

March 17 dispensation

Bishop McKnight grants a special, one-time Lenten dispensation for people who are celebrating the Memorial of St. Patrick on Friday, March 17.

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African Mass Page 13

The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 3, 2023 • Vol. 66 No. 18

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

Important milestone for those seeking Easter Sacraments



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight greets people who are preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation in their parishes at Easter, during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on the First Sunday of Lent in Columbia. — Photo by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

Receiving the Easter Sacraments will be like a homecoming for Crystal Jacobs of Anabel, Missouri.

A member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, Mrs. Jacobs started attending Mass as a girl in Arizona with her grandmother and aunt.

"I really enjoyed going with them, and I liked the atmosphere and learning about what the Church teaches," she said.

Mrs. Jacobs, a member of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, and her son Matthew were among the 72 catechumens and 82 candidates from parishes throughout the diocese who gathered with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and their godparents and sponsors on Feb. 26 for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.

Held in cathedrals throughout the world on the First Sunday of Lent, this ritual is a significant milestone in the process of preparing to receive the Easter sacraments and become committed, active members of the Catholic Church.

Catechumens, now known as the Elect, are seeking Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Candidates have already been baptized and are seeking full communion with the Church.

Mrs. Jacobs is a catechumen. Her Sunday trips to Mass trailed off sometime during her teen years, possibly when her grandmother's health started to fail.

"Then, I just continued on with my life," she recalled.

That changed when she met her husband, Randy, who had been baptized and raised Catholic but was not practicing.

See RITE OF ELECTION, page 15

Cathedral's new stained glass windows will filter light through the call to discipleship

By Jay Nies

The faces of Christ, of Moses, of venerable Father Augustus Tolton gaze down in radiant splendor into the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

And this is just the beginning.

"These imposing images will illuminate our Cathedral, our hearts and our minds in times of communal worship and private prayer," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

He spoke of the first three of 12 new stained glass windows to be installed in the Cathedral.

All of the windows, which are being created by Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Inc. of Winona, Minnesota, are designed to teach people of all ages about discipleship.

Through detailed, hagiographic images of Christ, the prophets, the saints and scores of ordinary people, the triangle-shaped windows will illustrate aspects of verse 2:42 from

the Book of Acts: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."

Skilled artisans of Willet Hauser designed the windows in collaboration with Bishop McKnight; the members of the Cathedral Renovation Commission; and William Heyer, architectural consultant for the Cathedral renovation.

The purpose of the \$15 million renovation, expansion and renewal of the Cathedral is to replace the building's failing systems while enhancing its beauty, functionality, capacity for hospitality and conduciveness to uniquely Catholic worship.

The work includes upgrading failing electrical, plumbing and air-handling systems, enhancing energy efficiency, replacing the worn-out pipe organ, building a ramp to the sanctuary, installing an elevator, and constructing a sheltered

See STAINED GLASS, page 7

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03/03/23

Pray for deceased priests

Mar. 6 — Fr. Thomas J. Gray, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1987)

Mar. 7 — Fr. Gerald W. Stockman, counseling ministry (2016)

Mar. 8 — Fr. Alphonse J. Hoegen, Chaplain, Capital Region Medical Center, Jefferson City (1978)

Mar. 10 — Fr. Eugene J. Robl, Chaplain, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Columbia (2002)

Mar. 11 — Fr. Jerome W. Jaworski, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Anthony (1979); Fr. William D. Savage, St. Joseph, Slater (1996)

Mar. 13 — Fr. Edward J. Donohue, St. Joseph, Palmyra (1999)

Mar. 14 — Fr. Michael J. Knecht, St. Joseph, Westphalia (1965)

Mar. 15 — Fr. Edmund B. Purcell, Assumption, Morrison (1976)

Mar. 18 — Fr. Joseph T. Nolan, St. Patrick, Sedalia (1965)

Chancery Positions Needed



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking applications for the following positions in the Jefferson City office:

Senior Bookkeeper — Advanced bookkeeping and elementary accounting work in the maintenance, review and analysis of detailed financial records, worksheets and statements; moderately complex to advanced bookkeeping/accounting tasks and procedures; experience with general ledger account classification, investments, insurance administration and payroll; experience with Sage Intacct a plus.

Administrative Assistant — Highly experienced and self-motivated clerical support for Vocations and Diaconate offices' activities, projects and events; advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel; manage/maintain director calendars, database and comprehensive, detailed task list; oversee check requests, expense forms, supplies, vendor purchases/contracts; assist with travel arrangements; produce correspondence; record and take minutes; provide support for other needs of the Chancery office.

Ministry Assistant — Outstanding organizational skills and self-motivated support for Religious Education & Youth/Young Adult Ministry and Women's Ministry offices; advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel; manage/maintain director calendars, database and comprehensive, detailed task list; produce mailing labels, reports and correspondence; record and take minutes; provide support for activities, projects and events including negotiating/securing venue sites and vendors, menu selection, setup, decorations, accurate recording of fees and parental release forms; work with volunteers and program leaders; provide support for other needs of the Chancery office.

Employer offers a comprehensive benefit package including health, dental, vision and matching 403b retirement plan. Complete job descriptions can be found at diojeffcity.org/about-us/employment.

Qualified candidates should send their resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.



Official Notice of Appointments

As Chancellor I am pleased to announce that the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, has recently made the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:

PRIESTS

Reverend Colin P. Franklin, granted a leave of absence for reasons of health from pastor of St. George Parish, Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Frankenstein, effective 12 February 2023.

Reverend Anthony N. Onyeihe, from associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Jefferson City, to temporary parochial administrator of St. George Parish, Linn and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Frankenstein, effective 12 February 2023 and until the pastor is available to resume his duties.

Reverend Joseph Luzindana, from the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda to Associate Pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, Columbia, effective 13 February 2023.

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

2nd Tuesday Masses in Starkenburg

The Historic Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows will begin its new season of Second Tuesday Masses on March 14.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation begins at 11 a.m., with the Rosary at 11:40 a.m. in the stone chapel. Mass is at noon.

Lunch will be served in nearby Valentine Hall by the St. Anne's Ladies Sodality. Lunch is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Tickets may be purchased before Mass in Valentine Hall. Groups of eight or more are encouraged to contact the parish office at 573-236-4390 or risen sav@ktis.net for reservations by the preceding Sunday.

Future Second Tuesday Masses will be offered on April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and Nov. 14.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows and Valentine Hall

is located at 197 Highway P, Rhineland, 65069.

For information, visit risen savior.diojeffcity.org.

THANK YOU so very much to all of those in our diocese who contributed to funding the bonuses that we all received! We are so very grateful!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!
The Faculty & Staff
of St. Patrick School-Rolla



Communications Director



Our Lady of Lourdes
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish

School in Columbia, Mo. is seeking a Communications Director to coordinate print, audio/visual, and digital outreach initiatives, including but not limited to websites, Facebook pages, Flocknotes, and print materials. We are seeking someone who desires to promote the Catholic faith and Catholic education. Education and experience in a related area or areas is preferred but not required. Qualified candidates should send their resume to frchris@ourladyoflourdes.org.

Cemetery Groundskeeper Specialist

St. Peter Cemetery Association in Jefferson City, Mo. is seeking a Cemetery Groundskeeper Specialist who will aid in the preparation and set-up and completion of interments and entombments. This individual will be required to operate a backhoe and other power equipment in their responsibility for the overall appearance of the property and facilities.

Other responsibilities include: snow removal; assisting families with the location of graves and crypts; and setting grave markers and layout for pouring foundations for monuments.

As an affiliate of the Diocese of Jefferson City, the employer offers a comprehensive benefit plan including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, long-term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation, paid sick time, and uniform allowance.

Please see our job posting on Indeed.com or send your resume to alepper@rccjc.org

The Catholic Missourian

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"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
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Bishop touts prayer, fasting and almsgiving as tools for Lenten conversion

By Jay Nies

Jesus repeatedly embraced the religious practices of his day but wanted to keep them squarely focused on God.

He made that especially clear in his elevating and purifying of the three traditional penances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18).

“It’s all about growing in our relationship with God,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. “It’s not for show. It has nothing to do with trying to build-up our esteem or what people think of us.”

Bishop McKnight offered Mass at noon on Ash Wednesday for the diocesan Chan-

cery staff.

It was the beginning of Lent, the 40-day season of penance to prepare for the Easter Triduum, the celebration of Jesus’s sacrificial death and resurrection.

Bishop McKnight encouraged everyone to take up some manifestation of all three traditional penances as tools for conversion throughout Lent.

“The Church, in her wisdom over the centuries, has given us this great gift of the season as a time for baptismal renewal and the call to repentance,” he said.

People who are preparing for Sacraments of Initiation at



Deacon Joseph Braddock traces ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight during Mass on Ash Wednesday in the Alphonse J. Schwartz Memorial Catholic Center.

— Photo by Jay Nies

ment to love God and love other people. That is the foundation of discipleship.

Bishop McKnight encouraged everyone to begin their Lenten journey by praying for one another “as we look forward to growing closer to the Lord, who is the one who saves us.”

Easter are particularly focused on conversion throughout these 40 days.

“And the rest of us who are already baptized, we all know that we need to go through conversion again and again and again,” the bishop noted.

Almsgiving, praying and fasting, all properly focused, are important means of repairing and strengthening one’s relationship with God.

Bishop McKnight talked about how fasting — “denying the body something that it has a right to, for a spiritual purpose” — ties the spiritual to the physical.

“It makes it really real so that our religion is not just a thing of the mind,” he stated. “Our religion is made concrete in our bodies.”

He noted that fasting could take the form of giving up a specific food or activity or other source of comfort.

Jesus also encouraged His followers to set aside personal time for prayer and to give generously to people in need.

Bishop McKnight reflected on how from fasting and prayer flows a spirit of love and generosity for people who have less than they need.

“Almsgiving, that sharing of what we have, whatever sharing that may be — money, or things, or time, or attention to people who needs it — is a proper penance,” he said.

“And prayer is what makes sure that we do that with the proper motivation,” he added.

In tying these three pen-

ances together, Jesus underscores his twofold command-

Catholic Charities Food Pantry open house

DATE: March 21
TIME: 4 - 6:30 pm

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri will hold an open house celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Catholic Charities Food Pantry, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at 1015 Edmonds St. in Jefferson City.

“We’d love for those who are able to join us in Jefferson City for an Open House to celebrate one year of bringing neighbors closer to food and nutrition security in the Catholic Charities Food Pantry,” the event’s organizers stated.

Bishop McKnight’s Calendar

MARCH	
Mar 7	Confirmation Mass, St. Stanislaus Parish, 6:30 pm, Wardsville
Mar 8	Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Board of Directors Meeting, 10 am, Chancery
Mar 9	Priests’ Lenten Day of Recollection, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, Starkenburg
Mar 10	Diocesan Teachers’ Mass, 8:30 am, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, Columbia
Mar 11	Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, 5 pm, Lake Ozark
Mar 12	Younger Priests Dinner, 5 pm, Bishop’s Residence
Mar 14	Josephinum Executive Committee Meeting, 9 am, virtual
Mar 15	Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Parish, Tipton and Annunciation Parish California, 6:30 pm, St. Andrew Church, Tipton
Mar 22	Helias Catholic High School Board of Directors Meeting, 11 am, Chancery; Diocesan School Advisory Board Meeting Dinner, 5:30 pm, Bishop’s Residence

Decree of Appointment

Having accepted the resignation of the Very Reverend Louis Nelen as Dean of the See City Deanery, effective 16 February 2023, and after having consulted a number of priests in the deanery and considered the circumstances of the region according to canon 553 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, I am pleased to appoint:

The Very Reverend Jason T. Doke, S.T.L., as the Dean of the See City Deanery, effective immediately and until 30 June 2026.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City on the 22nd day of February in the year of Our Lord 2023.

W. Shawn McKnight

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City

Benjamin Roodhouse

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL
Chancellor

Bishop McKnight’s March prayer intention for our Local Church

For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life; may our Catholic Faith inspire us to recognize all human beings — no matter their age, race, or condition — as our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Intención del mes de marzo del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por un mayor respeto a la dignidad de toda vida humana; que nuestra fe católica nos inspire a reconocer a todos los seres humanos, sin importar su edad, raza o condición, como nuestros hermanos y hermanas en el Señor.



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

cathmo.com

Communal reconciliation services for Lent

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's passion, death and reconciliation. Here is a partial list of Lenten communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. Additional services will be added to updated versions of this article at cathmo.com and to the diocesan calendar at diojeffcity.org/events as they are publicized.

Fayette — Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church

Glasgow — Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary Church

Holts Summit — Thursday, March 23, 7 p.m., St. Andrew Church

Jefferson City —

Tuesday, March 14, 7 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church

Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m., St. Peter Church

Marshall — Thursday, March 23, 6:30 p.m., St. Peter Church

Monroe City — Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m., Holy Rosary Church

Russellville — Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m., St. Michael Church

St. Martin's — Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m., St. Martin Church

St. Thomas — Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Taos — Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Church

Wardsville — Thursday, March 23, 6 p.m., St. Stanislaus Church

Classic musical production returns to Helias Catholic

By Jay Nies

"For so many years, I've been saying, 'Gosh! How could it ever get any better than that?' And then the next year, we blow them away again."

Production Manager Ron Vossen was marveling at Helias Catholic High School's upcoming performances of the Broadway musical, "West Side Story."

The iconic retelling of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," set in 1950s New York, requires an ambitious array of staging, acting, singing and synchronized dancing.

About 50 cast members and 20 stage-crew members have been working since the end of Christmas Break to bring the production to life.

"I think people are going to be amazed at the talent they see here, both cast and crew," said Mr. Vossen, a longtime Helias Catholic faculty member and current director of alumni relations.

"Our set is absolutely beautiful," he stated. "You actually think of yourself on the streets of New York."

