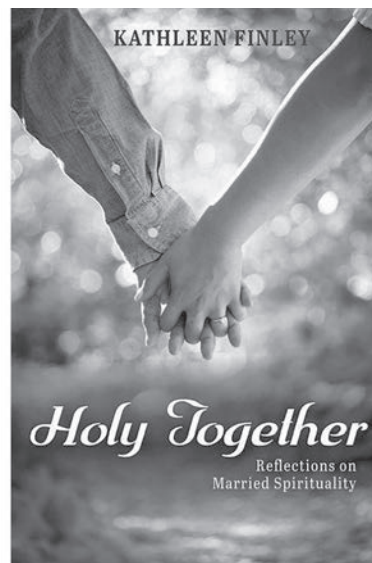
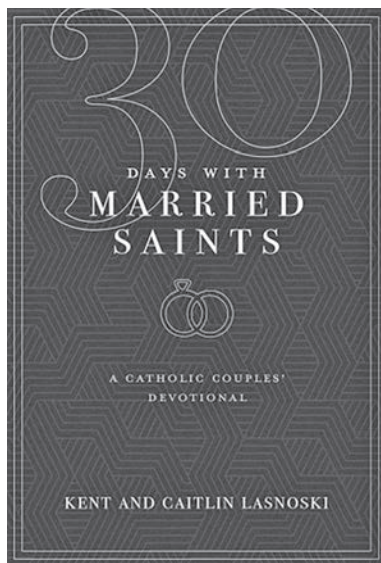
Reviewed by Regina Lordan  
Catholic News Service

Two new books aim to refocus Catholic couples on the journey to holiness and sanctity within their marriages, families and communities.

*30 Days with Married Saints: A Catholic Couples' Devotional* by Kent Lasnoski and Caitlin Lasnoski offers an easily attainable daily reading, reflection and practice for spouses.

*Holy Together: Reflections on Married Spirituality* by Kathleen Finley connects the spiritual journey of marriage and its relationship to its practical application in daily life.

Finley, who has written



eight books on spirituality, is a spiritual director and private practice therapist. She has been married for more than 40 years and for more than three decades she has helped couples prepare for marriage.

Her vast experience is reflected in her writing, making *Holy Together* appropriate for engaged couples, newlyweds and seasoned spouses.

Finley's focus is on the realistic implementation of spirituality in the daily lives of married

couples. She defines spirituality as "the way I live in light of what I believe."

Her simply stated, tangible definition is segmented and deepened by seven aspects of spiritual tradition.

Using a somewhat scaffolded technique of explanation for the reader, Finley first introduces these concepts with examples from saints and other Catholic role models who lived out these ideas.

She then provides various anecdotal, reasonable and specific examples of married couples in all stages of their vocation who apply the concept.

You can almost hear her cheering on the reader in the background: "You got this. Just try. It's a journey you can take together."

For example, Finley uses St. Therese of Lisieux and Damien of Molokai to exemplify asceticism, the spiritual concept of

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

American Underdog (PG)  
Encanto (PG)  
Sing 2 (PG)



Adults

Being the Ricardos (R)  
The King's Man (R)  
The Matrix Resurrections (R)  
National Champions (R)  
Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG-13)  
West Side Story (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

House of Gucci (R)  
Nightmare Alley (R)



Morally Offensive

Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City (R)

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for current reviews.

self-giving and sacrifice for the greater good and a larger purpose.

St. Damien, as his widely known history goes, gave his life for people exiled and suffering from Hansen's disease. St. Therese, on the other hand, gave of herself and her own needs for the needs of her religious community. She bit her tongue and resisted complaining when she felt unappreciated or annoyed by her women religious companions.

How can the examples of someone who died among the sick and a contemplative nun apply to married couples with careers, families and modern-day pressures that can lead to isolation, individualism and insular selfishness?

Well, the St. Therese example might be obvious, but Finley responds that spouses can practice this tradition continually.

