

## Not what they planned

A Shelby County native and Franciscan University student was on a powerful pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the time of the Hamas attacks. The group got home safely with lots of prayers.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

October 27, 2023 • Vol. 67 No. 9

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Hermitage parish celebrates 50 years of tight relationships



By Jay Nies

A handful of Catholic families started vacationing around newly created Pomme de Terre Lake in Hickory County in the 1960s and early '70s.

Several others retired to the area, and still others were drawn to Catholicism by the witness of those early families.

"St. Bernadette Parish is rather unique in this diocese in that it was founded not by Catholic immigrants from Europe in the 19th or early 20th century, but by summer vacationers and recent converts from within the area," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

He was in Hermitage Oct. 14 to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of St. Bernadette Parish, located in the southwestern corner of the diocese.

"I implore you to remain faithful to your roots, to your ancestors in the faith who sacrificed so much for God and for their Church," the bishop proclaimed from the pulpit.

Faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, the people of Hickory County's only Catholic parish set about reasserting its role as a hub of authentic worship and charitable activity.

"What a great way to describe the ideal parish!" said Bishop McKnight. "A place where we are fed and nurtured and experience the mercy and love of God."

Celebrating the Mass with the bishop were Father Benjamin Nwosu, pastor of the Hermitage parish and of St. Ann Parish in Warsaw and the Mission of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cole Camp, and Father Robert Fields, former pastor of the Hermitage parish, who now ministers in northeastern Missouri.

See ST. BERNADETTE, page 14

A specially-convened parish choir sing the Communion hymn during a Mass with Bishop W. Shawn McKnight to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Bernadette Parish in Hermitage, in the southwestern corner of the diocese. — Photo by Jay Nies

## Pope designates Oct. 27 as a world day of prayer for peace as catastrophe looms in Gaza

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Warning against a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and ongoing conflicts elsewhere, Pope Francis called for a day of fasting, penance and prayer for peace in the world Oct. 27.

"War does not solve any problems, it only sows death and destruction. It increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future," he said at the end of his general audience talk in St. Peter's Square Oct. 18.

"Our thoughts go to Palestine and Israel," he said to applause.

"Casualties are rising and the situation in Gaza is desperate," he said. "Please, may everything possible be done to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe."

What is also "disturbing," he said, is the possibility the

conflict will spread just as so many other battles of war are being waged in the world.

"Please," he said, "let us continue to pray for peace in the world, especially in tormented Ukraine," a tragedy that is no longer talked about but continues.

"Silence the weapons," the pope said. "Listen to the cry of the poor, the people, the children, for peace."

He urged all people of faith to take the side of peace — "but not with words, with prayer, with total dedication."

For this reason, he said, he has decided to designate Oct. 27 as a day of fasting, prayer and penance.

The pope invited men and women of every Christian denomination and other religions as well as those committed to the cause of peace to participate in any way they feel is appropriate.

See PRAYER, page 11

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**MOVING?** If you are moving or changing parishes, please fill out information below. Clip and mail to THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN, 2207 W Main St, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914. Or complete the online form at [diojeffcity.org/update-individual-contact-information](http://diojeffcity.org/update-individual-contact-information). Allow two weeks.

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10/27/23

## Pray for deceased priests

Oct. 30 — **Msgr. Patrick J. Gilfillan**, Immaculate Conception, Macon (1964)

Nov. 7 — **Msgr. Denis P. Mulcahy**, Immaculate Conception, Brookfield (1967)

Nov. 10 — **Fr. J. David Maher**, Annunciation, California (2019)

Nov. 11 — **Fr. Leo P. Holdener**, St. Stephen, Indian Creek (1972)

## Secretary/Bookkeeper Position



St. Joseph Parish in Westphalia is seeking a parish secretary and bookkeeper, to begin fully in January 2024, with training to begin in the final months of 2023. This could be a 30-hour-a-week position with potential for 40 hours. It could also be two part-time positions, depending on applicants. There is some potential for flexibility of hours. For more information, visit [www.stjosephwestphalia.org/parish-secretary.html](http://www.stjosephwestphalia.org/parish-secretary.html). If you are interested in this position, please send a resume to Fr. Dylan Schrader at [dschrader@diojeffcity.org](mailto:dschrader@diojeffcity.org)

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS HIRING

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri is looking to fill several openings. Candidates must possess a strong commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities, understand Catholic Social Teaching, demonstrate its philosophy and values, and adhere to the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Welcome Center Specialist** (Jefferson City) — answer phones, welcome/provide client intake or referrals, administrative support and volunteer coordination

**Director of Community Services** (Jefferson City) — oversee strategic planning and program management, develop budgets, staffing needs, monitor program objectives and policies/procedures, evaluate outcomes

**Director of Counseling Services** (Jefferson City) — liaison with agency leadership, program staff, therapeutic service providers, local and regional service partners and regional/national agencies to ensure quality services for clients

**Director of Refugee Services** (Columbia) — oversees strategic planning and program management for resettlement efforts, submit grant requests, financial reports, data tracking, oversee staff orientation, training and ongoing supervision

**Finance Manager** (Jefferson City) — directly responsible for all levels of bookkeeping, accounting, risk assessment and audit compliance

More information is available through our job postings on **Indeed.com**.



# Decree of Appointments

*The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, hereby makes the following appointments to provide the most effective pastoral care of the Diocese of Jefferson City:*

### PRIESTS

**Reverend Stephen W. Jones**, from Director of Stewardship to pastor of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, Jefferson City, and to Moderator of the Stewardship Office, effective Nov. 13, 2023.

**Reverend Louis M. Nelen**, from the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish, Jefferson City to pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Moberly, effective Nov. 13, 2023, and continuing on the Diocesan Building Commission.

**Reverend Joby P. Thomas**, gratefully acknowledging his service to the Diocese of Jefferson City, and recognizing that he has been asked to return to his home diocese by Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, will conclude his parochial care of St. Pius X Parish, Moberly, effective Nov. 12, 2023.

Given at the Chancery in Jefferson City this 6th day of October in the Year of our Lord 2023.

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

Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse, JD, JCL  
Chancellor

## Controller



The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a Controller to manage the accounting department. Duties include managing personnel, Sage accounting and investment portfolio platforms, cash flow, accounts payable, billing, accounts receivable, PP&E, GL level and general accounting platforms. Specific duties include monthly accounting period closings and reconciliations, preparing monthly trial balances, preparing monthly financial analysis and quarterly financial statements. This individual will also manage the annual financial audit process and oversee all Chancery bank accounts and supervise maintenance of budgets.

Requirements include Bachelor's degree in accounting; minimum of 10 years of job-related experience including 501(c)(3) fund accounting and/or public accounting preferred, but not required; strong computer skills and ability to easily work in Sage, MS Excel and Word. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience will be considered.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply on **Indeed.com** or send resume to [hrrdir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:hrrdir@diojeffcity.org).

## Administrative Assistant



The Chancery office of the Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking a highly skilled Administrative Assistant for the Stewardship Office. This person is responsible for assisting the director and associate director in implementing the bishop's vision of spirituality of stewardship throughout the diocese, which covers 38 counties in central and northeastern Missouri.

### Responsibilities:

- prepare presentation materials and strategic briefings for deans and pastors
- general administrative and office management duties
- meticulously plan, coordinate and execute events and activities
- provide administrative support for the Stewardship Office
- work closely with the director and associate director as a team partner to educate parishioners on the spirituality of stewardship and convey the impact and importance of supporting their parish and sharing their gifts for the common good
- ability to travel within the diocese (no overnight travel); fleet vehicle provided for day trips

### Qualifications:

- practicing Catholic in good standing preferred
- bachelor's degree preferred
- event planning and management is desired

We are seeking a confident, competent individual to manage the Stewardship Office. Qualified candidates can apply on **Indeed.com** or send resume to [HRDir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org).

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### 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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# In discerning, Shaping Our Future Together suggests more collaboration

By Helen Osman

With God's help, Catholics throughout the diocese are determining the future of the Church in which they live and raise their families.

They're discerning how to build communities where divine worship, the sacraments, evangelization and service influence every aspect of their lives.

"We know what God wants for us — namely, the proclamation and fulfillment of the promise of eternal salvation," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of the Shaping Our Future Together (SOFT) planning process. "How we will go about cooperating with that grace and maximizing its visibility in the world around us in this particular time in history is what we're asking the Lord to reveal to us."

He set the process in motion last October, with parish leaders meeting simultaneously in five locations, grouping

themselves by deanery.