Performances will take place at 7 p.m. on (Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11) and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 12 at the Miller Performing Arts

Center, 501 Madison St. in Jefferson City.

Call 573-635-6139 for tickets, which are \$15 apiece.

First performed on Broadway in 1957, a year after Helias Catholic opened, "West Side Story" is decidedly more traditional than the school's recent offerings.

"It's been on our radar for a while, and we decided that this was the year to do it," said Mr. Vossen. "Plus, we felt like we have the talent to do it."

It's a perennial favorite among audiences, "and it really challenges our students in a lot of different ways," he stated.

"It's one of the hardest shows I've had to do acting-wise," said senior Jonah Lanigan, who's cast as Tony, the male lead. "It's a very big spectrum. You have to be serious but you also have to have fun."

"Also, the singing and dancing are very challenging," he said. "But I think it's all going to be worthwhile once opening night comes."

Senior Lily Delk and junior Enzo Lenart serve as student stage managers.



Cast members of Helias Catholic High School's 2023 student musical, "West Side Story," rehearse on the set at the Miller Performing Arts Center on Feb. 28.

"I really like being able to see the actors interact with the set, and watching the scenes actually take place," said Lily. "It feels very real and it's so nice to see what you've worked for and what you've put together go into action."

Enzo pointed to a massive scene change that takes place during 10 seconds of darkness, requiring choreography and coordination rivaling the production's intricate dance numbers.

"There are a lot of big pieces that we have to move on and off in a very short period of time," he said. "We're working on it, and we'll really get it down pat."

Details down to the mood

lighting for the street scenes are being focused and refined.

"You've got to use the lights and make it all look natural," said junior Claire Ashley, lighting technician.

It's all hard work, but the results are very satisfying.

"There's nothing like being on stage for the opening scene, and the lights come on and you see all of these people out there who came to watch us," said Jonah.

"I can't even connect it to anything, it's just so rewarding," he said. "All those people who are there to see the work that we put into it."

"You know," said Claire, "it's when you see all the lights come together and all the stage managers come together with the cast and crew, and it just meshes together really well."

Counting cast, crew and ushers, "we have a good portion of our student body involved with this," said Mr. Vossen.

Lily said she's aware of God's presence in all the motion and

commotion.

"We're using the talents God gave us to perform and enjoy ourselves, and we're very blessed to have this opportunity to do that," she said.

Curtain call

Helias Catholic previously staged "West Side Story" in 1968 and 1975.

"We've invited back all the cast and crew from those pro-

ductions and we've got about 50 coming back for the Saturday night performance," said Mr. Vossen. "We've never done that before."

Many students involved with this year's production have taken part in past offerings.

Claire and Enzo got involved with Helias Catholic productions during their freshman year. Lily got involved last year.

Jonah was involved in theater productions in grade school and has continued through high school.

The four students looked ahead to the final bow after the last performance.

"I'll just be pretty sad, because this is my last one," said Jonah. "I probably won't do theater in college, because I won't have time. And it's just always been such a big part of my life. So it will be the end of an era for me."

"I'll be very grateful," said

See PRODUCTION, page 12

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Anointing of the sick gives comfort, calm and a distinct calling for Lake Ozark parishioners

Part of parish's World Day of the Sick observance

By Jay Nies

Just as sacred anointings in the Old Testament set people apart as priests, prophets and kings, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick bestows a gift and a distinct vocation on the people who receive it.

That gift is meant to be shared with everyone in the Church.

"This anointing today is setting YOU aside for a sacred purpose," Father Michael Penn, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, told the parishioners seated near the front of church.

"And the purpose is this: to unite yourselves in a more special and in a more perfect way with the suffering, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ," he said.

Fr. Penn and Monsignor Michael Flanagan, senior priest in residence at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, administered the communal Anointing of the Sick during the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass in Our Lady of the Lake Church on Feb. 12.

It was the local observance of the Church's 31st annual World Day of the Sick.

People with serious physical or mental illness, who are elderly, or who are preparing for serious surgery were invited to attend the Mass and receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Members of the Our Lady of the Lake Knights of Columbus council escorted the people who were to receive the Sacrament to pews reserved near the front of the church.

For one and for all

Anointing of the Sick is one of the Seven Sacraments, which are outward signs instituted by Christ that give grace and bring about what they symbolize.

"The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick has as its purpose the conferral of a special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age," states the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1527).

Through this sacrament,



Father Michael Penn, left, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark, and Monsignor Michael Flanagan, right, senior priest in residence at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during a Mass on Feb. 12, the World Day of the Sick, in Our Lady of the Lake Church.

— Photo by Jay Nies

God gives the sick person grace and strength to bear the illness or infirmity.

Fr. Penn and Msgr. Flanagan have both weathered life-threatening illnesses and received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

"All of us, my brothers and sisters, as Christians are called to participate in the passion and in the suffering of Jesus," Fr. Penn pointed out in his homily.

"But you, this morning, are receiving a special call," he said to those who were about to be anointed.

He emphasized that Anointing of the Sick is not just intended to give comfort of body and spirit to people with serious illness or to help those who are preparing for death.

"When you receive this Sacrament, because you are seriously sick, you are set aside to experience the healing love and comfort of God, the Father, as Jesus experienced during his passion and during his death," Fr. Penn stated.

"Through the power of this holy anointing, God calls us at this moment to be especially one with him," the priest continued. "May it be so by our responding to God's call to holiness."

"Raise you up"

Fr. Penn said sharing in the joy and the gift of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is an occasion for the entire parish to call upon the name of Christ, the Divine Physician.

"We pray that the Lord will heal our brokenness, that the

Lord will heal our sinfulness and that the Lord will restore us to the original dignity that we received at baptism," he stated.

He invited everyone present to join in praying for all who are sick and for all who devote themselves to taking care of them.

"Bless all gathered here for this holy anointing and fill them with new hope and strength," he prayed in the General Intercessions. "Relieve their pain. ... Free them from sin and do not let them give way to temptation. ... Sustain all the sick with your power. ... Assist all who care for the sick. ... Give life and health to our brothers and sisters on whom we lay our hands in your name."

Msgr. Flanagan and Fr. Penn then went out into the congregation, imposing hands on the heads of persons approaching the sacrament, and praying silently over them.

The priests then anointed each person's hands and head and prayed: "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord Who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

They did so using the Oil of the Sick, which is pure olive oil that was blessed by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight at the Chrism Mass before Easter last year.

Our Lady of the Lake Parish Music Director Stephen Jannetti played "You Are the Healing" by Scott Soper as a quiet piano spiritual, while the prayers crisscrossed the nave of the church.

she stated.

Mrs. Sefcik said she her husband, Rick, have weathered some serious health battles, but they've never felt alone.

"God has been with me every moment," she said. "And I know that whatever's coming, he'll be there, too."

With such an understanding comes peace that only God can give.

"It's a beautiful calm," she said. "I wish everyone could experience the same."

She suggested that people who are not yet eligible to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick should look prayerfully ahead to the day when they are.

"Pray that when that time comes, you'll be just as excited as we were today, just as calm and just looking to the future with joy," she said.

"Christ's healing touch"

Pope St. John Paul II established the World Day of the Sick as an annual observance in 1992, to coincide with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was instituted by Christ during His ministry on earth. He healed the suffering out of compassion and as a foreshadowing of the Kingdom of God and his own victory over all sin and death through his passion, death and resurrection (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1505).

St. James, in his epistle, wrote: "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the priests of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (James 5:14-15).

"A special gift"

After having received the anointing, Fr. Penn prayed: "Father in heaven, through this holy anointing, grant our sisters and brothers comfort in their suffering and infirmity. When they are afraid, give them courage. When afflicted, give them patience. When dejected, afford them hope. And when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people."

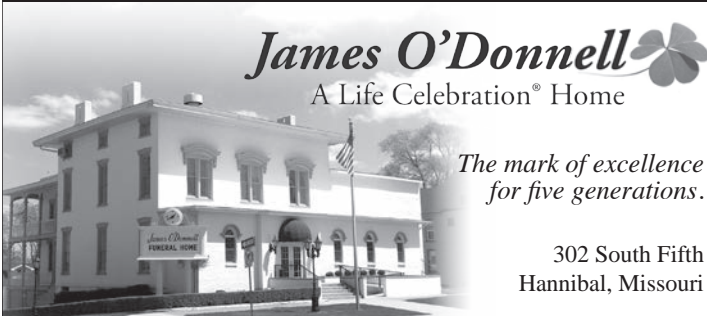
The priest addressed those who had just been anointed and received the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.


"You, my brothers and sisters, have been given a special gift," he told them. "You, my brothers and sisters ARE a special gift. You, my brothers and sisters, through the grace of our Lord Jesus, are called to bestow this special grace upon all of us."

"Beautiful calm"

After Mass, Our Lady of the Lake Parishioner Barbara Sefcik reflected on the sacramental gift she had just experienced.

"I'm feeling so much calm, so much acceptance of what the Lord has in store for me,"



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Bell to be honored as Helias Catholic's staff member of the year

By Jay Nies

Victor Bell wants his students to realize how much he appreciates them.

"They're amazing," said Mr. Bell, who's in his seventh year as a member of the Helias Catholic High School faculty in Jefferson City. "They bring a lot of joy, and they're the reason I do what I do."

Helias Catholic and the Foundation for the Benefit of Helias Catholic High School will honor Mr. Bell as its 2023 Staff Member of the Year during its Celebrate the Legacy event on March 4.

"When they told me about it, I was crazy, humbled and shocked," said Mr. Bell. "We have some incredible, dedicated teachers here. I don't put myself on a level with them."

The school's faculty nominated candidates and voted on the award, with some input from students.

"It was a very tight race," Mr. Bell noted. "We have some real legends here."

Challenge accepted

Mr. Bell teaches Freshman Civics and Government, Advanced Placement (AP) American history and a summer section of geography at Helias Catholic and serves as Head Coach of the Freshman Boys' Basketball team and Assistant Head Football Coach.

His most popular class is AP history, for which students can receive college credit after passing a challenging standardized test.

"It's pretty intense," he said.

Some students sign up to take the class as juniors after having Mr. Bell for civics and government as freshmen.

"Sometimes, I think they come into this with a bit of nostalgia from Freshman year," he stated. "So it's a bit of a shock that first month, when you realize you've gotten into such a high-level course."

Many tell him they're signing up for AP History because he's teaching it.

"I take that as a terrific honor," he said. "But I tell them up-front that it's going to be hard. They rise to the occasion and do a great job with it."

This is his third year teaching the class.

"Our country has always

been evolving and changing," he stated. "It's always fun to teach it."

A new state law went into effect last year, requiring in-state colleges to award college credit to students who score a 3 out of 5 or higher on the AP test.

"That's been a game-changer for this course," said Mr. Bell.

Civic engagement

Born in Torrance, California, Mr. Bell graduated from Matthew Fontaine Maury High School in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1988.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History Education from Central Methodist University in Fayette.

He previously taught and coached at Moberly High School for nine years and Boonville High School for one year.

He and his wife Kristin have two children, Keegan age 12 and Kenslee age 7. They are members of St. Peter Parish in Jefferson City.

He received the *Jefferson City News-Tribune's* Fisher Family Good Samaritan Award in 2020, the same year the graduating seniors voted him to be their commencement speaker.

He was once accustomed to seeing students' and parents' interest in STEM subjects — science, technology, engineering and math — dwarf their enthusiasm for history and civics.

"For my first decade in, not too many people cared much about American history," he stated. "Of course, it always mattered, but people weren't talking about it much."

"It's quite a bit different now," he noted. "Our social climate has changed in the past year or two, especially pertaining to social history."

Mr. Bell enjoys helping people understand and appreciate how their government works.

"I've had a lot of students and parents tell me they just don't understand civics," he said. "And that's okay. You just break it down to the bare bones for them, and they learn it."

He takes a loving but nu-

anced approach to American history, a subject that lately tends to generate headlines and polarize factions.

"We say in all of our classes, you can look at anything under a microscope and see all the bad stuff," said Mr. Bell. "But you also take a step back and look at the big picture, and you see that American history is a very good thing."

He advocates for an honest assessment of the past, "not picking out every negative thing, but just looking and saying, 'This is where we were, this is where we are and this is where it looks like we're going,'" he said.

He enjoys watching his students wake up to history.

"It's a slow process," he observed. "The class starts off kind of slow. Then the questions start flowing and they get excited about it all."

Common interests

Mr. Bell believes staying organized and forming positive relationships with students are keys to success.

"They can see right through you if you're not prepared," he noted, "so you better know your content, and you'd better have a game plan."

Building strong relationships with students can be challenging.

"You've got to get to know them and meet them where they are," he said. "If they're interested in something, you want them to know that you're interested in that, too."

This means paying attention to their activities, whether they're into sports, band, choir, gaming or other pursuits.

"That's a trick of the trade I've learned," said Mr. Bell. "When you get to know them from the level of what's going on outside the classroom, that helps them absorb more of the information you want to share with them."

Just saying hi somewhere outside class goes a long way,



Victor Bell

he noted.

He's convinced that he's also teaching whenever he's coaching.

"Our job is to take a freshman and help mold him by the time he's a senior into a productive adult," he said.

He noted that varsity Head Football Coach Chris Hentges sets a high bar for excellence on the field as well as in the community and in the players' faith lives.

"We have Bible studies," Mr. Bell noted. "We have a lot of involvement with the school's Leadership Council. We understand that it's not just about sports. We have to have to help them be involved and well-rounded."

"That helps us on the field and on the court," he said.

Seeking balance

Mr. Bell sets a high bar for himself and his students.

"The hardest part," he stated, "as much as I love investing in my students, is that when you do that at a high level, you have to make some sacrifices."

His family sometimes joins in making those sacrifices.

"I've missed some of my son's games and my daughter's riding and swim lessons," he said. "They spend a lot of time watching me do my thing, but they don't always get all of me."