Christians are called to love others first, she writes, and can do this through little acts of self-giving, by balancing one's own needs with those of the couple and the family, and by taking risks with trust and communicating fully with each other.

At the conclusion of each chapter, Finley includes a relevant Scripture verse, active-

engagement reflection and resources for further exploration.

At the conclusion of the book, she reiterates that practical spirituality and the vocation of marriage is a journey that can be taken together as a couple.

Further emphasizing how couples can live this out, she gives examples from her own marriage, even including a letter she wrote to her husband for their 40th anniversary in the appendix.

She packs a lot of information into these 112 pages.

Authors Kent and Caitlin Lasnoski also pack a lot of information into their month-long devotional, *30 Days with Married Saints*, for couples to participate in together.

The Lasnoskis have been mentors to engaged couples and have helped design and lead pre-Cana programs. Kent Lasnoski teaches theology at Wyoming Catholic College and Caitlin homeschools their eight children.

Their experiences personally and professionally make the book relevant to engaged couples as well as those married for decades.

Each day of the book opens with a prayer and discussion material and concludes with a

### CASTROP PLASTERING CO. INC.



PLASTERING - DRYWALL  
ACOUSTICAL TILE  
STUCCO & THIN WALL  
PLASTERING

4915 Hwy. 50 West, Jefferson City (573) 893-4111

## How much will you need to retire? Let's talk.



**Brian D Johnson, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor

744 West Stadium Suite F  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
573-635-1454



**Peter B Myren**  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
[edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

Member SIPC

## On air

**Mustard Seed**  
Sunday Scripture readings  
and reflections

Sundays, 10:06 am, KWIX-AM 1230, Moberly  
Sundays, 8 am, KRLL-AM 1420, California

**EWTN and other**  
Catholic programming  
Covenant Radio Network  
broadcasts

KHJR 88.1 FM, Jefferson City  
KBKC 90.1 FM, Moberly  
KEFL 91.5 FM, Kirksville  
94.7 FM, Columbia  
103.3 FM, Fulton  
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

See BOOKS, page 23



## Christmas dinners to-go in Moberly



Members of St. Pius X Parish in Moberly assemble baskets of donated food the morning of Dec. 18 for the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to deliver to people in need throughout Randolph County, in time for Christmas. They also assembled fruit plates to be delivered to people who are homebound. "This once a year event gives insight as to what the 'Meaning of the Season,' is all about!" members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society stated. — Photo by Father Joby P. Thomas, pastor

## Practicing Gospel values in Russellville

Members of St. Michael Parish in Russellville are working to practice the Gospel message of loving their neighbors.

"Our loving, giving parishioners came together again, after a Pandemic respite, to share a free meal with the Russellville community following the Christmas Parade on Dec. 11," said Loretta Broker, a longtime parishioner.

Parishioners served three roasters full of homemade chili, two roasters full of homemade chicken noodle soup, crackers,

homemade corn bread muffins, hot dogs with all of the trimmings, pies and cakes, plus hot cocoa, coffee and tea, all donated by the parishioners.

"We had lots of volunteers helping us, not only on Saturday but during the preceding week," Mrs. Broker noted. "The good people who came to eat gave free-will donations of \$448, which paid the past-due water bills of three Cole County R-1 School families."

The parish's Bake Sale and Bazaar brought in \$1,202,

which the St. Michael Parish Outreach Mission will distribute to people in need in the Russellville community.

"All of these delicious and creative items were again donated by the generous members of our parish," said Mrs. Broker.

Parishioners also collected many boxes of clothing, diapers and other baby needs for Afghan refugees who are being resettled in the area with help from Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri.

## DECEMBER

From page 11

When they think of Christmas, they think about Santa Claus, presents and what to give one another and to me the true meaning of Christmas is waiting for Jesus's coming."

The last night of the Posadas traditionally happens in church, where Jesus welcomes us to His home where we have a place in His house.