Each of the five deaneries — Central, North, See City, Southeast and Southwest — is led by a dean, who is a pastor in the deanery. Each deanery also has two representatives on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, a primarily lay group which serves as a consultative body to Bishop McKnight.

Through much of the past year, the deans, their deanery representatives and others from their deanery have been discussing and reflecting on how parishes can collaborate to grow and thrive.

They are using the mandate set by Bishop McKnight to create a deanery pastoral plan around seven essential values and "bold ideas and bold creativity" in addressing those seven values (see sidebar).

Acknowledging the uniqueness of each deanery, Bishop McKnight encouraged clergy

and parishioners to discern together on how to establish a thriving future for the Church in their area, through a planning process "tailored to the needs of each individual deanery — a process that builds on the positive work already being done in our parishes," Bishop McKnight stated.

### Common themes

That discernment and consultation took place in meetings, town halls and surveys throughout the first half of 2023.

While each deanery applied a unique approach to addressing the seven values for pastoral planning, some common opportunities and challenges are emerging.

As reports and analysis are being made, several common ideas are emerging as ways for parishes to foster deeper collaboration. Suggestions being raised in more than one deanery include:

- Establishing "coalition" councils, which would meet regularly to share information and network;
- Setting standards for sacramental preparation and using teams of properly trained laypeople to provide sacrament preparation across parishes;
- Sharing paid personnel, whether in pastoral work (such as youth ministers or adult catechists) or in administrative work (such as bookkeeping, website upkeep and facilities management);
- Creating programs or other ways to bring together people across parishes. Examples include hosting a women's conference or a men's conference for a deanery, providing deanery-wide sessions for initiating new Catholics, and inviting the youth and their families in groupings within a deanery to a regular "youth Mass" at one parish; and

### Seven essential values for Shaping Our Future Together

Bishop McKnight offers seven values essential to the Church's vision that must be used in pastoral planning:

- The sacraments are accessible and celebrated well.
- The parish is known for its hospitality and welcoming spirit.
- Priority is given to the well-being of our clergy and the need to prevent burnout among them. This includes recognizing priests are not allowed to celebrate more than two Masses on a weekday and three Masses on Sunday and holy days of obligation on a regular basis.
- Canon law and current Church teaching are embraced. There will be no "discerning" the changing of Church teaching to accommodate the lack of resources.
- Good faith formation is being provided for our children, youth and young adults, and families within a culture of lifelong formation for all adults.
- Good stewardship of the human and financial resources within the deanery is being practiced. We cannot expect people to perform professional services in the work of the Church without just compensation.
- The mission of our diocese is being fulfilled, as defined in our diocesan pastoral plan, by:
  - promoting the engagement of all parishioners in the mission of the parish through a stewardship way of life;
  - fostering a culture of co-responsibility, in which there is a mutual respect for the differing roles of the laity and clergy in the life and mission of the Church; and
  - strengthening the parish's capacity as a center of charity and sanctuary of mercy.

### Time and distance

Parishes in four of the five deaneries used an online survey to poll parishioners.

The four unique surveys were conducted March through July, with 2,688 responses received overall.

Some, but not all, surveys had questions particular to Catholic schools, youth engagement, women's ministry and how respondents served at their parishes.

Each survey considered the following questions in some manner:

- How far would people be willing to travel to participate in fully vibrant parish life?
- What are the challenges that keep people from being engaged more in parish activities?
- What are practical ways for laity and clergy to practice co-responsibility in the parish?
- What kind of adult faith formation would be of interest to parishioners?

Each survey also asked parishioners to evaluate their parish's liturgical celebrations, service or charitable outreach, and approach to hospitality.

See DISCERNMENT, page 15



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**OCTOBER**

Oct 23-30 The 2023 Catholic Peace Forum, hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of Korea and Japan; Paju, Korea and Hiroshima, Japan

Oct 31 Priests' Mutual Benefit Society Meeting, 10 am; Council of Deans Meeting, 11 am; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery

**NOVEMBER**

Nov 4 Deacon Retreat Talk and Lunch, 11:30 am, Chancery; Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Blaze of Glory Gala, 6 pm, Columbia

Nov 5 Mass for the Institution of Candidates for the Permanent Diaconate as Lectors, 10 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph; Confirmation Mass, St. Martin Parish, 1 pm, St. Martins

Nov 6-7 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Award Event and Board Meeting, Washington, DC

Nov 8 Mass for Deceased Priests, 11 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph; Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Executive Committee Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm, Bishop's Residence

Nov 9 Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Parish, Glasgow and St. Joseph Parish, Fayette, 6:30 pm, St. Mary Church, Glasgow

Nov 11 Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Chancery

Nov 12-16 USCCB Fall Plenary Assembly, Baltimore, MD

Nov 16-18 National Catholic Youth Conference, Indianapolis, IN

### Bishop McKnight's November prayer intention for our Local Church

For our family, friends and benefactors of our community who have passed from this world to the next; may they attain a share in eternal happiness through our Lord Jesus Christ risen from the dead.

### Intención del mes de noviembre del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local

Por nuestros familiares, amigos y bienhechores de nuestra comunidad que han pasado de este mundo al otro, para que puedan alcanzar una participación en la felicidad eterna por medio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo resucitado de entre los muertos.



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



# Franciscan University student, a Shelby County native, reflects on interrupted Holy Land pilgrimage

**Returns to school with renewed perspective on life, war, and being Catholic**

By Jay Nies

A group of young Catholic pilgrims to the Holy Land asked God to keep them safe and lead them home during the recent terrorist attacks in Israel and the nation's declaration of war.

Their prayers were answered and their eyes were opened.

"Seeing all of this unfold throughout the Holy Land should really push all of us to strengthen our faith," said Dylan Durbin, a member of St. Mary Parish in Shelbina, who was on a Holy Land pilgrimage when the hostilities broke out.

"We can't be afraid to seek more," he stated. "If we want to get to heaven, then you're going to have to do more."

Mr. Durbin, a sophomore at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, was one of 38 students on a pilgrimage led by Father Anthony Ariniello, founder of the Community of the Beatitudes.

The students were on a 10-day break from classes.

"I knew I couldn't miss out on this opportunity because I've always wanted to go," said Mr. Durbin.

The group began by visiting holy sites in the northern part of the Holy Land, including the Road to Emmaus; the place where Mary said "yes" to being the mother of the Savior; the synagogue where Jesus prayed while growing up; the Sea of Galilee; the mountain where Jesus preached the Beatitudes; the place where he fed the 5,000; and the place he stayed whenever he visited Capernaum.

"Seeing where the angel appeared to Mary was truly a



**Father Anthony Ariniello, founder of the Community of the Beatitudes, who led the students on pilgrimage and served as their chaplain, renews the pilgrims' Baptism while they waited in line for security screening at the Israel-Jordan border, on the way home from their shortened pilgrimage.**

— Photo by Dylan Durbin

life-changing moment for me," said Mr. Durbin.

The group launched into spontaneous praise at various locations, invigorating one another and those around them.

"I think I was most aware of God's presence when we all came together in praise and

Mr. Durbin knew little about the conflict between Israel, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority prior to the pilgrimage.

People in the group did notice fighter jets flying overhead and tanks being transported on semis, "but we didn't really notice any tension between people at all," he said.

The pilgrims were camping near the Sea of Galilee on Oct. 7 when Fr. Anthony gathered everyone around to tell them about the deadly bombings in the southern part of the country.

"At first we all were a little shocked, like 'How could this be?'" Mr. Durbin recalled.

He went with his default response to anxiety: "just putting my full trust in God."

"Whatever happened, I knew I was in his hands and that everything would be okay," said Mr. Durbin.

He was disappointed that the pilgrimage had to be cut short, "but I think it was the smartest move we could have made," he said.

It meant missing out on

Bethlehem and Jerusalem, where so many important moments in Jesus's earthly mission had taken place.

"But, we were in the best hands the whole time, and everything we did was for our safety, so I was okay with it all," Mr. Durbin stated.

The pilgrims resigned themselves to staying put for a while, since most commercial flights out of the country were canceled.

But as urgent prayer requests circulated among their friends, families and fellow students, the pilgrims began to see their horizons open up.

"The prayer warriors did so much for us, and it was helping tremendously," Mr. Durbin stated.

The pilgrims packed up their camp, boarded a bus and spent the night in a hotel.

The next morning, they crossed over into neighboring Jordan after waiting for several hours for security screening at the border.

While they were waiting, Fr. Anthony heard Confessions and renewed each of the pilgrims' Baptisms.