"I'm really conscious of

that now, especially as they get older, of the need to find balance," he stated. "I try to make up for that time, sometimes you can't."

He believes he's done a better job these past two years of setting aside time for his family.

"I have to be here for the students and also for my family," he said. "Being a dad and a husband has to come first."

With the end in mind

Mindful that many Helias Catholic High School graduates go on to hold positions of influence in their

communities, Mr. Bell wants each of his students to have "a great experience of understanding history and where they fit into it."

His goal is to help them become balanced, well-rounded citizens.

"The challenge to them is how are they going to write their story? What will their impact be?" he said.

He prays with his students before class, before practices and before games.

"And they're in my prayer intentions all the time," he said. "Every student deals with some sort of problem or issue or scenario. They're looking for impact, for help, for someone to give them that voice that guides them through it."

"I'm hoping and praying that I'm helping with that," he said.

Mr. Bell asks for prayers for "consistency, for passion and for joy and understanding that what I do does matter in that construction of our Catholic community."

To people who are considering becoming educators, he recommends patience and dedication.

"Find your joy," he advised. "It's going to be a lot of long hours. You'll experience a lot of wins and a lot of losses."

"Everything gets better with time," he noted, "so be sure you're in for the long haul."

STAINED GLASS

From page 1

entrance portico, a larger vestibule and additional restrooms to enhance accessibility.

Bishop McKnight has set May 5 for the rededication of the Cathedral.

“Minds won’t wander far from the intended purpose of this sacred edifice, which is to be a house of prayer, a dwelling place for the Lord, an enduring symbol of his reign, a foretaste of heaven and a roadmap for how to get there,” said Bishop McKnight.

The new windows, much brighter than the kaleidoscopic iterations that preceded them, make the Cathedral seem larger and more open.

Each window is filled with colorful images, symbols and subtle reminders.

“This is sacred artwork that teaches even as it beautifies and orients us toward worship,” said Bishop McKnight.

Great panes

The new windows are part of an overall effort to create timeless beauty for the Cathedral.

“This is art that has to live on for a century. It’s a generational project,” said Kathy Jordan, director of art development for Willet Hauser Architectural Glass.

The company describes its work as “Where light learns to speak.”

Stained glass is a highly refined art form, dating from the early Middle Ages.

“It tells a story, illuminates the story and gives meaning to it,” said Ms. Jordan.

Stained glass windows started out as a way to fill churches with natural light while highlighting stories from the Bible in an intensely visual manner, especially for people who couldn’t read.

“As architecture became more sophisticated, the builders made room for larger windows to bring even more light into the space,” Ms. Jordan noted. “Advances in materials and techniques brought more-effective use of color and depth and a broader range of symbols and meaning.”

The designs for the Cathedral of St. Joseph’s new windows went through many phases of development and re-

finement.

Once the final designs were approved, stained glass artisan Mark Bleakley of Willet Hauser and his staff set about creating the windows, using a palette of custom-colored glass from Germany. This involves fashioning intricate pieces of translucent colored glass to fit into lead cames — slender, grooved bars of lead — that form the outline of each figure and object.

Using centuries-old techniques, the artisan hand-paints layers of pigment to the surface of each pane to create form, shading and the impression of depth.

This is particularly evident in such details as individual leaves and pieces of fruit and the contours of numerous faces in the background.

The vitreous pigment is applied to the glass and then fired in the kiln at a high temperature, fusing them permanently.

Sea of glass

Mr. Bleakley wrote an official description of each of the three windows that have been installed.

“Window 1: ‘Moses and the Giving of the Law,’ as told in Exodus 34:29.

‘Moses descends Mount Sinai,’ Mr. Bleakley states, ‘emerging from the thick cloud that enveloped the mountain for 40 days, where he had received the heavenly pattern of the tabernacle — cherubim above of the ark of the covenant and God’s throne — and the tablets of stone.

‘His face is transfigured from his encounter with God, his feet shoeless for he had been on holy ground — just as his original Divine encounter at the Burning Bush where God originally commissioned Moses ‘tell them I AM sent you,’” the artist continues.

An angel holds a scroll containing the five books of Moses, known as the Pentateuch.

“It’s very first words, ‘In the Beginning,’ unfold in imagery of the Creation — the Creating Hand of God (Genesis 1:3), Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1), and the Spirit/Breath of God (Genesis 1:2) ‘who has spoken through the prophets,’” the artist reveals.

Window 6, centered above the entrance of the Cathedral, “is the great turning point of the Gospels — the Feeding of the 5,000, where Jesus reveals Himself to his followers,” according to Mr. Bleakley.

This image is inspired by “The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes” from the ancient mosaic in the Basilica of Sant’apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy.

“Jesus stands revealed in the offering, breaking and giving of the Loaves and Fishes,” Mr. Bleakley notes.

“In the foreground, the small boy with the five loaves and two small fishes is brought to Jesus by St. Andrew,” the artist states. “Like this little boy, we enter bringing what little we have to Jesus who offers it up in Himself.”

“We come in need like the poor and blind, kneeling to left and right, but we leave in the abundance of Christ — the Vine — bearing the very Life of God from the Mass to those in ‘a desolate place,’” the artist declares.

Answered prayers

Window 12, a hagiographic depiction of “how we pray,” is titled, “The Ordination of Father Augustus Tolton.”

Born to enslaved parents and baptized in part of what is now the Jefferson City diocese, Fr. Tolton (1854-97) successfully fought to become the Roman Catholic Church’s first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

He is currently under formal consideration to be declared a saint.

“In the center of the window,” Mr. Bleakley states, “Augustine Tolton is ordained in Rome by Cardinal Parocchi in 1886. Thirty-one years earlier, he had been born a slave in Missouri and baptized by his faithful parents (to the left).

“The day following his ordination,” the artist continues, “Fr. Tolton would celebrate his first Mass on Easter Morning beneath the Vatican dove at St. Peter’s Basilica.

“His whole life would be a living testimony to the Holy Spirit working

through him,” Mr. Bleakley observes.

“Bringing light in”

Scheduling has been challenging. The war in Ukraine has impacted the stained-glass industry, and delivery needed to be phased.

“The mouth blown glass is from Germany,” Ms. Jordan noted. “Their furnaces run 24/7 by gas, and there have been shortages due to the war.”

Several more windows are scheduled to be installed in July, with the rest of them slated for arrival by the end of this year.

Ms. Jordan said that once the windows are created and shipped, “installation is pretty straightforward,” placing them in the new frames over the transparent protective panes that have already been installed.

Willet Hauser is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

“So this project at the Cathedral in Jefferson City is very significant in the history of our company,” Ms. Jordan stated.

The company has initiated a legacy program, digitally archiving its extensive archive of client and project information dating back to the founding.

“We maintain one of the oldest active privately held stained glass libraries in the United States, with a repository of over 18,000 designs,” Ms. Jordan noted.

She recalled how information in the archive allowed Willet Hauser to recreate every aspect of a stained-glass project from the 1960s after a devastating church fire.

“It’s an iconic legacy of

American stained glass captured in a century worth of original artwork,” she said.

She pointed to recent studies by the National Glass Association, illustrating the importance of bringing natural light into buildings.

“There’s some fascinating data showing how patients recover more quickly and how students learn and retain more information in spaces with abundant natural light,” she stated.

“It would also apply to sacred spaces,” she said. “Maybe more so. Bringing light in just adds meaning.”

Ms. Jordan sees a movement is taking place in faith communities, many of them Catholic, toward recognizing the significance and power of beauty in leading people to God.

“I hear especially about young people calling for beautification of the places they worship,” she said.

“Worth the wait”

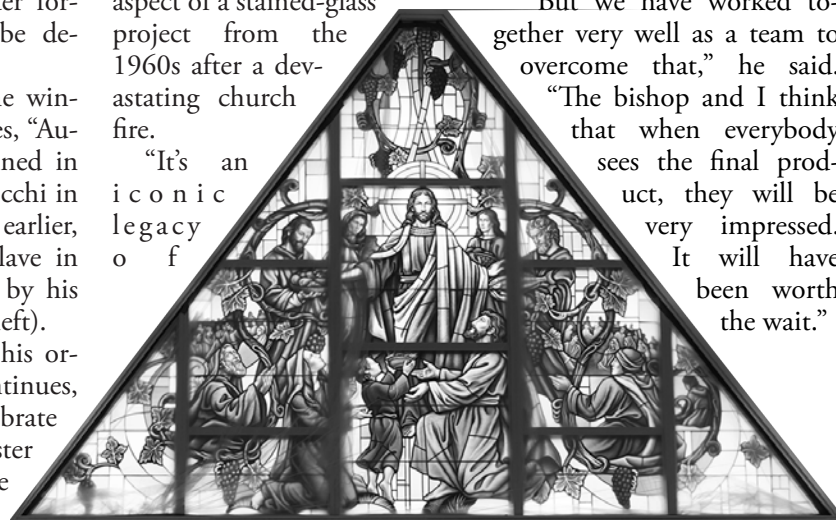
Father Louis Nelen, rector of the cathedral and pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, noted the windows “are designed so you still get a fair amount of natural light, but you also get a nice vibrant color.”

“The parishioners wanted more natural light, and that’s what we delivered on,” the priest stated.

He acknowledged that supply chain issues have created delays in completing the renovation.

“But we have worked together very well as a team to overcome that,” he said.

“The bishop and I think that when everybody sees the final product, they will be very impressed. It will have been worth the wait.”



This newly created stained-glass window, depicting Jesus feeding the 5,000, is one of three that have been installed in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City as part of an extensive renovation, expansion and upgrade of the 54-year-old Cathedral. An additional nine windows are scheduled to be installed by year’s end.

QUESTION CORNER

Must I believe in and follow apparitions?

By Jenna Marie Cooper
OSV News

Q: Do I have to accept apparitions like Fatima and follow its rules? (Hauppauge, N.Y.)



A: Apparitions such as Fatima and Lourdes, along with mystical writings of various visionary saints such as St. Faustina's diary, are considered "private revelations." This is as opposed to "public revelation," which is the word of God contained in sacred Scripture as it has been interpreted by the Church's teaching authority down through the centuries.

Ongoing public revelation via sacred scripture ended with the death of the last apostle. As the Second Vatican Council document "*Dei Verbum*" states: "... we now await no further new public revelation before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (No. 4).

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* acknowledges the existence of private revelations, while still noting that "they do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history" (No. 67). Or in other words, private revelations do not fall into the Church's core doctrinal teachings but are only meant to help us deepen our faith in the publicly revealed truths.

Naturally, belief in the content of public revelation is obligatory for Catholics. But since private revelations are not a part of the deposit of faith, they are essentially optional. Therefore, no Catholic is obligated to follow any of the devotional "rules" accompanying a particular private revelation or to take on any of the prayers urged by the seers of an apparition.

Of course, the Church does approve some private revelations. We see this in an especially striking way when feasts such as Our Lady of Fatima are included in our liturgical calendar. However, the fact that a private revelation is approved only means that we can assent to it with human faith — i.e., that the Church has discerned that we can safely use our human reason to conclude that it is likely a particular private revelation is genuine and of heavenly origin. This is in contrast with the supernatural faith with which we assent to the doctrines set out in our creeds, such as Christ's resurrection or the Holy Trinity.

As one might imagine, the Church takes the approval of new purported apparitions or other forms of private revelations very seriously. Not everyone claiming to be graced with private revelations will actually be experiencing them. Since visions are usually inherently subjective, would-be seers might simply be misinterpreting something within the realm of normal human psychology with respect to imaginative religious experience. But potential fraud and even demonic involvement would also need to be ruled out.

One of the main issues investigated is the specific content of the revelations. Namely, if anything in an alleged private revelation contradicts the public revelation of Scripture or established doctrine, then it cannot be approved or accepted.

The general credibility of the visionary also is examined. The Church will investigate questions such as whether the supposed seer generally has a good grip on reality, if they have any potential ulterior motives (e.g., if they stand to benefit financially from their would-be visions, this is a negative sign), and whether they are striving for holiness in their life outside their visions.

This brings us to another important point: While approved private revelations may be truly inspiring and devoutly helpful

See QUESTION, page 18

Women's Lenten mini-retreat in J.C.

DATE: March 18
TIME: 8:45 am - 12:30 pm

The women of Immaculate Conception Parish's Immaculata Club in Jefferson City invite women of all ages from all area parishes to a mini-retreat of faith and fellowship titled "Invitation to (W)holiness: nurturing body, mind and spirit as women of faith."

It will be from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, in Kertz Hall at Immaculate Conception Parish, 1206 E. McCarty St. Mass will be offered at 8 a.m. in the church.

Childcare will be provided upon request.

"Spend a morning with women like you who want to enhance/invigorate/renew your physical, mental, and

spiritual well-being," the retreat's organizers stated.

Sessions will focus on strategies to improve physical health, reduce stress and anxiety and deepen prayer life.

A free-will offering will be taken-up to cover the cost.

To assist in planning, RSVP to Jo Anderson at jacknjo@embarq.mail.com or Mary Flowers at mcalflowers@gmail.com.

Evening of Lenten music and worship in Edina

DATE: March 7
TIME: 7 pm

Edina parishioner Natalie Clark will offer an evening of music and worship at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, in St. Joseph Church, 509 N. Main St. in Edina.

It will be a Lenten offering for a fellow parishioner who was in a car accident on Jan. 25.

Men's conference live

DATE: March 25
TIME: 8 am - 5 pm

St. Patrick Parish in Rolla will host a live broadcast of the National Men's Conference in Cincinnati from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, in the St. Patrick Parish Center, 1601 N. Bishop Ave. Breakfast will be provided.