This leads us to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, where we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Know that you are always invited to any

of these prayer services. At each of the prayer services described here, books in English and Spanish are provided so everyone can participate.

As we enter 2022, let's pray often and well this year and come together for these celebrations when the month of December rolls around.

Many blessings to you during this year!

*Fr. Corel is one of the pastors in solidum of St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.*

## BOOKS

From page 22

spiritual practice to enrich reflection on the topic.

The authors, using the examples of married saints or men and women on the path to canonization, emphasize that holiness is a team effort.

Some of the saints in the book are married to each other, such as Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin, while others are simply saints who are married, such as St. Gianna Molla.

The Holy Family opens the first three days of the

book with their exemplified selflessness and devotion to God even amid the stresses of normal family life.

The authors write that although couples have different levels of devotion from time to time, holiness in marriage can be attainable within modern-day society.

Like Finley in *Holy Together*, Kent and Caitlin Lasonski make the journey to holiness not only real but enjoyable. Echoing Finley's point, they write that "a holy marriage is not characterized by immediate per-

fection but by simply striving for holiness."

Paired together or read separately, both books would help enrich the faith life of married or engaged couples.

*Lordan, a mother to three children, has master's degrees in education and political science and is a former assistant international editor of Catholic News Service. She currently teaches and is a court-appointed advocate for children in foster care.*

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Jan 9

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
Is. 42:1-4, 6-7  
Ps. 29:1-4, 9-10  
Acts 10:34-38  
Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22

### Monday, Jan 10

1 Sm. 1:1-8  
Ps. 116:12-19  
Mk. 1:14-20

### Tuesday, Jan 11

1 Sm. 1:9-20  
(Ps.) 1 Sm. 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd  
Mk. 1:21-28

### Wednesday, Jan 12

1 Sm. 3:1-10, 19-20  
Ps. 40:2, 5, 7-8a, 8b-10  
Mk. 1:29-39

### Thursday, Jan 13

*St. Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church*  
1 Sm. 4:1-11  
Ps. 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25  
Mk. 1:40-45

### Friday, Jan 14

1 Sm. 8:4-7, 10-22a  
Ps. 89:16-19  
Mk. 2:1-12

### Saturday, Jan 15

1 Sm. 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a  
Ps. 21:2-7  
Mk. 2:13-17

### Sunday, Jan 16

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Is. 62:1-5  
Ps. 96:1-3, 7-10  
1 Cor. 12:4-11  
Jn. 2:1-11

### Monday, Jan 17

St. Anthony, abbot  
1 Sm. 15:16-23  
Ps. 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23  
Mk. 2:18-22

### Tuesday, Jan 18

1 Sm. 16:1-13  
Ps. 89:20-22, 27-28  
Mk. 2:23-28

### Wednesday, Jan 19

1 Sm. 17:32-33, 37, 40-51  
Ps. 144:1b, 2, 9-10  
Mk. 3:1-6

### Thursday, Jan 20

*St. Fabian, pope and martyr; St. Sebastian, martyr*  
1 Sm. 18:6-9; 19:1-7  
Ps. 56:2-3, 9-10ab, 11-13  
Mk. 3:7-12

### Friday, Jan 21

St. Agnes, virgin and martyr  
1 Sm. 24:3-21  
Ps. 57:2-4, 6, 11  
Mk. 3:13-19

### Saturday, Jan 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection white or violet of Unborn Children (USA)  
2 Sm. 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27  
Ps. 80:2-3, 5-7  
Mk. 3:20-21

### The Holy Father's prayer intentions for January:

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Sponsored by

Expert Care Close to Home



**SSMHealth**  
St. Mary's Hospital  
JEFFERSON CITY



# Knights of Columbus to hold Roses for Life Weekend, Jan. 8-9

Jan. 8-9 will be the Knights of Columbus Roses for Life Weekend throughout Missouri.

Men of the order and women of the Knights auxiliaries will ask fellow Catholics to sign Roses for Life for this year's Roses for Life Campaign.