"It was very beautiful," Mr. Durbin recalled.

In Jordan, the group proceeded to the airport in Amman and boarded planes to their various destinations.

"The whole time, everything went perfectly and we could tell God was right there with us," Mr. Durbin stated.

Friendships in the making

quickly solidified.

"I went into this trip knowing hardly anyone on the pilgrimage, but I can now say they are probably all my closest friends," he stated.

He said visiting the Holy Land and getting to know some of the people there left an indelible impression on him.

"It really changed my perspective on my everyday life and not taking anything for granted," he said. "I recognize that death is more real than I ever thought, especially when we were in the country of a horrible war."

He recalled listening to a man on a tour bus talk about how fear and perpetual vigilance are a normal part of life for him and his children.

"I thought about how sad that is because they don't know life that isn't consisting of war and terror all the time," Mr. Durbin stated.

## A new perspective

Mr. Durbin hopes to return to the Holy Land someday after the conflicts are settled.

In the meantime, he asks everyone to join him in praying for peace in Israel and for the people who live constantly with the threat of violence and war.

"It's more real than I ever thought," he said. "I've never seen or even thought of war, so I think being there really put a new perspective on it for me."

"We all need to rally together," he stated, "because the Rosary can end wars."

Mr. Durbin is majoring in business administration at Franciscan University and spending this semester in Austria.

He enjoys studying abroad and continuing to practice his faith.

"I'm Catholic, and being Catholic means to be a member of the Church that Christ himself started," he said.

"Being Catholic brings forth happiness because you know truth," he said. "No matter where you go in the world, you can celebrate the Liturgy because it's always the same."

See HOLY LAND, page 19



**The altar was set for pilgrims from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, to have Mass near the Red Sea a day before they left the Holy Land due to deadly attacks against Israel by the militant group Hamas on Oct. 7.**

— Photo by Dylan Durbin

worship," said Mr. Durbin. "The biggest thing for me was watching the faces of bystanders and seeing them react to whatever we were doing in a positive way."

A time to trust



# PROMISE TO PROTECT



# PLEDGE TO HEAL

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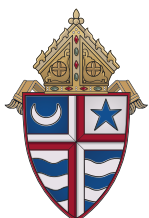
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**DIOCESE OF  
Jefferson City**





# Moberly pastor's mission in this diocese to conclude on Nov. 12

**Fr. Joby Parakkacharuvil Thomas to return to home diocese in India after 12 years in this diocese**

By Jay Nies

Father Joby Parakkacharuvil Thomas points to a large stained-glass window in St. Pius X Church in Moberly.

It depicts St. John the Baptist, the last and greatest of the prophets.

"From the beginning, I've been telling the people here that I came to Moberly to 'prepare a place for someone greater than I,'" said Fr. Parakkacharuvil, pastor of St. Pius X Parish.

He has been summoned to return to his home Archdiocese of Kottayam, India, after having served in this diocese since 2011.

He is a member of the Missionary Society of St. Pius X (MSP), a Diocesan Missionary Society for the Priests that minister to the needs of the church in India and outside.

His ministry here will conclude on Nov. 12.

"We are grateful to Fr. Joby for his years of service in our diocese and to Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt and the

people of the Kottayam archdiocese for sending him to us and allowing God to minister to us through him and his priesthood," said Bishop W. Shawn McKnight.

A farewell reception will be held on Nov. 5 in the Moberly Knights of Columbus Hall, after the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass in St. Pius X Church.

Fr. Parakkacharuvil has served at St. Patrick Parish in Rolla, then at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia, then for seven years as pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in St. Elizabeth and St. Anthony of Padua parish in St. Anthony, and for the past two plus years as pastor in Moberly.

He previously spent time in the diocese as a visiting scholar from the Pontifical Holy Cross University in Rome to the University of Missouri School of Journalism, with residence at Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, from 2003 to 2005.

"I've been in this diocese longer than any other," said Fr. Parakkacharuvil. "I have friends who I would say are like family in this diocese. I have people here who treat me as their brother or their son or grandson."

His accomplishments here include overseeing a full interior renovation of St. Lawrence Church in St. Elizabeth, renovation of St. Anthony of Padua church in St. Anthony, and helping to complete the groundwork and fundraising for a significant renovation of St. Pius X Church in Moberly.

He also started the St. Pius X Church Endowment Fund with a significant amount to take care of the future long-

term needs of the Church and her ministries.

Also, the St. Pius X Summer Feast Picnic was introduced to bring all community members together for 'communion, hospitality and fundraising.'

Finding a fine balance between being an administrator and a pastor has been a challenge.

"I believe I have done the best I could in this matter," he said.

He visited the sick and the homebound in his area, at least twice a year and more if requested, and paired each with a communion minister for the weekly visit.

"Let the Church go to those who cannot go to the Church," he said.

From the pulpit and the confessional, he's made a point of reminding people that they're God's children, created in his image and likeness.

"As such, we are to be the reflection of God's love, forgiveness and mercy in the world," he stated.

"When you receive the Holy Eucharist, you become the Body of Christ," he noted. "You also make visible the presence of God within you each day through your words and actions to your fellow beings.

"It's a constant process being converted and transformed," he said.

## "More alike"

Fr. Parakkacharuvil was ordained to the Priesthood in 2000.

He grew up in southwestern India, in the state of Kerala, a region with a substantially higher Catholic presence than in most of the rest of the country.

"The area is only about 25 percent Christian in Kerala," he noted. "But all of India is 2.5 percent Christian, so you can see the difference."

Moreover, "with a population of 1.3 billion-plus people, when you think of 1 percent, that's still a lot of people," the priest noted.



Fr. Joby Parakkacharuvil Thomas

His grandfather helped establish the parish that Fr. Parakkacharuvil was raised in.

"When my family immigrated to where we live now, they were active in starting the church and building the church," the priest noted.

"They kept the statue of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of our first church, and the things for Mass in my grandparents' house," he said. "The priest would come to say Mass in a thatched shed half a mile away from the house. My father and his siblings brought the things out there for that."

Later on, Fr. Parakkacharuvil's parents were instrumental in building a permanent church for the parish.

His mother has been teaching Sunday catechism for the past 40-some years and has helped two generations of children prepare for First Holy Communion.

While growing up, Fr. Parakkacharuvil went to daily Mass with his grandparents and prayed the Rosary and novenas every evening with them. The church bells ring at 6 p.m. and that's the time to start the evening prayers. This practice is still observed in most of the homes in Kerala.

He taught sixth-grade catechism when he was in 10th grade.

He said the state of Kerala in India is a wellspring of priestly and religious vocations.

"We have a longtime Chris-

tian tradition dating back many centuries there," he said.

Many of the priests and religious sisters serving throughout India are from Kerala, he noted.

"Even in America, Africa, Oceania and Europe, you see a lot of priests from Kerala," he said. "And many of the sisters who work in various ministries in the area are from there, too."

Fr. Parakkacharuvil studied in Rome and was ordained during the Great Jubilee in 2000.

He then ministered in his home diocese for a while,

then returned to Rome to study Church and social communications at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

"In the seminary and classrooms in Rome, we had people from all over the world," he said. "They all looked different — different skin color, cultures, food, their clothes — but at the end of day, we were all more alike than different from one another."

He served a TV internship in Rome and also worked in New York and at EWTN at Huntsville, Alabama.

He worked in the Vatican Museums during his studies in Rome as a seminarian and assisted as a server at a few masses officiated by the Pope.

He assisted Pope St. John Paul II at Mass in St. Peter's Square on Pentecost Sunday in 2000 as a deacon at the altar.

He was one of the first two priests to take part in an exchange scholar program with the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

He then worked for his home diocese's newspaper, in youth ministry for the Catholic school children, on the Vigilance Commission and Media Commission, and in the communication office while ministering in parishes there.

As a member of the Missionary Society of St. Pius X he served for almost two years in

See MISSION, page 23

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# Clay Rosary Project is long-standing Cathedral School tradition

By Jay Nies

Eighth-graders fashioned colored bits of clay into beads of various sizes, leaving unique fingerprints on each.

They were making their own rosaries while being called to make the Rosary their own.

“The main goal of this project is to draw attention to the beauty of the Rosary as a prayer,” said Joseph Powers, junior high religion teacher at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City.

Catholics observe October as the Month of the Rosary.

The students fashioned the rosaries out of durable super-sculpting clay and fishing line.

They also learned about the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, and why it’s important to incorporate them into a fruitful prayer life.