Parishioner from Democratic Republic of Congo highlights message of pope's visit

By Jay Nies

Therèse Nti wants the world to pay serious attention to what Pope Francis said and did during his Jan. 31-Feb. 3 visit to South Sudan and her homeland, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

She hopes that in doing so, people will take the pope's prophetic message about Africa to heart.

"It was an important visit," Ms. Nti, a DRC native and member of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville, stated in French through an interpreter.

"The Pope delivered messages with strong points that directly and explicitly challenged both the bad rulers, and the internal and external predators that the populations are such concerns for the people itself across all categories and all persuasions," she stated.

Catholic bishops of the region said the Holy Father's visit not only comforted but shook up the continent, reviving hope that the nations may overcome the significant challenges they face.

The pope spent four days in DRC, from Jan. 31-Feb. 3, before heading to South Sudan, from which he departed Feb. 5.

In Congo, the pope spoke out against "economic colonialism" and called out developed nations against the wanton exploitation of the nation's vast mineral resources.

"Hands off the Democratic Republic of the Congo!" Pope Francis said to big applause. "Hands off Africa! Stop choking Africa, it is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered."

Ms. Nti said the pope's words need to be heard, remembered and acted upon by the entire Church and the people of the world.

She quoted the pope directly:

- "Take your hands off the DRC, take your hands off Africa";
- "Stop exploiting Africa";
- "You continue to impose economic colonialism there";
- "You should be ashamed ...";
- To young people: "Be against corruption!"
- To the leaders of the Catholic Church: "You are not businessmen." "Continue to be on the side of the people, of the poor."

Ms. Nti is from the parish of St. Ferdinand in Dizi, in the Diocese of Boma, DRC.

The parish is celebrating its 75th anniversary, which will culminate in mid-July this summer.

Her brother is a priest serving in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

The situation in their homeland makes Ms. Nti angry, and she wants the people of the United States to know about it.

She spoke of the subhuman living conditions the vast majority of DRC residents are living under, and the continual control of Westerners over the DRC's systems of government and its natural resources.

She also spoke of "the hypocrisy and pretense of the great powers and international, global, regional organizations in the face of the various social, political, economic crises of our country."

"The pope was blunt and so am I," she stated.

Ms. Nti is hopeful that the pope's visit will lead to "a boost in the process of changing mentalities, both internally and externally," as well as "a stronger and more concrete accompaniment from the

See POPE, page 17

Catholics are missing the whole point of baptism

By Deacon Greg Kandra



While parishes across the country gear up for a Eucharistic revival, we shouldn't forget another sacrament that is often just brushed aside.

I'm talking about baptism. Where the Christian life begins.

Over 15 years, I've baptized hundreds of infants, and marveled at the wonder of it all. I've also been surprised at how much parents don't know about Catholicism and about this foundational sacrament. Every month, I meet with parents to begin the process, and hear things like: "One of the godparents will be Buddhist and the other Jewish, OK? We want it to be ecumenical."

Or:

"I'm not sure if my husband and I were married by a priest. I'll find out if she was ordained or not. But maybe she was a nun?"

And then there's:

"We're having a hard time finding

godparents. We don't know any Catholics."

And:

"Yeah, I know the godfather is an atheist, but honestly, I can't think of a better person to raise our children if anything happens to us. He's really a good guy. Can't you make an exception?"

(For those who are wondering: At least one godparent must be a confirmed Catholic. The other, if not Catholic, must be Christian. And it doesn't matter if the parents were married by a priest. What matters is, as canon law puts it, having a "well-founded hope" that the child will be raised Catholic.)

Most of us know that the state of catechesis in our Church is, to put it gently, wanting. Understanding of the sacraments is especially weak. But I think the problems go much deeper than that, touching on our whole sense of ourselves as Catholics.

Not so very long ago, receiving the sacraments was a benchmark of Catholic life. But now? Catholics seem to just shrug them off. For many, baptism — this moment of sacred welcome —

has become a mere requirement to be met. For some, it's a social event. Naming someone a godparent is like asking them to be your maid of honor.

They're missing the point.

As Pope Francis noted in 2018, "Baptism is the door that permits Christ the Lord to make His dwelling in us and allows us to immerse ourselves in His mystery."

Perhaps we clergy need to try harder to catechize from the pulpit or in the bulletin with gentle reminders that "godparent" does not mean "guardian in case of death," and driving home the idea that the godparent is supposed to be more than just a nice person, but a living model of Catholic Christianity and a witness to the faith.

Long before the baby is born and the invitations are in the mail, we need to ensure that people understand, and deeply, that baptism is more than an excuse for a get-together; it is a transformative moment of grace.

There are families out there who get it. They give me hope.

One young couple asked if they

should go to confession before having their baby baptized — a lovely thing to do, but not necessary. This same couple brought an embroidered handkerchief to the baptism, and used it to dab away the chrism, to save it for posterity.

Then there was the moment I offered the final blessing for mothers, and noticed one mom cradling her infant tenderly in one arm while reaching out to clasp her husband's hand.

I remember, too, the parents who gave everyone at the baptism a tiny gift box containing a rosary.

We need more of these. Please. We need more Catholics to realize that baptism is a precious, beautiful, grace-filled moment. We need them to approach this sacrament — and every sacrament — with awe, humility and a sense of gratitude.

At bottom, Catholics need to recover their Catholic identity, fathom what it means — really — means, to be Catholic. Maybe the National Eucharistic Revival can help us to get the message out

See KANDRA, page 17

Good enough, here and now: 'Love the House You're In'

By Christina Capecchi



Paige Rien was in hustle-mode. Her first book had finally been released, and the Catholic mom of four was determined to market it well.

Love the House

You're In was a labor of love, flowing from Paige's experience as an HGTV on-air designer and bursting with the hard-won, heart-felt wisdom she wished she could personally tell each viewer.

It was time to secure some media coverage. Specifically, Paige had an international newspaper in mind. She couldn't help but crave the "exterior validation" that would come with a feature in the prestigious paper.

She tried again and again to reach the home editor and finally discovered a connection who personally placed the book on her desk.

The response came quickly and enthusiastically. "I love the book!"

Soon Paige was inviting the editor to her Kensington, Md., home — and doing a million little things to prepare it. She painted the foyer. She powered through a few other projects. She hired a florist to make arrangements.

When the editor arrived, the two women enjoyed a two-hour visit, sitting

in the living room and talking about the book, HGTV and Paige's house. It was going wonderfully.

Then Paige gave her a tour.

"My goodness, you're awfully religious," the editor remarked, scanning icons and crucifixes.

It was obvious that this was not a compliment.

The story never ran.

"It was pretty clear that she really liked the book, but the execution of the book is my home, and we've got religious stuff everywhere," said Paige, who is now 47.

Seven years later, she is grateful for the rejection. "It was the best news ever for her to pass on me," she said. "I had a turning point. I decided I was no longer going to even try to obtain the affirmation or applause of the secular world. That's a message for me: If you make your home authentically for who you are, there are many people who it won't be for them. What you've done for your family should be very specific and reflect your values."

This philosophy stands in stark contrast to industry trends, Paige realizes. "Everything in design has become completely homogenized," she said.

She thinks of her parents, who glossed over their Greek and Italian heritage in lieu of the style of the day:

REFLECTION

The tone of atonement

By Mark Saucier

When I was a kid, Lent was the time for talk about sin.

Perhaps it was in their teaching contract, but the good nuns invariably told us, in their own veiled words, about the seven "deadly" sins.

There was greed, wrath, envy, lust, gluttony and sloth. The seventh, and the worst, in their humble opinion, was pride.

Pride — hubris, vanity, arrogance — was the first sin recorded in the Bible and the mother of all others.

Of course, the flip-side message of Lent was penitential, and we were encouraged to take on some sacrificial practice to atone for our sins.

I grew up in a household where we might have candy a couple of times a month, or a soda once or twice. In my young mind, giving up a few of those infrequent treats to escape the just desserts of my anger or lust — whatever that was — seemed like a pretty good deal, and I observed Lent faithfully.

Of course, I no longer believe that refusing an occasional Snickers bar made amends for hitting an obnoxious sibling, but I can also see the merit in what the nuns were preaching.

The "giving up" wasn't to punish or appease, but to make me more aware of my actions, to change my disposition as well as my behaviors, not to atone but to make me "at one" with myself, with others, and with the God I professed.

If I get what the sisters were saying about pride, then they were right. Pride is the ultimate selfishness, and all sin — from childhood disobedience, through malicious gossip, to aggravated murder — is about putting ourselves, our emotions, and our desires first before all else.

And the practices of Lent are not meant to get God to overlook our foibles and failures. On the contrary, they are meant to get us to look at them, to be conscious of not only what we do, but why we do it.

But if we stop there, with our own spiritual awareness, aren't we still teetering on the edge of pride and selfishness?

In the Buddhist tradition, the disciple who reaches the ultimate state of nirvana must then go back into the world and practice compassion.

In the Jewish Hasidic strain, the purpose of atonement is to release one from fixation on personal sin so that the penitent is free to pursue his or her call to *tikkun olam* — repair of the world.

Where is your Lenten effort leading you?

See CAPECCHI, page 19

Encounter

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Walking the long road to disaster recovery, together



By Alissa Marlow with
Ashley Wiskirchen

I first came into the “disaster world” in 2017, when I was hired temporarily to provide disaster case management services to households impacted by flooding and severe storms.

While disaster response is more immediate, disaster case management takes a holistic look at the story of a household — from physical living conditions to employment status and special needs — with the goal of finding the best-fit long-term solution to recoup what a family has lost in a disaster.

The process begins with outreach; essentially “cold-calling” disaster victims to check in and assess their needs and whether they would benefit from disaster case management services at Catholic Charities.

During my outreach attempts, I met a woman who had been displaced and was currently living at the Salvation Army Shelter with her

young daughter.

Their home had been flooded with over four feet of water.

With no place to go, they lived for two days in their vehicle before finding a safe place to stay.

By the time I met her, four months had passed since the initial flooding — and she was losing hope of finding a long-term housing solution.

The resources available in her county were slim, and while the flooding had destroyed her home, no designation had been made to allow for federal resources to assist her.

While I could not make promises to fix their home, I did commit to reviving the search for resources and accompanying her along the road to recovery.

Walking that road to recovery with a family after a natural disaster is not easy.

While mainstream media will cover a disaster for hours or days, the news cycle moves on to the next hurricane, wildfire, earthquake or manmade disaster quickly.

Even now, the attention after the destruction of Hurricane Ida in Florida is forgotten as we see the tragic numbers from earthquakes in Turkey continue to roll in.

So, what happens to the people and households who suffer after a small-scale disaster moves through their town?

In our own diocese, families have lost everything — documents, photos, memories, medication, clothing — without the ability (or sometimes insurance coverage) to cover replacement costs.

Life outside of the disaster goes on, but for those experiencing it, the “new normal” sets in.

That’s where we, at Catholic Charities, take on the opportunity to be a beacon of light to help households when they feel there is no one to help them.

I’d encountered this family who had lost everything, was coping with medical issues and dealing with the trauma they were reliving each time it stormed.

As we began to work together, I knew I needed to embody the mission of Catholic Charities to these people: provide care, create hope.

One step at a time we re-collected their vital documents, registered for school, helped find employment and even helped support their move into their first apartment.

Along the way, we got the family connected to the medical care they needed and supportive services to keep them healthy and safe.

In each of our programs at Catholic Charities, we seek to provide compassionate social services to clients with their dignity at the top of our minds.

We are here to walk alongside our neighbors, listening, caring, respecting their individual choices and helping provide opportunities for housing, employment, mental health support, food security and more.

Often, the ones in our community who are the most vulnerable, living paycheck to paycheck with no savings are impacted the most — by life situations and especially by natural or manmade disasters.

With our disaster preparedness, response and case management we are answering the call to provide options for the poor and vulnerable, a Catholic social teaching we hold in high regard.

We serve not only Catholics, but because we are Catholic, help serve our brothers and sisters in need regardless of

TOP TEN WAYS TO PREPARE BEFORE A DISASTER:

- 1. Obtain insurance** — make sure you have auto insurance and home or renter’s insurance. If you have been flooded previously, make sure you are current on your flood insurance policy.
- 2. Ensure you have back up documents in an alternative location.** These should include proof of residency, insurance information, utility company information, birth certificate, and copies of photo I.D.s
- 3. Develop and practice an escape plan with your whole household.** Include a location to meet if you are not together during a disaster. Designate a relative or friend in another town or state you can call to check in with, as local phone lines are often down after a disaster.
- 4. Create a disaster kit.** This should have food and water for at least three days for each person and animal in your family. Keep a weather radio, first aid kit, hygiene items, flashlights, extra batteries, cash, extra medication and phone chargers in this kit.
- 5. If you have pets,** keep extra leashes and collars in your disaster kit.
- 6. Keep back-ups of photos and special memories.** Save personal photos and memories in a photo sharing app online or in the cloud.
- 7. Connect with media outlets a variety of ways** — over the air, on social media, smartphone apps, website live streaming, radio or text notifications.
- 8. If you take medication:** Keep records of your medication, dosage, refill dates and any special instructions with your disaster kit.
- 9. If you are warned of an impending disaster:** stock up on gasoline, charge electronic devices and charging banks. Download and use Missouri’s MODOT app for up-to-date road conditions
- 10. If you have time, prepare your house!** Clean gutters and drains to avoid water back up, move furniture to higher levels of the house (or out of the house), disconnect appliances, turn off water, trim trees, etc.

Download our full disaster preparation checklist at ccnmo.diojeffcity.org/disaster




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faith, culture, or situation.

Alissa Marlow served Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri as the Director of Community Services and Senior Director of Programs and Services for 6 years. At Catholic Charities, she also served as the Capacity Building Director, Midwest Initiative through

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA). In that role, Alissa’s work focused on building Catholic Charities member agency capacities across the Midwest in non-disaster times. Her work has been presented at CCUSA conventions and conferences to share best practices with other member agencies.