Councils and auxiliaries

will distribute over 100,000 of the crepe-paper roses, to be signed and sent to federal and state officials.

"We hope that every Knight and family member will sign roses, along with thousands of other pro-life Missourians," representatives of the Knights of Columbus's Missouri State Conference wrote to fellow

members of the order in December.

The completed roses, which symbolize life, will be sent to elected officials, particularly those in favor of abortion rights, to remind them of the hundreds of thousands of pro-life Missourians and more importantly, of the countless victims of abortion.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization.

The Roses for Life Program provides a very visible means for Knights to truly witness their faith and to support life.

It has been 49 years since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion-on-demand throughout the United States.

The Knights' continued strong support of the Roses for Life Program represents their commitment to live the teachings of the Catholic Church regarding the sanctity and dignity of all human life, from conception until natural death.

Knights of Columbus, auxiliary members and other con-

cerned, pro-life Missourians continue with added vigor to protect the unborn.

In 1979, the Knights' Fourth Degree adopted the pro-life cause, noting the pa-

"More and more young people are pro-life and anti-abortion," they added. "More pro-life legislators are being elected, and the Missouri Legislature has passed pro-life initiatives that have been upheld by the courts."

Yet, a tremendous amount of work must still be done to educate people about the intrinsic value of every human life and to end abortion.

"You are called to stand up for life!" Brian Ziegler, the Knights' state life director wrote to his Knights throughout Missouri. "To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations."

"Most importantly we need God's help to end abortion," Mr. Ziegler stated. "You are called to work and pray against abortion."

*This article is adapted from the December 2021 issue of The Mariner, official publication of the Knights of Columbus in Missouri.*



Church of the Risen Savior Parish

## Breakfast

**JANUARY 9**  
7-11AM

Menu includes: pancakes, blueberry pancakes, sausage, ham, biscuits & gravy, hashbrowns, scrambled eggs, baked apples, coffee, orange juice, water

ADULTS \$10 — KIDS 5-11 \$5 (4 & UNDER FREE)

Valentine Hall - 197 Hwy. P  
**STARKENBURG**

St. Thomas Knights of Columbus Council #2149

## Pancake, Egg & Sausage Breakfast

January 16 • 8:11:30 am • in St. Thomas

Serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and biscuits & gravy

Adults \$10  
Children 5-12 \$5  
Children 4 & under free

Portion of the proceeds to benefit St. Thomas the Apostle School

## Serving Generations of Catholic Families

From our care team to our dedicated staff, we all simply say **Thank you**. It is the greatest honor for all of us to be selected to serve your family in a time of need.

Proud to Serve Jefferson City, Columbia & Lake of the Ozarks

Funerals | Cremation | Pre-Planning

# MILLARD

Family Chapels, Inc.  
www.millardfamilychapels.com

**Jeff Hilke**  
Funeral Director

**Charlotte Elsberry**  
Funeral Assistant

**Reid Millard**  
Owner, Funeral Director

## CATHOLIC GIFT ANNUITY

Administered by Catholic Extension

### CREATE A LEGACY THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

With a Catholic Gift Annuity, you can secure the future for yourself and your loved ones, and give a lasting gift for your parish, school or our diocese.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS	AGE	ANNUAL PAYOUT RATE
• Fixed – rate annuity payments for life, one or two people	60-64	3.9-4.2%
• Immediate and future tax benefits	65-69	4.2-4.6%
• A payment schedule tailored to your needs	70-74	4.7-5.2%
• Knowing that you will help Catholics in need in our diocese	75-79	5.4-6.2%
	80-84	6.5-7.4%
	85-89	7.6-8.4%
	90+	8.6%

[catholicgiftannuity.org](http://catholicgiftannuity.org)

For a personalized proposal, contact:  
Jake Seifert  
Director of Development & Missions  
Diocese of Jefferson City  
2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City MO 65109-0914  
development@diojeffcity.org • 573-635-9127