“I think they’ll be more likely to pray the Rosary if they make one,” Mr. Powers stated. “And I think they’re also gaining a valuable insight into their relationship with God.”

Namely, if they’re pleased with something they create, how much more so is the One who created them?

“They can view their rosary with a sense of value, because every bead, every spacer, even the cross, they made it with their own hands,” said Mr. Powers.

“I think that reflects how God looks at his creation and how he looks at each one of us,” the teacher stated.

The clay rosary project has been a rite of passage for an entire generation of Cathedral School students.

“It helps us connect more deeply with the Rosary,” said eighth-grader Fisher Jones. “We actually create the beads ourselves, and we get to pick out the colors of the clay we want to use.”

“It’s very personal, because you’re the one who gets to make it,” said eighth-grader Beatrice Baker.

“You get to choose what colors you want, so you can connect to God in your own way,” said eighth-grader Liam Quinn.



Students in Joe Powers’s eighth-grade religion class at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City create their own rosaries out of clay as part of an annual tradition that began over 20 years ago. The clay beads will be baked solid and strung onto fishing line. — Photo by Jay Nies

The students take small pieces of clay and roll them into the various sizes of beads for the rosary, then use a needle to poke a hole through them.

The make 53 “Hail Mary” beads, six “Our Father” beads, and 90 to 100 divider beads.

The dividers are smaller, flat beads of the same color, that keep the prayer beads properly spaced apart.

The students place the beads into one of the compartments of a divided cookie tray, which Mr. Powers takes home and bakes in his oven.

The process hardens the clay without scorching it.

After the beads and dividers have stood up to the heat, the students string them through loops of fishing line, tying them tightly at the base, then adding the beads for faith, hope and charity, then the cross.

“You know, when a kid helps make a meal, he’s like 90 percent more likely to eat it and enjoy it,” said Fisher. “It’s kind of the same way with this. You make that rosary, you’re going to be 90 percent more likely to enjoy the Rosary.”

Liam said this is much more than an art project or an easy “A.”

“You’re making it for Mary and for God, so you want it to be the best you can do,” he said.

But it certainly needn’t be perfect.

“It’s actually made by somebody — handcrafted,” said Beatrice. “Even any little flaws help make it your own.”

## “Powerful force”

Tom Kusick, now retired, started the Clay Rosary Project

during the first of his 15 years teaching middle school religion at Cathedral School.

“With all of our new technology, it’s so nice for these kids to be able to make something with their hands. I think that’s what makes it important,” said Mr. Kusick, who retired in 2015 but came back to visit on Oct. 15 and survey this year’s students’ handiwork.

The crucifix he made still adorns Mr. Powers’s classroom.

He marvels when his former pupils tell him they still have the rosary they made in his class, and that they still pray with it.

“One girl said her grandfather was buried with the rosary she made,” Mr. Kusick noted.

Others took what they learned about rosary-making and ran with it.

“I’ve had some tell me they’ve made them as presents for cousins and people like that,” he said.

He made his own first clay rosary when his children were young and he was just starting out as a teacher.

“We had three kids and hardly any money,” he said. “I wanted to buy a rosary and thought, ‘I really can’t afford this.’ So I made one.”

He refined the process over the years, creating some rosaries with intricate designs on each bead and presenting them to friends and family.

“You want to make them beautiful, but they also have to be sturdy enough to be usable,” he said.

Mr. Kusick and his family moved from Kansas City to a farm in Frankenstein, where he served as principal of St. Mary

School for 11 years.

He later helped residents of the former Central Missouri Correctional Center in Jefferson City prepare to take their GED.

He didn’t know what students at the Cathedral School would think of making rosaries when he introduced it to them the first time.

“Whenever you implement something new, you wonder if it’s gonna’ go over,” he said. “But it did go over, and now it’s something the kids really look forward to.”

“And it’s such a wonderful thing to do because praying the Rosary is good, and prayer is the most powerful force on earth,” he said.

## “Go deeper”

Younger students thought they’d lose out on rosary-making when Mr. Kusick retired in 2015. But his successor, Annie Crider, visited him at home and learned the whole process.

She, in turn, passed that knowledge along to her successor, Mr. Powers.

“Annie left me very good, thorough instructions about how to do every step of making the rosaries,” said Mr. Powers. “I’m very grateful for that.”

He also went to visit Mr. Kusick and observe the process in his workshop.

Other students see the eighth-graders making rosaries and get excited about it when their turn finally comes.

“I’m glad I can be part of that and part of such a long-standing tradition,” said Mr. Powers.

“We pray the Rosary to honor the Blessed Mother,”

he noted. “By doing that, we honor her Son, too. This object is meant to remind us of that. We give honor and glory back to the one it’s meant to honor, which is Jesus through his mother, Mary.”

Mr. Powers enjoys being a teacher — specifically, a Catholic school teacher.

“All education should be formative from an academic standpoint, and it is here,” he said.

“But it must go deeper. It must also be formative spiritually and personally,” he stated. “I think Catholic schools do an excellent job of that.”

“Being able to walk with our students on their journey with God, especially in junior high, when they’re maturing and questioning what they believe, it’s a challenge that I absolutely love,” he said.

## Inspired by this confidence

Liam emphasized the importance of turning to the Blessed Mother for help.

“If you pray to Mary, she’ll pass it on to God,” he noted.

Fisher said holding onto the rosary beads and moving his fingers from one to the next helps him keep track of the prayers while he meditates on the Mysteries for each decade.

Liam likes when he and his classmates pray the Rosary together, with a story or meditation from the life of Jesus and Mary at the beginning of each decade.

“It’s a really good way to connect it to your own life,” he said.



## QUESTION CORNER

## What justifies prayers for the dead? Why isn't the pope called Francis I?

By Jenna Marie Cooper  
OSV News

**Q: Praying for the dead: where can this be found in the Bible? I don't want any reference to the Catechism, thanks.**

A: As you allude to in your question, many of the details regarding the Church's teaching on Purgatory (and the utility and appropriateness of praying for the dead) is part of our sacred tradition, much of which is summarized in works like the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. I do feel compelled to point out that the truths of our faith being legitimately "handed down" via tradition is itself a scriptural concept. For example, in the New Testament St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians: "Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours." (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

We find a clear scriptural reference on the praiseworthiness of praying for the dead in the Old Testament's second book of Maccabees. For context, the books of 1 and 2 Maccabees provide a historical narrative of the Jewish people's fight to maintain their faith and culture in the face of Greek conquerors, and their eventual military liberation by the Maccabees and their leader, Judas. In chapter 12 of 2 Maccabees, we read that some of the Jewish warriors fell in battle, and it was subsequently discovered that they had been wearing pagan amulets in clear violation of the first commandment.

Upon learning this, Judas the Maccabee "then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought." (2 Maccabees 12:43-45)

You might wonder why this passage isn't better known, particularly in Protestant or Evangelical circles that highly value the role of Sacred Scripture. One reason for this is that the books of 1 and 2 Maccabees — along with other books such as Tobit, Sirach, and Wisdom — are part of what scholars call the "Deuterocanonical books," sometimes also referred to as the "Septuagint." While the early Fathers of the Church discerned that these books should be included in the canon (i.e., the official "table of contents") of Scripture, in the 16th century Martin Luther disagreed that these works were the inspired word of God. Because of this, Protestant Bibles omit the Deuterocanonical books.

**Q: I was raised as a Roman Catholic and remember always seeing a number after the Pope's name. I was taught the number indicated how many Popes had previously used the name. In reading the news stories about the recent synod, I notice that the Pope is simply referred to as Pope Francis. Is that a new change?**

No, not at all. You are correct that many popes have numbers after their name to indicate how many of their predecessors have used that name before them. For example, Pope Benedict XVI was the sixteenth pope to use the name "Benedict."

However, the custom is to start using numbers after the names of popes only when it is necessary in order to keep track

See QUESTION, page 18



## Papal Audience

October 25, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our catechesis on apostolic zeal, we have been reflecting on the spread of the Gospel through the witness of Christians of every time and place. Today we turn to Ss. Cyril and Methodius, two brothers who are venerated as "the Apostles of the Slavs" for their outstanding missionary work among the peoples of Moravia. As part of their effort to proclaim and inculcate the word of God among the Slavic peoples, they developed the Cyrillic alphabet, which made it possible to preach God's word and to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the language of the people. Encountering opposition, they came to Rome, where they received support from the Pope. Cyril died in Rome, while Methodius, now ordained a bishop, returned to continue the work of evangelization in the Slavic lands, where he died a martyr's death. St. John Paul II proclaimed Cyril and Methodius Co-Patrons of Europe in recognition of the abundant harvest of Christian faith and culture whose seeds they sowed. May the prayers of these two great saints inspire among the peoples of Europe today a renewed commitment to the reconciliation, unity and peace that are the Holy Spirit's gifts for the conversion of hearts and the building of a culture of authentic justice and fraternity.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from England, Ireland, Albania, Denmark, Norway, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Canada and the United States of America, in particular the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican from Louisiana, the members of the Association of State Catholic Conference Directors and a group of military chaplains. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you!