L.A. Auxiliary Bishop David O'Connell was killed in his own home

By Pablo Kay
Los Angeles

OSV News

Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop David G. O'Connell, a native of Ireland who spent most of his four decades as a priest ministering in LA's inner city, was shot and killed in his Hacienda Heights home, a neighborhood east of Los Angeles.

According to local news reports, Los Angeles County sheriffs arrived Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. to the bishop's Janlu Avenue home and found him dead of a gunshot wound to his upper torso. As of that evening, authorities did not offer any details about a potential motive or suspect in

the bishop's killing.

"I am very sad this afternoon to report that our beloved Auxiliary Bishop David O'Connell has passed away unexpectedly," said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles in a statement Feb. 18. "It is a shock and I have no words to express my sadness."

"Bishop Dave," as he was known, was episcopal vicar for the archdiocese's San Gabriel Pastoral Region since 2015, when Pope Francis named him an auxiliary bishop.

In his statement, Archbishop Gomez said O'Connell will be remembered as "a man of deep prayer who had a great love for Our Blessed Mother."

"He was a peacemaker with a heart for the poor and the immigrant, and he had a passion for building a community where the sanctity and dignity of every human life was honored and protected," the archbishop said.

"He was also a good friend, and I will miss him greatly," continued Archbishop Gomez, who asked for prayers for the

bishop and his family in Ireland.

"May Our Lady of Guadalupe wrap him in the mantle of her love, and may the angels lead him into paradise, and may he rest in peace," said the archbishop.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City stated on Feb. 20 that "the murder

of Auxiliary Bishop David G. O'Connell shocks us all, especially those of us who worked with him at the national level."

"On behalf of the Diocese of Jefferson City, I convey to Archbishop Gomez, the clergy, and laity of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles our condolences

See BP. O'CONNELL, page 19



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Proverbs 31:30

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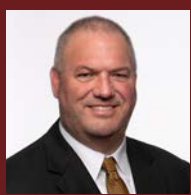
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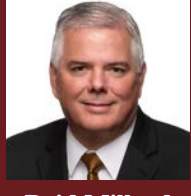
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Hannibal parish mission

DATE: March 20-22
TIME: 6 pm

Vincentian Father William Rhinehart of the Vincentian Parish Mission Apostolate

will lead a parish mission March 20-22 at Holy Family Parish in Hannibal.

Fr. Rhinehart will offer Mass and preach a message from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday in Holy Family Church, 1111 Broadway.

Topics will include: "Being chosen/trust in God"; "Emptying your bowl of yesterday's rice/moving on"; and "Perseverance in prayer — not the facts."

All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

"A mission is a time of special grace when God calls us into a deeper relationship with him, a time for personal growth, a time to listen to God, a time of spiritual refreshment," the event's organizers stated.

Campos-Duffy at Vitae event in J.C.

DATE: March 21
TIME: noon - 1:30 pm
6:30 - 9 pm

Well known author and TV personality Rachel Campos-Duffy

will headline the Vitae Foundation's Don & Ruth Ann Schnieders Jefferson City Pro-Life Events on Tuesday, March 21, in Jefferson City.

The events will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. for lunch and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for dinner.

The cost is \$50 per person (\$25 tax-deductible) for the lunch program and \$100 per person (\$70 tax-deductible) for the dinner program.

Both will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty St. in Jefferson City.

Mrs. Campos-Duffy began her television career as a cast member on the MTV reality series,

The Real World: San Francisco."

She has been highly sought-after for her unique views on politics, culture and parenting.

She and her husband, former U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Valentina, despite her Down syndrome diagnosis. Today, this mother of nine celebrates life and hosts her own show, "Moms," on FoxNation.

All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation, a national non-profit organization that facilitates research about life issues and applies the findings to create messaging strategies to share with others so that together, a future where abortion is unthinkable can be built.

Visit vitaefoundation.org/events for information, or contact Alison at alison.guzman@vitaefoundation.org.

PRODUCTION

From page 4

Lily. "I've only done this two years. I've gotten to spend so much time with my friends, I've met so many new people. I'm really glad that I had the experience of all of this."

"I know I'll be sad because Lily and Jonah will be leaving, and I'll really miss being able to spend so much time with the seniors who are leaving,"

said Enzo.

"I'm gonna be sad, but I'm also going to be optimistic for next year, which will be my fourth year doing it, and I can't wait to start next year," said Claire.

Jonah said he's determined to be present for next year's production — as a member of the audience.

"Truly amazing"

All four interviewed students asked for prayers for good health as they enter their closing days of preparations and rehearsals and embark on the live performances.

"Certainly, prayers for health and safety for everyone in the cast and everyone on the stage crew," Mr. Vossen added. "And also pray for a nice crowd!"

Mr. Vossen has been serving as production manager and stage manager for Helias Catholic's musical productions since the 1979-80 school year.

"I just can't say enough about our kids," he said. "Everything's coming together and everybody's playing their part. They are truly amazing."

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All you can eat!
Fish, hush puppies, french fries, coleslaw, coffee & tea
SERVING 3-7 pm
DINE-IN \$15/person, ½ price kids 12 & under
TAKE-OUT curbside \$14/person

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FISH FRY
Loose Creek
5-7 pm
Immaculate Conception School Basement
\$12 per meal
FRIDAY March 17
DRIVE-THRU ONLY
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Funds raised will be donated to your local Catholic Schools

Wardsville/Osage Bend Knights of Columbus
Fish Fry
Friday, March 10 4:30-7:30 pm
St. Stanislaus Gym
Wardsville
Fish, baked potato, fries, hushpuppies, baked beans & coleslaw
\$14 per order (ages 5 & under free)
Cinnamon rolls available for purchase!

St. Martin Home and School
FISH FRY
Where: St. Martin School Gymnasium
Business 50 West, St. Martins
When: Fridays, March 10 & 24
4:30-7:30 pm
Fried fish, homestyle potato chips, cornbread, coleslaw, green beans, applesauce & desserts
Adults \$13 / Kids 6-12 \$6 / Kids 5 & under free
\$13 TO-GO orders available in the Church Basement

Holy Name Society
PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
Adults \$10
Children 5-12 \$5
Age 4 & under FREE
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FISH & SHRIMP FRY
Fridays
March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
Eldon Catholic Center 5-7 pm
ELDON
All you care to eat
Fish Dinners
Fried catfish, baked pollock, fried shrimp, fries, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, dessert & drink
Adults \$12, Kids 6-12 \$6 (under 6 free)
10 jumbo shrimp & sides
Combo plate - 5 jumbo shrimp, fish & sides (no seconds on shrimp)

Priest speaks of freedom to follow God's law, during African Mass at Columbia Newman Center

By Jay Nies

Members of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia gathered the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 12, for an African Mass embracing the culture of the African students

of worship as Catholics back home," a parishioner stated before Mass.

The choir led the singing of hymns and praise songs from various nations in Africa.

Fr. Aneke preached about choosing the road of discipleship and following it.

Meditating on that that

Sunday's reading from the Book of Sirach, he spoke of the choice God gives people every day, whether to follow his law and commands or not. "He gives us that freedom,"

said Fr. Aneke. "If you obey the commandments, you will live. If you don't obey, there will also be consequences."

At the same time, "Jesus

wants the law to come from within us, not what is written on paper," the priest stated. "We should obey the law and be happy."

"We are praying this Mass

for the grace of God," he noted. "As we come together to worship God, his grace will enable us to understand the

See AFRICAN MASS, page 23



More photos have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, cathmo.com. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.

and parishioners and those who are of African heritage.

The Mass was part of the parish's Black History Month observance.

Father Paulinus C. Aneke, PhD, a priest of the Diocese of Enugu, Nigeria, who was serving as associate pastor of the parish, presided and preached the homily.

Father Simon Jude Kanyke, a priest of the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda, who is associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, and Father Ignatius Nimwesa, a priest of the Diocese of Mbarrara, Uganda, who is a chaplain at Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, concelebrated.

"Today, we hope to showcase the rich and diverse culture within Africa with our music and our traditional style

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 Adult carry-outs available
 Adults \$13 • Children 7-12 \$6

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SERVING FISH, FROG LEGS & SHRIMP
 Adults \$20 - Age 6-12 \$10 - 5 & under FREE

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 Served 3:30-7 pm
 Only 2 more, so DON'T MISS ONE!
 USA FARM-RAISED CATFISH baked potatoes, slaw, baked beans, french fries, cornbread, dessert & drinks
 Dine-in — Adults \$14 / Kids 5-12 \$7 4 & under Free
 Carryouts \$12
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Taos K of C Council #6430
FISH FRY
FRIDAYS
MARCH 3, 17 & 31
 4:30-7:30 pm
 Dine-in or Carry-out
 Fried fish or boiled shrimp, baked potato or fries, slaw, hushpuppies, baked beans, ice cream, tea & coffee
\$14
 Kids burger & fries—\$6
 Knights of Columbus Hall
TAOS

Benedictine Sisters to host Virtual Monastic Experience

DATE: March 24 - 26

Women interested in learning about religious life are invited to attend a March 24-26

Virtual Monastic Experience, hosted by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in

northwestern Missouri.

The event is for single women, ages 18-40 who are considering

religious life. Participants will enjoy a virtual tour of the monastery, meet sisters, and discover tips on prayer and discernment.

It will include one hour of input each day. There are also opportunities to connect with the vocation director one-on-one.

There is no cost to participate.

For more information, visit BenedictineSisters.org or contact Sister Maria Victoria Cutaia, OSB at vocation@benedictinesisters.org or 660-944-2221, ext. 127.



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RITE OF ELECTION

From page 1

Married in 2008, they moved to Macon County in 2013.

They decided to place their children in Immaculate Conception School in Macon and gradually started coming to Sunday Mass.

"We love the people here," she said. "We love the atmosphere."

Their children, Matthew and Colton, now in first and seventh grades, are going to Mass three days a week and learning all about what the Church teaches.

Mrs. Jacobs had been thinking about becoming Catholic for a couple of years. Last fall, Father William Peckman — pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Macon, St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, St. Patrick Parish in Clarence and the Mission of Sacred Heart in Bevier — mentioned that the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was about to begin.

"Boom! That was my chance!" said Mrs. Jacobs.

She spoke to the priest after Mass, who steered her toward Deacon Lloyd Collins, who coordinates the RCIA for the Macon, Shelbina and Clarence parishes and the Bevier mission.

Deacon Collins gave her the times and dates and invited her to attend.

"My husband is ecstatic about it!" said Mrs. Jacobs. "In fact, everybody I know is happy that I'm doing this."

Matthew attends the weekly preparation sessions with his mother and hopes to receive Sacraments of Initiation with her at Easter.

"He was a little leery at first," said Mrs. Jacobs. "But after the first couple of sessions, now he looks forward to it every week."

Mrs. Jacobs said her fellow parishioners, her mentors in the RCIA and her fellow catechumens and candidates have forged a joyful bond.

"Everyone is very kind and the atmosphere is very welcoming," she said. "I feel welcomed, not judged."

"Always faithful"



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stands with the Elect, formerly catechumens, who have formally stated their desire to be baptized and confirmed in their parishes at Easter, along with their godparents, following the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, on Feb. 26 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia.
— Photo by Annie Williams



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight stands with candidates — people who have already been baptized and are preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church in their parishes at Easter, along with their sponsors, following the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, on Feb. 26 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia.
— Photo by Annie Williams

This year's Rite of Election was held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbia, because the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City is closed for renovation.

The candidates and catechumens have been preparing for

several months — some for even longer — through RCIA. The RCIA is a restoration of the catechumenate, the communal process through which people were prepared to become Christian in the early Church.

After listening to the readings and preaching a homily, Bishop McKnight greeted each of the catechumens and candidates individually as their names were called out. He accepted the catechumens' names into the Book of the Elect and urged the cat-

echumens and candidates to spend the rest of Lent pursuing repentance and deeper conversion with the support of the Church. "God is always faithful to those he calls," the bishop told the catechumens. "Now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to Him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your election opens up before you."

In his homily, he said the root of every sin known to mankind comes from "we think we know better than God."

"This is precisely why the Son of God became one of us: to free us from the enticement and slavery to this inauthentic version of ourselves: we are our best selves when we become who God created us to be!" he stated.

The bishop likened these

final weeks of preparation to the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert before embarking on His public ministry.

"This period of purification and enlightenment prepares your soul by clearing from it all the enticements and attachments to sin, so that you can open yourselves up completely to the will of God and the gift of His Holy Spirit," he stated.

He said the entire local Church welcomes the candidates and catechumens and rejoices that they have encountered God in the world in spite of the evils that are present in it.

"We celebrate that you, too, will become another light of Christ in a world so desperately in need of Jesus's love," he said. "And we look forward to you experiencing the joy of receiving Holy Communion for the first time at this Easter Vigil."

Surrounded by friends

Dakota Williams, a member

of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish in Boonville, said taking part in the Rite of Election with people from all over the diocese was an uplifting experience.

"It really makes me feel great about what I'm becoming in the faith and how far along God has led me," said Mr. Williams, who hopes to be baptized at Easter. "It's just kind of nice seeing how far I've come."

Some friends "who are now like family" introduced him to the Catholic Church, "and it's really opened me up to new views about the faith," he said.

He's looking forward to these final weeks of preparation and to the Easter Vigil.

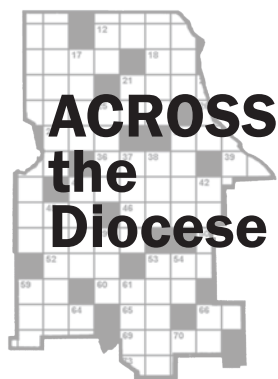
"I'm sure it will be a great time and I'll be glad to be baptized," he said.

His parents are happy for him, and he's convinced that God has been guiding him through this process and will continue to do so.