## Veterans Day Mass, Nov. 10 in J.C.

The St. Peter Holy Name Society's annual Veterans Day Mass and Prayer Service will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, in St. Peter Church, 216 Broadway in Jefferson City.

Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki, VG, pastor of St. Peter Parish, will preside at the Mass and preach the homily.

The Mass is offered for the men and women who have served this country in war or peace.

All are invited and encouraged to join in praying for veterans. Veterans and service personnel are encouraged to wear their caps and/or uniforms.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the St.

Peter Church Facebook page ([facebook.com/saintpeterchurch](https://facebook.com/saintpeterchurch)).

## Starkenburg concerts

**DATE: November 25**  
**TIME: 2 and 5 pm**

Sounds of Starkenburg Holiday

Concerts will be on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 2 and 5 p.m. in St. Martin's Church Museum, 197 Hwy. P in Starkenburg.

They will feature the 1860s Pfeffer pipe organ with Barry Bierwirth, organist; vocal performances by Melanie Bush, Tammy Bruckerhoff and MaKaylynn Ray; and instrumentals by Audrey Bush.

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# Cardinal Pizzaballa's heroic inspiration in these dark, chaotic days

By Editorial Board of Our Sunday Visitor

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa's recent offer to exchange himself for the children held hostage in the Gaza Strip by Hamas is a testament to his extraordinary leadership and unwavering commitment to peace. This selfless act of courage has showcased his dedication to the people of the Holy Land — Christians, Jews and Muslims alike — and his tireless efforts to bring about reconciliation in a region marred by conflict.

Today, leaders are often defined by their political acumen or strategic decisions. Cardinal Pizzaballa stands out for his moral clarity. When asked if he would be willing to offer himself in exchange for the innocent children held by Hamas, his response was unequivocal: "Anything, if that can lead to free-

dom and bring those children home, no problem. There is an absolute availability on my part." These words reflect not only the moral expectations of his priestly vocation but also his readiness to act on his convictions.

The Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See, Raphael Schutz, praised the cardinal's offer on X, formerly Twitter, saying, "My deepest heartfelt appreciation to His Eminence Cardinal Pizzaballa."

As of this writing, more than 1,000 Christians are sheltering in church buildings in Gaza. While the Israeli military has warned them to leave the area, Cardinal Pizzaballa says they "practically all have chosen to stay there because it is safer for them to stay, since the situation is even more delicate elsewhere."

The Vatican, under Cardinal Pizzaballa's guidance, has also expressed its willingness to mediate a peace agreement and to focus on the release of hostages and the protection of innocent lives.

## Urging the cause of peace

From the outset of the conflict, Cardinal Pizzaballa has urged a peaceful resolution. In a joint statement issued on Oct. 13 with the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem in the Holy Land, Cardinal Pizzaballa said, "We are witnessing a new cycle of violence with an unjustifiable attack against civilians in Israel." Following the attacks by Hamas, Israel cut off water and electricity and closed border crossings into Gaza. In response, these Christian leaders courageously called for humanitarian aid to be delivered to Gaza. (More than 423,000 people in

Gaza have already been displaced, the U.N. reports.)

The statement was met with criticism from Ambassador Schutz. Specifically, the ambassador objected to the claim, "We see a new circle of violence with unjustified attacks against all civilians." Ambassador Schutz wrote on X, "??What actually happened was that the 'circle of violence' (typical false symmetry expression) started with an unprovoked criminal attack by Hamas + Islamic Jihad (the Patriarchs refrain from mentioning their names) murdering more than 1,300 Israelis and from other 35 nationalities mostly civilians."

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen offered similar criticism of the statement. The minister told the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States

See CARDINAL, page 19

## Amid busy lives, Christ's presence matters; ours does, too

By Michael R. Heinlein  
OSV News



A quote attributed to St. Teresa of Avila often pops into my head as I start the day: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

The underlying foundation here, of course, is that by baptism we're each grafted as members of the Body of Christ. And that's what makes us Christ's presence in the world, as St. Teresa (or someone) so beautifully described it. But baptism isn't a magic formula. The grace of baptism transforms us more and more each day until we can say with St. Paul: "It is Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). But this depends upon our cooperation.

Christ makes available to us through the Eucharist a great gift, one that aids us and reinforces and intensifies the relationship we've had with him since baptism. It's in the Eucharist that we are given the opportunity to become more and more like Christ.

At each Mass we offer ourselves with the bread and wine, which are transformed truly into the real presence of Christ among us. We pray we are changed, too, like our offerings, to be ever more like Christ. But it follows

that the harder we work, by God's grace, to grow in our similitude to Christ, the more we realize we need to spend time with him, the more we need to soak up what his real Eucharistic presence ushers into our midst.

If we pause to think about it, Christ's presence in every tabernacle throughout the world should stop us in our tracks. We drive by our churches, but do we stop to visit him, to be with him, to adore him? Do we bathe in his light and absorb all that he wants to teach us?

The practice of Eucharistic adoration can easily be misunderstood and miscast as something inferior, dismissed as a pious vestige of the past. But it is interesting to observe how the practice of adoration has only grown in the last few decades. As the world moves away from God, adoration has offered something the world cannot give. Adoration gives us the opportunity to sit at Christ's feet and embrace our discipleship in its fullness.

One of the greatest gifts I have found about my spiritual family — the Pauline Family founded by Blessed James Alberione — is the centrality of Eucharistic adoration. Alberione put a Eucharistic "visit" at the heart of his spirituality: "Everything comes from the tabernacle; without the tabernacle there is nothing."

How true it is. If we want to be so filled with Christ that he is truly present within me, then we need to make the tabernacle the heart of our lives. No relationship can advance if there is no investment of time. Nothing can be truly present amid absence. Nothing can grow unless it is nurtured and tended. As Alberione further explains,

See HEINLEIN, page 19

## REFLECTION

### A moment's notice

By Mark Saucier

Years ago, I was in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Walking across a plaza, I saw a small group of people staring up at a mango tree.

I looked up but saw nothing extraordinary until a man next to me pointed to a limb and said, "*Perezoso, perezoso!*"

I followed his finger and found a lump hanging upside down on a branch — a sloth nibbling on a piece of fruit.

There is something today called slow eating, but this sloth made slow eaters look like Joey Chestnut at a hot dog-eating contest.

The movement of mouth to mango, the bite, the chew were all done at an incredibly, almost indiscernible, pace.

I was mesmerized, as motionless as the sloth, trying to detect some other minimal signs of life.

I remembered this the other day when I was reading something on the "seven deadly sins." You know, the big ones: lust, gluttony, greed, envy, wrath, pride, and of course, sloth.

I think of these more as states of being than specific acts; more as *deadening* than *deadly*. They are mindsets and addictions that impede our spiritual development, our ability to flourish.

It is unfortunate that one of these cardinal vices shares its name with the adorable and captivating sloth.

The sloth is native to Central and South America, so Europeans didn't know about the mammal until the 1500s, long after the sin had been christened with the word for laziness.

The earliest name for this impediment to spiritual growth was *acedia*, a Greek contribution that literally meant "a lack of care."

Thomas Aquinas wrote about *acedia*, or sloth, as "sadness about one's spiritual good."

Over the years, perhaps influenced by the sloth, the sin has lost this important psychological dimension of depression or hopelessness and taken on a popular understanding of sluggishness or soul-sucking boredom.

We fail to realize that spending hours distracted by our screens can be a sign of sloth, but so can workaholicism and constant busyness.

Both are escapes, diversions from the hard work of making sense of our lives and repairing our world.

And what about that seemingly sluggish sloth? Its unhurried movement is not laziness but a conservation of energy on which its life depends.

Watching it, we might even conclude that it is mindful, deliberate, aware of both the dangers and the opportunities of the present.

Ironically, that might well be all we need to rise from our own laxity and sloth.



# Encounter

## Gathering to learn, grow and participate in Charity and Mercy

### AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



By Ashley Wiskirchen

This fall, Catholic Charities gathered with parishioners across every deanery in our diocese, hosted graciously by local parishes for a morning or an afternoon together, to delve into the foundational social teachings of the Catholic Church.

The gatherings were known as Parish Engagement and Charity Events (PEACE).

It was truly a joy to spend time with parishioners for a time of formation, networking and learning together.

Moving through Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, we together laid a foundation for the “what,” “how,” and “why” of parish social ministry.

As the idea for these gatherings took root among our staff, we pored over materials and prayed for those who would attend.

We prepared and organized the three-hour gathering that we hoped would teach, inspire, encourage and equip parishioners who lead their parish, their parish social ministries or simply hold a curiosity about the

teachings we often call the Church’s “best kept secret.”

In the 2021 pastoral letter, “A Steward’s Journey: Our Call to Greater Communion,” our bishop made known his desire for the faithful to experience their local Catholic parish as a center of charity and a sanctuary of mercy.

Throughout the diocesan pastoral plan, the subsidiary deanery plans, and even into the local parish plans — the need to increase the parish’s ability to be known as a place of care, where people and their neighbors can go to give and receive help, is evident.

These needs are made tangible in the many calls for assistance that parishes receive.

In many parishes, the parish secretary and social minister receive requests to help with retaining housing through

rent assistance, with the need for funds to keep the air conditioning on in the summer or heat in the winter, with a need for food assistance to keep their families fed.

In the face of these needs, we see again and again the faithful’s desire to reach out in service of their neighbor.

According to our pre- and post-event surveys, 92% of respondents noted that their attendance to the PEACE event increased their awareness of Catholic social teachings, with 93% of them also agreeing that the PEACE event helped solidify how those Church teachings apply to their own parish’s charitable efforts.

Alongside formation in the social doctrine of the Church, we saw the great value of connecting-the-dots of social ministry from parish to parish.

Seated at tables of three or four people, our attendees spent time in discussion, often sharing thriving ministry experiences at their own parish or hurdles to growing their par-

ish’s capacity to serve.

With the backdrop of the Church’s call to help our neighbors and the awareness of existing ministries, we shared with attendees an overview of the Charity and Mercy grants available to support that growth in local communities.

“This event really opened my eyes to what charity means and how to apply it to my parish and in my personal relationship with God,” wrote one of our attendees.

Another shared, “Today’s Parish Engagement and Charity Event affirmed Catholic Charities’ and the diocese’s commitment to social outreach and charity.”

As we think about our efforts to increase networking and formation opportunities for those involved in parish social ministry, Catholic Charities Parish Ambassadors, and the faithful who are renewing their commitments to serve within their parishes during the

Catholic Stewardship Renewal, we keep this at the forefront of our vision: parishes thriving as Centers of Charity and Mercy.

I hope you’ll find a way to join us in 2024, as we bring PEACE events throughout the deaneries and closer to you!

*Ashley Wiskirchen is the Senior Director of Communications at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. Having participated in Catholic social teaching formation opportunities in her time at Catholic Charities, her desire to see that formation reach local parishes has taken root in the Parish Engagement and Charity Events initiative in the Diocese of Jefferson City. Alongside colleague, Tori Baker, and dedicated volunteer Paul Crnkovich (who currently serves the Columbia Newman Center as Director of Adult Faith Formation) these events blossomed across the diocese this fall, with plans to expand reach in 2024.*



The first PEACE event, took place at St. George Catholic Church in Linn, Mo. hosted 12 attendees. In total, 82 parishioners representing 28 parishes participated in the inaugural PEACE events hosted in each deanery of the Diocese of Jefferson City.

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## PRAYER

From page 1

### Familiar request

The pope's request follows the global day of prayer and fasting observed by Catholics around the world on Oct. 17.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight urged parishes and individual Catholics throughout the Jefferson City diocese to participate by fasting, praying for peace and abstaining from eating meat.

The efforts were "in support of all those who have suffered in this war and of the families reeling from the violence."

The call for the Oct. 17 day of prayer and fasting came from Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

He also asked for Catholics to participate in Eucharistic adoration and to pray the Rosary.

"Only in this way we can draw the strength and serenity needed to endure these hard times, by turning to Him, in prayer and intercession, to implore and cry out to God amidst this anguish," Cardinal Pizzaballa stated.

### Some local observances

Parishes and schools throughout the diocese reported by email and social media on their activities during the Oct. 17 day of prayer.

Typical of parishes and Catholic schools throughout the diocese, St. Vincent de Paul Parish and Sacred Heart School in Sedalia held Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, with people stopping into Sacred Heart Chapel throughout the day to pray.

Students at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City spent time in Adoration in the Cathedral — some praying the Rosary, others writing in their prayer journal.

Gina Bailey, principal of the school, said students and teachers really enjoyed the opportunity to have some quiet prayer time to pray for peace.

Shelley Quinn, pre-school teacher at the school, placed the flags of Israel, Palestine and Ukraine on the wall under the crucifix.



**LEFT:** Pre-school students at St. Joseph Cathedral School in Jefferson City pray on Oct. 17 for peace in the Holy Land. **RIGHT:** Students of St. George School in Hermann gather in church to pray the Rosary together.

— Photo by Shelley Quinn  
— Photo by Amy Schebaum



"I told the kids we were praying for these places because the people there are sad and hurting," Mrs. Quinn stated.

Sixth-graders at St. Peter School in Jefferson City prayed in St. Peter Church for the victims of the conflict and reflected on the powerfully symbolic artwork in the church while capturing some of it in their sketchbooks.

Communal recitation of the Rosary abounded, including with Sacred Heart parishioners in Columbia, students at St. George School in Hermann, and Marianna Werdehausen's second-grade class at Our Lady of the Snows School in Mary's Home.

Middle-school students at Our Lady of Lourdes Inter-parish School in Columbia gathered in church to pray the Rosary.

Parishioners of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Ozark prayed a communal Rosary in the parish chapel. The Knights of Columbus hosted another Rosary for Peace as part of their meeting that evening.

Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City held Adoration through most of the school day, with individuals and classes coming to the chapel to pray the Rosary together or silently intercede for peace.

### "Verge of the abyss"

On Oct. 7, Hamas militants stormed from the Gaza Strip into approximately 22 locations in Israel, gunning down civilians and taking at least 199 hostages, according to Israel,

including infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.

The coordinated attack took place on a Sabbath that marked the final day of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which celebrates the gathering of the harvest and the divine protection of the ancient Israelites as they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Israel declared war on Hamas Oct. 8, placing Gaza under siege and pounding the region with airstrikes. Hamas has continued to launch strikes against Israel.

To date, some 1,400 in Israel, including at least 30 U.S. citizens, and more than 2,700 in Gaza have been killed.

Israel placed Gaza under siege, and warned some 1.1 million in Gaza to move south within the enclave ahead of an expected ground offensive by Israeli forces.

So far, half a million in Gaza have heeded the evacuation order, according to the Israel Defense Forces, as United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said the Middle East is "on the verge of the abyss."

"There is yet time to stop the hatred," said the Jerusalem patriarchs and heads of churches in their statement.

### "War is defeat"

Pope Francis called for the release of the Israeli hostages held in Gaza and spoke with U.S. President Joe Biden to discuss the humanitarian crisis and the need to de-escalate violence in the region.

"I renew my appeal for spaces to be opened, for humanitarian aid to continue to

arrive, and for the hostages to be freed," the pope said after praying the Angelus Oct. 22 with some 20,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

Two U.S. hostages were released Oct. 20 after negotiations between Qatar and Hamas.

Pope Francis expressed his concern over "the serious humanitarian situation in Gaza," saying he is "saddened that the Anglican hospital and the Greek-Orthodox parish have also been hit in recent days."

A deadly Oct. 17 blast at the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, killed at least 471 people, according to the Hamas-run Ministry of Health in Gaza.

The militant group blamed the Israeli Defense Forces for the strike, while a spokesperson for the National Security Council said the U.S. government assessed that Israel was not responsible for the explosion.

An administration building belonging to St. Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church — one of the oldest churches in Gaza, built in approximately

1150 — collapsed during an Israeli airstrike Oct. 19. Palestinian officials said that 16 people were killed in the strike.

"War, any war that there is in the world — I also think of the tormented Ukraine — is a defeat," Pope Francis said after praying the Sunday Angelus. "War is always a defeat; it is a destruction of human fraternity."

Later in the day, the pope spoke with U.S. President Joe Biden in a 20-minute phone call to discuss "situations of conflict in the world" and the need to find avenues toward peace, the Vatican said.