"I just love what Jesus and

See INITIATION, page 23

A related article can be found on Page 17.



By Father Don Antweiler

ACROSS

1. This puzzle features Halls of Fame of all kinds, some with museums, spread across our ____ of Missouri.
5. The Hall of Famous Missourians in Jefferson City is in the Capitol building, between the House and Senate Chambers. It features 44 busts of famous people in Missouri history, from ____ like Emmet Kelly to saints like St. Rose Philippine Duchesne.
10. That's a laugh!
12. "The family is worth defending, and the ____, woman and child who comprise the family are worth defending." —"Sanity is the Key," Susan Sucher in *Gilbert*, magazine of the G.K. Chesterton Society.
13. Pizza ____; pizza chain.
14. A cheerleader might twirl one of these.
16. The World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis's Central West End features historic games and the rich cultural history of chess, including a 500-year-old Egyptian piece from the earliest known ____ game, a chess set belonging to Bobby Fischer, and the first commercial chess computer.
18. "The Bible is arranged according to genres: Law, History, Wisdom literature, Gospels, ____, letters, and so on," —*The Case for Jesus*, Brant Pitre.
20. I can't do this anymore. I just don't have it ____ (2 wds.).
21. "When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, seeking words of wisdom, ____ it be," —lyrics from a 1970 Beatles song nominated for a Grammy.
22. "...God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ____," (1 Peter 3:20).
23. "NASA looks for people

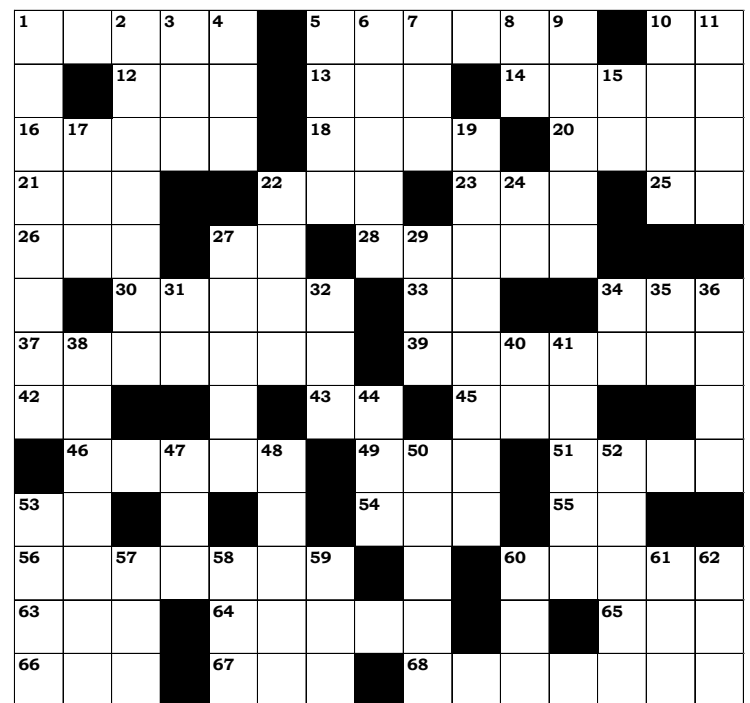
who can be locked in a ____ can for six months and excel, so temperament alone could disqualify you for space flight," —*An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, Col. Chris Hadfield.

25. ____ *cum spiritu tuo*.
26. Anger.
27. Dorothy's Auntie.
28. Missing ingredient in unleavened bread.
30. The Archery Hall of Fame in Springfield is on the ____ floor of Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World. The Am. Archery Council has been inducting members since 1972.
33. On an oceanographer's notepad, letters for sea level.
34. In 1828, frontiersman ____ Carson loved Maria Josefa Jaramillo of Santa Fe. Though rightly famous, Carson was illiterate. Maria's educated father wanted her then to at least marry a Catholic. Carson willingly attended the classes to become a Catholic; he counseled with a priest and got married to Maria in the Catholic Church.
37. Eden and Gethsemane.
39. The Steel Guitar Hall of Fame, founded in St. Louis in 1978, features bronze bas-relief ____ with brief resumes of each inductee. The first woman inductee was Barbara Mandrell in 2009.
42. Yes in the Yucatan peninsula.
43. 7th note.
45. Letter indicating a debt.
46. Dean Martin used to host a celebrity _____. Various guests at the head table would one by one come forward and pay tribute by making him/her the object of often riotous ribbing.
49. A camera setting that will brighten or darken a photo.
51. Two guys walked into ____; beginning line of a joke (2 wds.).
53. Letters for Associated Press.
54. A charged particular; also, a cable TV channel.
55. Prefix for relevant or regular.
56. The National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame and Museum in Kansas City's T-Mobil center is a 42,500 sq. ft. fan-interactive facility, owned and operated by the National Association of Basketball ____.
60. Put things in line.
63. ____ *pro nobis*; pray for us.
64. The full-time vowels.

65. Ltrs. for Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity based on the principles of the Boy Scouts of America; with 500,000 members at 375 colleges it is the nation's largest Greek fraternity.
66. Parent/teacher org.
67. 19th letter of alphabet.
68. The International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum, with 6,000 sq. ft. of gallery and exhibition space in the Grand Center area of St. Louis, features the Hall of Famers who contributed to the field of photography. It preserves 6,000 historical ____, photography tools like an Edison Kinetoscope, and 30,000 notable photos.

DOWN

1. "____: children of the same parents, each of whom is perfectly normal, until they get together," —Sam Levenson.
2. The Mo. Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield was founded in 1994. It occupies a 2-story 32,000-sq.-ft. facility featuring 4,000 items of exhibits and memorabilia of Mo. ____ and pro athletics. It has interactive MLB batter's boxes, football throws, and NASCAR racing.
3. The toxic residue in cigarettes that coats and paralyzes the lungs, leading to lung cancer.
4. "The little church of St. Mary was the great Church as well, the one that reached from one ____ of the earth to the other, the one founded by Jesus himself," —*I, Francis*, Carlo Carretto.
5. Burn; scorch.
6. The National Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of Fame and Museum is located in Wentzville since 2007. With 21,000 sq. ft. of space, it features ____ horseshoes, exhibits, videos of greatest horseshoe pitches and memorabilia.
7. In 1948, Walter and Ruby ____ sold their café on Rt. 66 to focus on their very popular salad dressing (Walt's mom's recipe). The resulting company in Carthage, Mo. now retails their famous salad dressing in over 2,000 stores in 15 States.
8. Abbr. for *Nota Bene*; Latin for "mark well;" used before



9. St. John Vianney is the patron ____ of priests, esp. parish priests. On the 150th anniversary of his death in 2009, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI declared the "Year of the Priest" to encourage spiritual perfection in priests.
10. The Mo. Photojournalism Hall of Fame was founded in Washington, Mo. with its first inductees in 2005. It closed in 2014 and the Hall of Fame is temporarily posted in a limited display in the Journalism Institute on the UMC campus. The Mo. Press Assn. is working to find it a permanent ____.
11. "The kingdom of heaven is like ____ thrown into the sea," (Matthew 13:47).
15. Elvis's Graceland is in this State (abbr.).
17. "..._ _ _ the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?" —lyrics from our national anthem.
19. Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) in the "Rocky" movies was known in the boxing ring as the Italian ____.
22. "And all the people shall answer, '____,'" (Deuteronomy 27:15).
24. The Baker Street Irregulars of New York City ____ a Sherlock Holmes Society founded in 1934. Its famous members over the years include FDR, Isaac Asimov, and Harry Truman.
27. Swords used in fencing.
29. Sixth sense.
31. Short for paid.
32. Q-U.
34. Traditional nemesis of MU in the "border wars."
35. "In other words" abbr.
36. Old Russian rulers.
38. KCI, St. Louis International or Columbia Regional.
40. In medical diagnoses, abbr. for abdominal obesity.
41. On the 40-year desert journey of Moses out of Egypt, God sent not only manna (bread) but also ____ (meat). See Exodus 16:13. Bishop McKnight also has one of these on his coat of arms, not just for this above biblical reference but because he is an avid hunter of this game bird.
44. Number of Persons in the Trinity in Roman numerals.
47. Rainbow shape.
48. "Out of the ground the Lord God made various ____ grow that were delightful to look at and good for food..." (Genesis 2:9).
50. ____ Drive-In.
52. A bush with a thorny or prickly stem, like a rose or blackberry bush. Also, a type of smoking pipe.
53. "Back in the bag" is police slang meaning ____ is back in uniform after working undercover (2 wds.).
57. Car club.
58. "____ and cry, villain! Go. Assist me, knight; I am undone," —"The Merry Wives of Windsor"; Act IV; Shakespeare.
59. Distress call letters.
60. ____ and Hammer baking soda.
61. Grade Point Average letters.
62. *Sed libera ____ a malo*; But deliver us from evil.

ANSWERS on page 19

Pandemic pointed mother, four children toward being Catholic

By Jay Nies

“Are you okay denying God? One of his disciples did and that will be forever part of his testimony. Is that what you want in yours?”

That’s a question Anna Launius poses to anyone who, like her, has encountered resistance from friends or loved ones along the journey toward becoming Catholic.

“The easy answer is to deny, but that’s not what we’re called to do,” she said. “We’re called to be the light. Don’t hide from God.”

Mrs. Launius, a member of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, and her four children took part in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight Feb. 26 in Columbia.

They are preparing to be received into the Church at Easter through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

“The waiting, it brings more to it,” said Mrs. Launius. “Going through the process, it’s such a big deal that you’re in that time of waiting. It’s beautiful.”

She was raised in a devout family in a Christian faith tradition.

Some friends and family members have advised her not

to become Catholic.

“Some Protestants think Catholics worship Mary and worship the saints,” she said. “Well, the first thing we talked about in RCIA was that we don’t worship Mary and the saints!”

Mrs. Launius had her own concerns when she started her journey.

“I stepped into it very skeptical, like, ‘What’s the catch?’” she said, “as in, ‘Why am I not supposed to be Catholic?’”

The COVID-19 pandemic was difficult for her, her husband and their four sons.

“It changed a lot of our day-to-day lives,” she said.

She realized that she had put growing in her faith on the back burner and was taking it for granted.

“We went to church, read the Bible, prayed and did our devotionals,” she said, “but something was missing.”

She had heard about people praying the Rosary, so she gave it a try.

“I think the Rosary was put into our lives at such a time that we needed it — that I needed it,” she said.

She started asking, “Who says I shouldn’t pray this? What else is there about Catholicism that I’ve been taught was wrong?”



Josh and Anna Launius and their four sons gather for a family photo.

— Photo by Kristi Smith

What she found was the fullness of the Bible, 2,000 years of Church teaching, and the authority of the Magisterium, handed by Christ to the Apostles and down through the centuries.

“It’s been almost a three-year process for me, but that’s why I’m becoming Catholic,” she said.

She wanted to take part in RCIA last year, but the timing wasn’t right.

“So I got to experience figuring out the Mass for myself and trying to understand things and getting to research it on my own,” she stated, “which is very much out of my comfort zone.”

“Pray that the international organizations, of which the United States is the great big voice, talk, work, and be there for a truly humane life in our countries,” she said.

OSV News contributed information to this report.

“I think that was a testament in itself, a surrender — ‘This is the fear I have, so I’m letting God guide this. There’s no way I can do this on my own,’” she said.

Now, she gets to watch her children learn their prayers and connect with other families in the parish and grow in their relationship with God.

“It’s been beautiful!” she stated.

She said it’s been great to experience the preparations with her fellow adult candidates and catechumens in the Macon and Shelby County parishes.

“I’m so excited for them!” she said. “We have all women in our RCIA group and I’m delighted to see them go through this process, and their witness unfolding before all these people.”

She’s grateful for all the hard work and commitment her fellow parishioners have shown toward helping the cat-

echumens and candidates prepare for their initiation.

All of this highlights for her the importance of faith and family, at home and in the community — something she grew up treasuring and now believes will reach fruition in her initiation into the Catholic Church.

Many of her friends and relatives are happy for her, but not all.

“I’m losing some family over this,” she acknowledged. “What I hope is that God is working through all of this — that they will set out to try to prove me wrong and wind up coming

to the same conclusion I’ve come to — that God is the reason why we are becoming Catholic.

“I can’t wait for them to have that ‘aha’ moment!” she said. “I know it’s gonna’ happen.”

Toward that end, she asked for prayers for her to “just be that light that God is needing me to be.”

“I am taking this journey for myself but I’m also trying to make sure that that light is being shown for my children and for my family,” she said.

POPE

From page 8

Church, local and universal, and a commitment to social and political action by leaders in the government, among Christians and secular humanists to conform their identity as real persons both truly human and truly Christian.”

“Our compatriots must have the same consideration, the same dignity, the same rights, the same chances that everyone has, including access to basic answers and goods to their basic needs as truly human beings,” she said.

Like Pope Francis, she hopes people will pray for the people of her homeland and listen intentionally to God’s answer.

“(Pray to) inform and educate your governments, your deputies, your stakeholders,

the socio-humanitarian organizations, your economic functionaries of the true reality of the situation of our country and our people,” she suggested.

“Pray for everyone to stop being accomplices and predators,” she continued.

KANDRA

From page 9

there and to appreciate even more the seven sacraments that are woven into the fabric of our lives.

We need to take to heart what we hear after the Profession of Faith at every baptism: “This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Deacon Greg Kandra is an award-winning author and journalist, and creator of the blog “The Deacon’s Bench.” He serves in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York.

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Visit the diocesan EVENT CALENDAR at diojeffcity.org/events.
Want your event listed?
Fill out the ONLINE FORM at diojeffcity.org/event-listing.