*Contributing to this report were Gina Christian and the staff of OSV News, and the staff of The Catholic Missourian.*

*More photos from the day of prayer will be posted with the online version of this story at [catbmo.com](http://catbmo.com).*

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## 'A cloud of witnesses cheering us on!'

*This is the third in a series of teachings and reflections offered by the moderator of spiritual formation for the Jefferson City diocese.*

By Father Matthew Flatley

November is the month of All Souls. This special time allows Catholics to remember and pray for those who have gone before us.

Perhaps this treasured, and very Catholic tradition is one of the most precious of all.

This custom invites us to pray for the souls of the faithful departed and to also be mindful of our own death.

It is important that we maintain a relationship of love and faith with the deceased. We view death and the afterlife in the light of Divine Revelation.

*Having been stripped of mortality, we believe we will be clothed in a robe of immortality.*

This practice inspires us to be grateful for the life we have been given, for the people who have shared our lives, and who have loved and supported us throughout.

*St. Ambrose wrote: "We loved them in life, let us not forget them in death."*

Let us remember ... our Church teaches that all Christians are called to be saints.

Saints are persons in heaven, officially canonized or not, who lived heroic, virtuous lives.

They offered their life for others, or were martyred for the faith, and they are worthy of imitation.

*We honor and remember a communion of saints, this great cloud of witnesses.*

Scholars teach us there is no such word or phrase as the communion of saints in the New

Testament. However, the deposit of faith revealed in our Sacred Tradition reminds us that everyone in the Church makes up the community of saints.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of a whole raft of people throughout the history of Judaism, who acted by faith.

He is talking about Abel and Noah and specifically, he speaks of Abraham. He says by faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that

was to be given to him as an inheritance. And he set out, not knowing where he was going.

*His faith and trust in God, carried him through. So we, too, must walk by faith and not by sight.*

We call to mind Sarah and Moses, and so many others, members of this chosen tribe of ancient, faithful, holy people.

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. Paul

See WITNESSES, page 13



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# WITNESSES

From page 12

teaches us to lay aside every weight, and the sin, which clings closely, so as to run with perseverance the race that is set before each of us.

*These faithful souls, along with our own beloved dead, are our spiritual companions.*

Traditional biblical scholarship invites us to imagine a stadium and a race being run.

Those who have run the race before us are up in the stands, while we currently running are on the track.

This cloud of great witnesses are cheering us on!

*And we must look to Jesus to guide and lead us, and to give us*

*the strength to persevere.*

We believe we can assist our beloved dead with our prayers. After all, they may be in need of further purification.

We do not assume they have

gone straight to Heaven. On the contrary, we want Masses to be offered for their souls.

We want Rosaries and Chaplets and a whole bunch of prayers and sacrifices being of-

fered for them.

*So please, if I die before you, offer Masses for my poor soul.*

Our incomparable Catholic Tradition, teaches us that every soul must be purged, and purified and enlightened during

this race.

All of this divine grace is washing us clean, preparing us to enter into the Eternal Banquet.


*Fr. Flatley is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Jefferson City.*

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Sunday, October 29, 2023

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**2:00 - 5:00 pm**

The parishioners of St. Jude Thaddeus invite you to visit our newly renovated parish home. Take a tour, explore the beautifully renovated historic building, and walk through 113 years of parish history.



After your tour, join us in the Parish Hall for snacks with the parish community.

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Sing-alongs

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## ST. BERNADETTE

From page 1

About 125 people attended a dinner reception in the parish hall after Mass.

"I feel blessed to be part of this faith community — caring and committed to Christ's message to love God and our neighbor," said Fr. Nwosu.

"The parishioners of St. Bernadette are wonderful and welcoming people," he stated.



**LEFT:** Father Benjamin Nwosu, pastor, proclaims the Gospel reading during the 50th anniversary Mass for St. Bernadette Parish in Hermitage. **RIGHT:** People at the reception applaud for Evelina Samborski, who's preparing to celebrate a milestone birthday.

— Photos by Jay Nies



### Beside restful water

In 1950, what was then the Diocese of Kansas City established the Mission of St. Bridget in Hermitage and built a small chapel on a hill overlooking the intersection of Highways 54 and 254.

The mission remained active until 1965.

Later, Precious Blood Father Donald Green, who was pastor of St. Ann Parish in Warsaw, began celebrating Mass in the Pomme de Terre Lake area during the tourist season.

Father Joseph Starmann, who was serving in Jefferson City, set out in 1973 to create a full-fledged parish in the area.

Every Sunday during clement weather, he drove to Hermitage to preside at Mass near the shore of the lake.

Parishioners eventually bought land and built the original portion of the present church with their own hands.

"We all worked together," longtime parishioner Lucy Brown, now deceased, recalled in 2011. "We were like a family. The women would cook while the men were building."

The first Mass in the church was celebrated on Holy Thursday in 1976. The church was dedicated the following month.

The number of weekend congregants, especially during the tourist season, began overflowing the church.

The parish decided in October 1998 to add on to the front of the building, nearly doubling the total floor space

and seating.

Weekend Masses are now offered at 4 p.m. each Saturday in the church.

The parish has about 70 registered households.

While serving as pastor, Fr. Starmann helped establish the Hickory County Ministerial Alliance, an interchurch ministry to help people in need throughout the county.

The parish consistently distinguishes itself with its welcoming spirit and charitable activities.

For several years, the former rectory served as a secure home for women and children escaping domestic violence.

### Spilling over

St. Bernadette Parish caters to a primarily retired community.

Tourists and parishioners' families swell the local population on weekends. Sporting enthusiasts come in search of one of the best fishing lakes in Missouri.

Clifton and Mary Kay Brooks began camping at Pomme de Terre in 1966.

Mrs. Brooks remembers going to Mass in the Lion's Hall, which was much too small for all the tourists over the summer, and around Fr. Starmann's outdoor altar at the lake.

"One time, a storm came up while he was saying Mass, and people were leaning over the altar and holding everything down," she recalled.

"It got really bad, but he didn't stop," she noted. "He said that whole Mass in the

storm."

The Brookses made Hermitage their year-round home 27 years ago.

"This has always been a church family," said Mrs. Brooks. "I see a lot of people who don't have any family close-by, so this is their family."

Without a full-time pastor, the people of St. Bernadette pull together to keep things running smoothly.

"It's a great family parish," Mrs. Brooks stated. "And that's how it started out: as a group of families. People work hard and work together and look out for each other."

She recalled how a Sunday ritual of making and selling fresh donuts after Mass helped pay to start a Christmas toy program for children in need.

That program, now an interchurch effort, has spread to the entire county.

"They fill this hall with presents," said Mrs. Brooks.

She said parishioners see the need to help people in need "because we're Christians."

"God put us all here for a purpose, and a big part of that is taking care of people," she said.

### Extended family

Kansas resident and part-time parishioner at St. Bernadette, Teresa Kilkenny, missed her 40-year high school class reunion in order to attend the St. Bernadette celebration.

"Because this is family to me," she said.

Evelina Samborski was born in Collins, Missouri, "just down the road from here," 99 years ago.

She and her husband decided over 20 years ago to spend their retirement in Hermitage.

Before long, the Samborskis felt like they'd always been

**More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

members of St. Bernadette.

"I like these people," said Mrs. Samborski. "They're like family to me."

### Welcome home

Beth Lewis has been a St. Bernadette parishioner for three decades.

She grew up Catholic but did not practice her faith for about 15 years.

"One day, I'm sitting at home and I turn to my husband and say, 'There's something missing. I need to go back to church,'" she recalled.

The minute the couple walked through the doors of St. Bernadette, "we knew we were home," she said.

She noted that Catholics are a distinct minority in that part of the state.

"Sometimes, it's interesting," she said. "Sometimes, it's challenging. But it's always wonderful."

She's awestruck by the outreach activities the parish has undertaken through the years, especially when more people were living in the area.

The county has a heavy proportion of people who are elderly, as well as people of all ages who are in chronic need.

"We've got people on the board and who volunteer at the thrift store and the food pantry," she said. "Every one of us is doing something related to charitable work."

God is at the center of all of it, she insisted.

"You know, it is family, it is holy, and it is home," she said, "even to outsiders and visitors."

### Belonging

Bishop McKnight spoke of the importance of keeping the church doors and the parishioners' hearts wide open.

"God desires everyone to be in his kingdom and therefore, everyone is to be welcomed in this parish," the bishop said in his homily.

He pointed to the diocesan vision of parishes being universally recognized as centers of charity.

"It's simply the idea that the Church, this network of relationships that makes up St. Bernadette Parish, is to be a sanctuary of mercy, a sanctuary of peace," he said.