Fundraisers & Social Events

Mar. 3

California, K of C & Ladies Sodality fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, Annunciation Parish basement; **Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, K of C fish fry, 3:30-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Rich Fountain**, Sacred Heart Parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, Sacred Heart School; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Fellowship Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Mar. 5

Fayette, St. Joseph Parish pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish pancake breakfast, 7:30 am-noon; **Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior (Rhineland) men's breakfast, 7-11 am, Valentine Hall

Mar. 10

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, K of C fish fry, 3:30-7 pm, St. Andrew Parish's Veit Hall; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council & Boy Scout Troop 101 drive-thru only fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral Undercroft; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Mary's Home**, K of C fish & shrimp dinner, 6-8 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, school gym; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Fellowship Hall; **Wardsville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, St. Stanislaus gym; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Mar. 10-12

Jefferson City, "West Side Story" presented by Helias Catholic High School, Fri & Sat 7 pm, Sun 2 pm, Miller Performing Arts Ctr, for tickets call 573-635-6139

Mar. 12

Belle, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Martinsburg**, St. Joseph Parish breakfast, 8-11 am, K of C Hall; **St. Thomas**, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish ham & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am, parish hall

Mar. 17

California, K of C & Ladies Sodality fish fry, 4-6:30 pm, dine-in, drive-thru, to-go, Annunciation Parish basement; **Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Loose Creek**, K of C 2027 drive-through fish fry, 5-7 pm, Immaculate Conception School; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Fellowship Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Mar. 18

St. Anthony, K of C St. Patrick's Dance, 8:30-11:30 pm, St. Anthony Parish Hall

Mar. 21

Jefferson City, Vitae's Annual Pro-Life Event, with keynote speaker Rachel Campos-Duffy, luncheon program noon-1:30 pm, dinner program 6:30-9 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, to register visit vitaefoundation.org

Mar. 23

Rolla, Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla's Banquet for Life, featuring keynote speaker Steven Holland, 6:30-8:30 pm, Havener Center, for info or to register visit supportmyprc.com/banquet-for-life

Mar. 24

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm;

Hannibal, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, Bishop McAuliffe K of C Council & Boy Scout Troop 101 drive-thru only fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral Undercroft; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Mary's Home**, K of C fish & shrimp dinner, 6-8 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Martins**, St. Martin Home & School fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, school gym; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Fellowship Hall; **St. Thomas**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Mar. 25

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows Parish Food Truck & Dance, Pizza Kwik food truck from noon-9 pm in church parking lot, dance with Shiloh from 7-11 pm at school gym

Mar. 31

Camdenton, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross Parish fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph Parish Hall; **Hannibal**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm; **Mary's Home**, K of C fish & shrimp dinner, 6-8 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael Parish Hall; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish Hall; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Hall; **Taos**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Warsaw**, K of C fish fry, 3-7 pm

Meetings/ Workshops

Mar. 4

Jefferson City, Diocesan Advocate Training Program for those interested in working with the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal as advocates in marriage nullity cases, 10 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/advocate-training-registration

Mar. 8

Jefferson City, Safer Homes Collaborative training for suicide prevention and safe storage of firearms, 6:15-7:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Kertz Hall

Mar. 9, 16 & 23

VIRTUAL, "Eucharist: The Work

of Our Redemption" Lenten lecture series presented by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, noon, for info or to register visit fdlc.org/eucharistseries2023

Mar. 11

Columbia, Pre-Cana Conference for engaged couples, 9 am-4:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration; **Jefferson City**, Diocesan Advocate Training Program for those interested in working with the diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal as advocates in marriage nullity cases, 10 am-3 pm, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/advocate-training-registration

Mar. 25

Rolla, National Men's Conference live broadcast from Cincinnati, 8 am-5 pm, St. Patrick Parish Center, for info email greg.j.strat@gmail.com

Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

Mar. 6, 13, 20 & 27

Folk, "Restore," women's Lenten book study, 6:30-7:45 pm, St. Anthony Parish Hall. Call 573-291-3556 or 573-694-6319.

Mar. 16-19

Camdenton, Women's Cursillo Weekend #79, St. Anthony Parish, for info visit diojeffcity.org/cursillo/

Mar. 18

Jefferson City, "Invitation to (W) holiness" women's mini-retreat, 8:45 am-noon, Immaculate Conception's Kertz Hall, for info or to register email jacknjo@embarqmail.com or mcallflow.ers@gmail.com

Mar. 20-22

Hannibal, Holy Family Parish Mission with Fr. William Rhinehart, C.M., 6 pm each evening

Liturgical

Mar. 14

Starkenburg, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit risensavior.diojeffcity.org

Youth & Young Adults

Mar. 19

Jefferson City, Young Adult Mass, third Sunday of each month, 5 pm, Immaculate

Conception Church

May 29-Jun. 2

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 1 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 5-9

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 2 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 11-13

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 3 for junior high boys, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 15-17

Conway, Mo., Camp Lolek session 4 for junior high girls, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-lolek

Jun. 19-24

Conway, Mo., Camp MacCabee for high school young men, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-maccabee

Jun. 25-30

Conway, Mo., Camp Siena for high school young women, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/camp-siena

Nov. 16-19

Indianapolis, In., National Catholic Youth Conference, for info or to register visit diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference

Health & Wellness

Mar. 9

Jefferson City, Dementia/Alzheimer's awareness presentation, 1-2 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's St. Ann's Room

QUESTION

From page 8

to many of us, the humble day-to-day work of growing in holiness is far more important than enthusiasm for any particular apparition. And we already have everything needed for our Christian journey of holiness in our Scriptures, the Church's teachings, our liturgy and the sacraments.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osu.com.

To submit **Baptisms, Birthdays** for ages 90 and older, **Anniversaries** of 10+ years in increments of 5 ONLY (e.g., 15, 25, 45 years, etc.), **Elections, Honors and Appointments**, please go to:

diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence

For marriages and deaths, please use the form at diojeffcity.org/update-information/ so that we may update our mailing lists and records.

Anniversaries

Argyle, St. Aloysius
James & Carol Falter, 30 years

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
Jerry & Peggy Ward, 55 years
Don & Sheila Paalhar, 35 years

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes
Raymond & Doris Speckhals, 60 years

Freeburg, Holy Family
Pat & Sandy Haller, 60 years
Noland & Jody Stuecken, 20 years

Marshall, St. Peter
Jim & Barbara Chevalier, 50 years

Palmyra, St. Joseph
David & Janice Kroeger, 35 years

Taos, St. Francis Xavier
Keith & Mary Jo Henke, 30 years

Birthdays

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception
— **Doris Dennis**, her 99th on Mar. 22;
Sybil Schreiner, her 95th on Mar. 29

Canton, St. Joseph — **Mildred Whiston**,
her 102nd on Mar. 20

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Esther**
Lauberth, her 96th on Feb. 28

Deaths

Xavier Kispotta, 67 — brother of Father
Walter Kispotta, associate pastor of
Holy Rosary Parish in Monroe City
and St. Stephen Parish in Indian
Creek — on Feb. 19 in India.

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **William**
Blanton

Jefferson City, Immaculate
Conception — **Martha E. Cardwell**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Dr. Viola**
Martin

BP. O'CONNELL

From page 11

and assurances of prayer.”

Born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1953, Bishop O’Connell studied for the priesthood at the former All Hallows College in Dublin and was ordained to serve in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 1979. After ordination, he served as associate pastor in several parishes and as pastor at St. Frances X. Cabrini, Ascension, St. Eugene and St. Michael’s parishes — all in south Los Angeles.

There, Bishop O’Connell ministered to a community afflicted by gang violence, poverty, broken families, as well as tensions between locals and members of Los Angeles Police Department and the LA Sheriff’s Department that eventually boiled over during the LA riots in 1992 that followed the beating of Rodney King by police officers.

The riots broke out during then-Father O’Connell’s first tour at St. Frances X. Cabrini (1988-98). Bishop O’Connell would later tell how he was in Washington, testifying before a panel on Capitol Hill about violence in urban America, when the riots started. He came home days later to find widespread destruction in much of his parish’s territory.

“A great privilege”

Apart from aiding neighborhood recovery efforts, Fr. O’Connell pushed

to restore trust between the inner-city residents and law enforcement. He and other local faith leaders helped organize meetings with police officers in people’s homes and provide opportunities for dialogue and reconciliation.

As a pastor, Fr. O’Connell also saw firsthand the effect of broken families on the community. That inspired him to organize retreats for men — usually in the mountains — focusing on how to be good fathers and husbands, something he saw as key to the health of a community.

During his time as auxiliary bishop in Los Angeles, evangelization, pastoral care for immigrants and ensuring the future of his region’s Catholic schools were all top priorities for Bishop O’Connell.

He was the chairman of the interdiocesan Southern California Immigration Task Force, helping coordinate the local church’s response to the influx of migrants from Central America in recent years and navigating the challenges presented by changing immigration policies.

Lorna Tran, director of Immigration Services for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, said she remembers Bishop O’Connell fondly from the annual gatherings of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network

Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Weston Dean Juergens**, son of Eric & Lacy Juergens

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Olivia Best**, daughter of Jordan & Kelsey Best; **Dovelyn Fiala**, daughter of Tommy & Heather Fiala

Chamois, Most Pure Heart of Mary — **Leo Fredrick Paulmeyer**, son of Alex & Aubrey Paulmeyer

Kirkville, Immaculate Conception — **Sonny Ervin Leyden**, son of Skyler & Sarah Leyden; **Clara Ann Sweet**, daughter of Jacob & Catie Sweet

Mary’s Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Easton Scot Adrian**, son of Travis Scot & Jessica Jo Adrian; **Truitt Drué Blochberger**, son of Trent Blochberger & Makinzie Morgan

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Ty Jameson Cooper**, son of Clayton & Shelby Cooper

Elections

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Jason Bolte, Wayne Bruckerhoff, Teri Weber**, to the Parish Pastoral Council

(CLINIC) each year.

“His love for immigrants was so evident,” she recalled. “He was a wonderful man who truly lived his faith.”

Last September, Bishop O’Connell was recognized for his tireless service to the community and the Church in Los Angeles with the prestigious *Evangelii Gaudium* Award from St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo.

At the national level, Bishop O’Connell was serving as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

But despite his long list of accolades and accomplishments, Bishop O’Connell was known as a low-key priest with a down-to-earth demeanor and an Irish brogue he never bothered to try hiding. Those who knew him testify that he seemed most at ease with the people he spent all those years with in south LA.

“It’s been the great joy of my life to be the pastor of these people, especially the ones who are suffering or in need or facing difficulty,” Bishop O’Connell said after being named a bishop in 2015.

Pablo Kay is editor for Angelus News, publication of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

CAPECCHI

From page 9

early 1980s French Country. “Who they really are was stripped so we could have apple stencils,” she said. “That aesthetic had no connection to our family.”

Paige pours her energy into encouraging women who are pained by the gap between their homes and the immaculate images they see on social media.

“There’s a crisis of confidence in women now,” she said. “Women are acting as if the design police are coming on Tuesday and they will give them a fine if what they have isn’t acceptable.”

She offers them a permission slip. “You don’t have to wow anyone this holiday season,” Paige wrote in one Instagram post. “Hospitality is sharing what we have, not showing what we have or a shiny version of ourselves or our children. ...As women and hosts, we’re connectors, and we sacrifice this beautiful dimension of the feminine genius when we’re so busy trying to manage ‘the audience experience.’”

Paige’s message is an antidote to the perfectly curated, heavily edited Easter spreads Catholics will see in magazines and social media accounts.

“If you haven’t redone your house, maybe you’ve been busy,” she said. “The real work, your real vocation is the relationships, the formation of your children and your marriage and yourself.”

Your home should reflect that — not the fickle standards of influencers.

“You are the expert of your life! To have someone come in and design it all misses a huge piece: who you are and your story and how you really live.”

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.



Diocese of Jefferson City

Crossword puzzle answers

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

Servants serving at Community Cafe



The Sacred Heart junior high Lady Gremlins basketball team in Sedalia gather in the kitchen after preparing and serving a meal as volunteers at the Community Cafe in Sedalia, providing 80 meals to people in need.

— Photo from the Sacred Heart School, Sedalia, MO Facebook page

Gift of 270,000 pennies



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Jefferson City present the \$2,700 they raised for Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri during their Catholic Schools Week penny war. This gift will help Catholic Charities provide compassionate help to visitors of the food pantry, clients enrolled in housing counseling, families recovering from disaster, and more.

— Photo from the Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Facebook page

“Why do we call it Ash Wednesday?”



Father Matthew Flatley, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City, speaks with the pre-kindergarten students at Immaculate Conception School about the importance of Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent.

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception Catholic School Facebook page

Important skills



Fifth- through eighth-graders at St. Joseph School in Westphalia learn important lifesaving skills on Feb. 24 from personnel from the Osage County Ambulance District, Dr. David Badami, a physician at Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City, and Joel McNutt, YMCA Self Defense Instructor.

— Photos from the St. Joseph School, Westphalia Facebook page

Friendship and fellowship



Members of the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish “Juvies 4 Jesus” Youth Group in Boonville and the St. Joseph Parish Youth Group from Pilot Grove gather for prayer and fellowship in Pilot Grove on Feb. 19. The young people had a great time playing games and getting to know each other. They concluded with Night Prayer in St. Joseph Church.

— Photo by Patricia Lutz

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Bible Accent

In the Old Testament, there is another story about a man who met women at a well.

In Exodus 2:11, we read that Moses, a Hebrew who was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, had gotten into some trouble.

One day, he saw an Egyptian man who was striking a Hebrew slave.

Moses looked around to see if anyone was watching. Then he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Pharaoh found out what had happened and wanted to kill Moses, so Moses fled to the land of Midian and sat down next to a well.

Seven women, the daughters of Midian's priest, Reuel, came to the well to get water for their father's flock.

But there were shepherds there who drove them away.

Moses came to their defense and watered the flock himself.

When the daughters returned home, they told their father that an Egyptian man had delivered them from the shepherds and helped them water the flock.

"Where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave the man there? Invite him to have something to eat."

Moses agreed to stay with Reuel and his family. Reuel even gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage.

Zipporah conceived and bore a son, whom Moses named Gershom; for he said, "I am a stranger residing in a foreign land."

St. Guy of Pomposa

St. Guy of Pomposa was born in Italy in the late 10th century. He was raised in a wealthy family, and he wore fine clothes and had the best education available.

He eventually tired of this lifestyle, so he sold his clothes, gave the money to the poor and set out for Rome wearing shabby garments.

In Rome, he befriended a hermit and later joined a community of monks at Pomposa Abbey, where he became abbot. He became a popular spiritual adviser and had many followers.

St. Guy died in 1046, and we remember him on March 31.



Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Catholic Courier

Jesus and the apostles traveled to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Jesus was tired from the journey, so he sat down beside Jacob's well to rest while the apostles went into town for food.

Around noontime, a woman from Samaria came to the well.

Jesus asked her for a drink.

"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" she asked, because Jews shared nothing in common with Samaritans.

"If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water," Jesus replied.

"Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water?" the woman wondered.

Jesus told her that everyone who drinks the well water would be thirsty again.

"But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life," he said.

"Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water," the woman said.

"Go call your husband and



Illustration by Linda Rivers

come back," Jesus said.

"I do not have a husband," she replied.

"What you have said is true," Jesus said, noting that she had had five husbands and was not married to the man she was currently with.

"Sir, I can see that you are a prophet," she said. "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus explained that the hour was coming when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth rather than in Jerusalem or on the mountain.

"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the

Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything," the woman said.

"I am he," Jesus said, "the one speaking with you."

The woman left her water jar and went into town to tell everyone about Jesus.

People listened to the Samaritan woman and Jesus' word and began to believe in him.

"We know that this is truly the savior of the world," the people said.

Read more about it...

John 4

1. Whom did Jesus ask for a drink?

2. What type of water did Jesus offer?

Essay

Gospel Reading for
March 12, 2023:
John 4:5-42

When have you had to decide whether to believe what someone was telling you?

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, fill in the blanks in the sentences from John 4 about Jesus and the apostles in Samaria.

1. The apostles were _____ that Jesus was talking with a Samaritan woman. (verse 27)
2. The apostles urged Jesus to _____. (verse 31)
3. Jesus said his food was to do the _____ of the one who sent him. (verse 34)
4. Jesus and the apostles stayed with the Samaritans for _____ days. (verse 40)

Answers: 1. amazed; 2. eat; 3. will; 4. two.

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Film stars, genocide survivor, podcasting priest kick off Hallow 'Pray40 challenge'

By Gina Christian
OSV News

A former agnostic has teamed up with three film stars, an author and a priest to kick off a Lenten prayer initiative.

Alex Jones, co-founder and CEO of the popular Hallow prayer app, has tapped actors Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie and Jim Caviezel, as well as "Bible in a Year" podcast host Father Mike Schmitz and Rwandan genocide survivor and author Immaculée Ilibagiza, for this year's Pray40 challenge.

The daily prayer and meditation series, available on the Hallow app beginning on Ash Wednesday, invites participants to set aside time with God each day leading up to Easter. Fr. Schmitz, Wahlberg, Caviezel, Roumie and Ilibagiza narrate the prayers and reflections, which also are available in Spanish and Portuguese, led by Eduardo Verástegui and Juliano Cazarré respectively.

Last year's Pray40 campaign drew some 250,000

daily participants, according to a press release from Hallow — an impressive number given that just a few years ago, Jones was a self-described "agnostic" who, despite being raised Catholic, "had never really heard of the deep tradition of Christian prayer," as he told OSV News.

"I fell away from my faith in high school and college," he said.

Having majored in engineering at the University of Notre Dame, Jones, 29, began working in strategic consulting — and found himself drawn to what he called "secular meditation."

Using apps to guide his meditations, Jones said he nonetheless "felt pulled to something Christian," and began inquiring of clergy and religious if meditation and the Catholic faith were compatible.

"They laughed and said, 'We've been doing that for 2,000 years. It's called contemplative prayer,'" Jones recalled.

Returning to the practice

of his faith, Jones began to mull ways to create a Catholic prayer app — and hit on the name while "randomly opening the Bible" to Matthew 6:9-15, the text of the Lord's Prayer.

"The word that stuck out was 'hallow,' to make holy," Jones said. "It brought me to tears. It was just this beautiful combination of a deep sense of peace and a depth of meaning and purpose. Do I hallow God's name? Is he making me holy? Am I helping others to grow in holiness?"

Knowing some code, Jones created a prototype of the Hallow app, the first iPhone version of which was "terrible," he admitted.

But with the help of professional coders, he launched Hallow in 2018, and included a Lenten component the following year.





Now, the Hallow app currently ranks at number 5 among Apple's top downloads for iPhones, just behind TikTok and ahead of Instagram.

Jones said he and his team rely on a theological advisory board that includes Fr. Schmitz as well as Word on Fire CEO Fr. Steve Grunow and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of

Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana.

Users also suggest their own favorite devotions and texts, which led to the inclusion of

Movie Ratings

 Adults and Adolescents	Jesus Revolution (PG-13)
 Adults	80 for Brady (PG-13) A Man Called Otto (PG-13) Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13) M3GAN (PG-13) Missing (PG-13) The Pale Blue Eye (R)
 Limited Adult Audience	Knock at the Cabin (R) Plane (R) Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody (R)
 Morally Offensive	Cocaine Bear (R) Magic Mike's Last Dance (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

the spiritual classic "The Imitation of Christ" in this year's Pray40 challenge, said Jones.

"I had read it when I first started coming back to my faith, and I've read it now about two or three times," Jones said. "Every time it's so impactful. Such an intense, challenging book puts fire in your faith."

While social media can be "incredibly addicting," Jones said Hallow reduces opportunities for distraction by remaining audio-based.

Once the app has been customized for personal use, "you don't really engage with the phone," he said.

And even if users find themselves staring at the screen, "God is able to sanctify every aspect of our lives," Jones said. "There's nothing he can't use to help us grow close to him."

Gina Christian is a national reporter for OSV News. Follow her on Twitter at @GinaJesseReina.

Parish conversations this Lent with Flocknote, Dynamic Catholic

OSV News Cincinnati ens the impact of "Best Lent Ever," said Flocknote founder and CEO Matthew Warner.

Dynamic Catholic and Flocknote, two popular evangelization resource providers, have teamed up to provide the former's "Best Lent Ever" program available for free to Flocknote subscribers.

The program's video reflections, which invite viewers to find God in life's everyday "holy moments," can now be embedded in Flocknote text and email messages.

The new partnership deep-

"Parishes can do 'Best Lent Ever' together as a community," Warner told OSV News, saying the approach "becomes a touch point for a parish to build a deeper relationship with their people during Lent, engage them in meaningful conversations, and help parishioners on the fringes take a step deeper into their own parish community and toward the sacraments."

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On air

Mustard Seed Sunday Scripture readings and reflections

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

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94.7 FM, Columbia
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K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

INITIATION

From page 15

God brings to me and I love the people who surround me when I'm around the Church and faith," he stated.

He asked for prayers for safe travels and for good health and wellbeing for everyone involved.

"On this rock"

Logan D. Munford, age 14, enjoyed taking part in the Rite of Election, with rituals linked to the earliest days of the Church.

"It's rooted in tradition," he said. "It's really scriptural, what the bishop says and does."

Logan is clear about why he's becoming Catholic.

"Because it's the Church that Jesus Christ established," said Logan, a member of St. Brendan Parish in Mexico.

He's certain of that "because he told St. Peter that 'On this rock, I will build my Church,' and the Church became," he said.

This understanding came from a great deal of study — "through reading the Bible and reading things online about it,"

he said.

"I was curious, because I'd never been to a Catholic church, and I was wondering about why they do the things they do," he stated.

He started by going to Mass in the Extraordinary Form in Latin, "because that's what made me interested in it," he said. "And a lot of my friends thought that was interesting and they wanted to go, too."

He hopes his commitment to becoming Catholic gives clear witness to his friends, some of whom are Catholic "but aren't very invested in it."

His parents are very supportive of his decision.

Gathering with other catechumens and candidates in his parish is helping him learn and understand even more about the universal truth the Church upholds.

"It's fun, because I get to learn about the Church and meet other people who are becoming Catholic," he said.

He asked for prayers "for everyone to be able to understand

the faith and what's going on at Mass and what the Eucharist is."

Namely, "That Jesus is present in the Eucharist. It's not a symbol," he said.

Intense preparation

All Catholics are encouraged to keep the candidates and catechumens in prayer through these last, most intense weeks of preparation before they're received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

The symbols of fire, light, water, oil, bread and wine will be highlighted in a Liturgy filled with some of the Church's richest traditions and rituals.

Neophytes, as newly initiated members of the Church are known after the Easter Vigil, will continue meeting regularly through Pentecost, celebrated 50 days after Easter.

That phase, called Mystagoga, is a time to "savor the mystery" of Easter and to experience a full and joyful welcome into the community.

Childhood memories

Mrs. Jacobs asked for prayers that her children will continue practicing their faith and following the teachings of the Church into and through adulthood.

She knows that a good childhood experience helps.

"It's been so long since I've been to that church in Arizona," she said. "But I remember that it was good."

AFRICAN MASS

From page 13

real meaning of the law — love God, and love the law that we use to obey the Lord."

Several parishioners prayed the General Intercessions in languages spoken in various parts of Africa, including Igala from north-central Nigeria, Ibo from southeast Nigeria, Libala from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Swahili from Kenya, and Twi from Ghana.

After Mass, congregants gathered for a reception in the Newman Center's Multipurpose Room.

Daily Readings

Sunday, Mar 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Gn. 12:1-4a
Ps. 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
2 Tm. 1:8b-10
Mt. 17:1-9

Monday, Mar 6

Dn. 9:4b-10
Ps. 79:8, 9, 11, 13
Lk. 6:36-38

Tuesday, Mar 7

Ss. Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
Is. 1:10, 16-20
Ps. 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23
Mt. 23:1-12

Wednesday, Mar 8

St. John of God, religious
Jer. 18:18-20
Ps. 31:5-6, 14, 15-16
Mt. 20:17-28

Thursday, Mar 9

St. Frances of Rome, religious
Jer. 17:5-10
Ps. 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6
Lk. 16:19-31

Friday, Mar 10

Gn. 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Ps. 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21
Mt. 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, Mar 11

Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20
Ps. 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12
Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday, Mar 12

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Ex. 17:3-7
Ps. 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8
Jn. 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday, Mar 13

2 Kgs. 5:1-15ab
Ps. 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4
Lk. 4:24-30

Tuesday, Mar 14

Dn. 3:25, 34-43
Ps. 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9
Mt. 18:21-35

Wednesday, Mar 15

Dt. 4:1, 5-9
Ps. 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Mt. 5:17-19

Thursday, Mar 16

Jer. 7:23-28
Ps. 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Lk. 11:14-23

Friday, Mar 17

St. Patrick, bishop
Hos. 14:2-10
Ps. 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14, 17
Mk. 12:28-34

Saturday, Mar 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church
Hos. 6:1-6
Ps. 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab
Lk. 18:9-14

The Holy Father's prayer intentions for March:

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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




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FISH FRY ADS AND MORE ON PAGES 12-13!



Invitation to (W)holiness

nurturing body, mind and spirit as women of faith

Saturday, March 18, 2023
8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Kertz Hall of
Immaculate Conception
Church
1208 E. McCarty Street
Jefferson City


Treat yourself to a mini-retreat of faith and fellowship for women of all ages!

Spend a morning with other women who want to enhance/invigorate/renew their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Sessions focus on strategies to improve our physical health, reduce stress and anxiety, and deepen our prayer lives. **Join us in church for Mass at 8:00 a.m. prior to the morning's activities.**

Bring your sisters, mothers, girlfriends — all are welcome! A free will offering will be available.

To assist in planning, reserve your spot by emailing:
Jo: jacknjo@embarqmail.com or Mary: mcalflowers@gmail.com
Childcare provided upon request

 **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
CATHOLIC PARISH

This program is sponsored by the Immaculata Club of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Volunteer docents being sought ahead of Cathedral's reopening

Volunteers with a penchant for hospitality and an eye for beauty, history and eternity are being sought to serve as docents for the renewed and expanded Cathedral of St. Joseph in Jefferson City.

“Docent” is derived from the Latin word “*docere*,” meaning “to teach.”

“These volunteers will provide an important service in welcoming visitors and helping them discover the layers of symbolism in the sacred artwork and fixtures of our Cathedral, along with its significance at a house of worship and gathering place for Catholics throughout our diocese,” said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

Docents will give tours and answer questions, helping to unlock the building's power to evangelize lifelong Catholics and casual visitors alike.

An orientation session will be scheduled for docents ahead of the May 7 open house at the Cathedral.

Contact Jacob Luecke at jluecke@diojeffcity.org or 573-635-9127 for information or to volunteer.

Dispensation granted from Friday abstinence for March 17 celebration

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight has granted for people

celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 17, a one-time dispensation from the Friday Lenten abstinence for meat.

People who reside or are present within the Diocese of Jefferson City and who wish to make use of this provision are encouraged to observe at least one of these three alternative penances on that day: participate at Mass; participate in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross; or pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Church law grants the bishop of each diocese the authority to exempt certain religious feasts from the Lenten spirit of penance within that diocese.

The full text of Bishop McKnight's Feb. 24, 2023, decree can be found online at diojeffcity.org/decrees/.

Sunday Vespers for Lent in J.C.

Solemn Vespers, which is Evening Prayer for the Liturgy of the Hours, will be sung each Sunday of Lent at 4:30 p.m., beginning with a short prelude, in St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway in Jefferson City.

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March 18-19



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