He addressed the struggles and sacrifices the people of St. Bernadette Parish have taken up throughout the first 50

See ANNIVERSARY, page 23



## DISCERNMENT

From page 3

A review of survey responses reveals almost unanimity on one matter: very few people indicated they would drive more than 30 minutes for parish activities.

People appreciate the convenience of having a church near them, whether because of their busy schedules, their concerns about driving at night, or because they just don't want to lose having a priest close by.

Across all four surveys, at least seven out of 10 respondents (and sometimes even more) said they prefer to drive less than 30 minutes to a Church activity.

The North Deanery, which has only 10% of the total number of Catholic households in the diocese, yet comprises one of the largest geographic areas of the diocese (with 12 counties) discussed the results of their survey at their Aug. 22 meeting.

Distance can be a challenge, the participants acknowledged, but they also noted that people can, and do, overcome distance. For instance, families with children will often travel extensively so their children can participate in sports and school activities.

Another person noted how their far-flung family works at finding ways to be together, both physically and online.

"We're called to be intentional to make family" within the parishes, noted Monsignor Marion Makarewicz, who serves as dean and is pastor of Mary Immaculate Parish in Kirksville and the Mission of St. Rose of Lima in Novinger and sacramental minister for St. Mary Parish in Milan and the Mission of St. Mary in Unionville.

### Toward greater unity

The North Deanery members also gently challenged each other on what they, as lay people, do to encourage unity and support across parishes. For instance, one participant asked those present how often they attend a funeral Mass at their parish, even if they don't know the person being buried.

Implicit in the conversation was the realization that the priest cannot be the only connection between the parish and those who are grieving; lay pa-

rishioners can also accompany people in their time of spiritual need.

That realization of how lay people can further the ministries and witness of the Church has been happening in the Central Deanery, too, according to Kelly Wheeler, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia and one of the Central Deanery's representatives on the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

"I am seeing an awakening," Wheeler said in describing the progression. "People are realizing: 'I am a lay person and I see where I can have some control in this situation.'"

"People are beginning to understand, 'If we can work together, we can really get a lot accomplished,'" she noted. "At the most recent meeting, for the first time I heard people say, 'This is exciting. We can think outside the box now — we can work with other parishes.'"

That concept of "better together" is core to what is coming to the surface in the See City Deanery discussions, too, according to Deacon John Schwartze, also a representative on the Diocesan Pastoral Council and who assists the pastor of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City.


"Until now, our efforts and programming have been largely parish-focused," Deacon Schwartze explained. "The result is we often don't leverage a successful program at a particular parish to the benefit of other parishes."

The See City Deanery has discerned "This is particularly true in the efforts to reach youth and young adults," he explained.

The See City Deanery's planning is focusing on cooperation, he said, "so we build on each other's strengths; and it is not just seeking to leverage 'what is,' but it is also to come together to plan new initiatives on what 'can be.'"

One such initiative that is being considered is marshalling the talents and gifts of youth for a Sunday Mass at a parish in Jefferson City, and extending the invitation beyond just that parish.

Deacon Schwartze pointed to an additional benefit when



### 5 Shaping Our Future Together (SOFT) DEANERY PLANS IN BRIEF

DIOCESE OF  
Jefferson City

<p><b>Central Deanery</b> Goals</p> <p>Leverage resources to improve communications and faith formation/sacramental preparation for youth and adults; improve quality of programming and reduce duplicative efforts.</p>	<p><b>How the Central Deanery will achieve its goal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Chancery resources and personnel to assess best practices, resources and systems in communications, faith formation &amp; sacramental preparation.</li> <li>Share financial costs across parishes for personnel and resources</li> <li>Create deanery-based Coalition Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>How the North Deanery will achieve its goal</b></p> <p>Meetings held once per quarter to allow parish leadership to share information and collaborate, building on the stewardship resources provided to parishes.</p>	<p><b>North Deanery</b> Goal</p> <p>Furthering stewardship and sharing of resources among the parishes</p>
<p><b>See City Deanery</b> Goal</p> <p>Collaborate to achieve sustainable ministry groups not possible on a parish-only basis</p>	<p><b>How the See City Deanery will achieve its goal</b></p> <p>Five initiatives which focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Masses and events;</li> <li>Young adults fellowship &amp; prayer;</li> <li>Support group ministries (i.e., bereavement, AA and divorced);</li> <li>OCIA collaboration and</li> <li>Women's ministry</li> </ol>
<p><b>How the Southeast Deanery will achieve its goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liturgical ministers formation (3 regional sessions)</li> <li>Women's Day of Reflection</li> <li>Men's Day of Reflection</li> <li>Parishes 1) create spiritually enriching environments in churches &amp; 2) find ways to welcome newcomers</li> <li>Coalition Councils to promote clergy well-being by transferring appropriate responsibilities to deacons, lay volunteers and hired staff</li> <li>Parishes discern ability to hire/share business managers and facility/maintenance managers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Southeast Deanery</b> Short term (1-2 years) goals include</p> <p>Formation and training of liturgical ministers, welcoming, sustainable inclusion and deepened spiritual experience of new parishioners, young families and Mass-goers; improve sharing of resources among parishes using Coalition Councils and shared personnel for business and facilities needs.</p>
<p><b>Southwest Deanery</b> Goals</p> <p>Identify best practices and develop consistent programming across the deanery in sacramental preparation; prioritize well-being of clergy; provide lifelong Catholic faith formation and vocation awareness.</p>	<p><b>The Southwest Deanery will achieve its goals by conducting research regarding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sacramental preparation in parishes</li> <li>How volunteers and liturgical ministers are trained</li> <li>Best practices that prioritize clergy well-being</li> </ul>

a program expands beyond the confines of a parish: Catholics become better witnesses of the faith to the larger community.

"The Church doesn't become just another building they drive by," he said.

Instead, he believes becoming more inviting to "non-parishioners" will also be seen as more inviting to all. "It is important for us to look outward that we reach those who have left the Church and to be a conduit to help them find their way back."

By inviting people into an event or Mass at another parish, "We're just doing what the Gospel tells us, announcing that the Kingdom of God is at hand," he said.

### Lifting each other up

A lack of welcoming or invitation was also revealed in the survey responses. A significant minority (about one of every six) survey responders indicated they haven't been asked to help or that they are excluded from some volunteer opportunities because of others "who have always done it a certain way" or "cliques."

Some deaneries, including the Southwest Deanery, recog-

nize that parishes can be more welcoming and increase engagement by giving volunteers adequate training and formation.

Sometimes, volunteer catechists and liturgical ministers are criticized for their misinterpretation of Church teachings or mistakes they make. People are reluctant to volunteer because they aren't confident in their own "faith knowledge" or are concerned they'll be chastised by other parishioners.

The Southwest Deanery intends to research how parishes are preparing people for all seven sacraments, how catechists and lead lay ministers are being trained, and then to offer parishes best practices so that the sacraments are accessible and well-celebrated.

Other deaneries are also considering how to improve lay faith formation.

Another way to invite more people into parish life could be by expanding opportunities for faith-sharing outside of the Sunday Mass or other worship/prayer experiences.

Survey respondents are favorable to more adult faith formation opportunities. Almost

universally, they prioritized opportunities to share in their faith, whether that was by Bible studies, small group faith-sharing programs or through a speakers' series or presentations.

Only one group of parishioners prioritized the creation of Rosary/prayer groups over other kinds of adult programming.

### Out in the open

While surveys have served as one way to gather information and perspectives, several deaneries have used town halls, or an open gathering of all Catholics, to discern how parishes can share and rein-vigorate.

When people attending town hall meetings realize that the planning process is not about closing parishes, everything shifts, explained Sheri Stormer, a Diocesan Pastoral Council representative for the Southeast Deanery and a member of Visitation Parish in Vienna.

Instead, parishioners have been able to explore and share ways to deepen the experience of worship, starting with people stepping into the church and settling in before Mass, to considering the benefit of parishes sharing professionals as facility managers.

The discussions have indicated that these professionals could ensure proper maintenance is being done on the buildings that are historic and spiritual treasures of small towns.

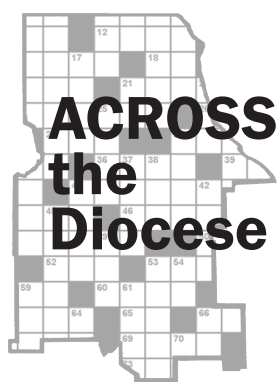
The Southeast Deanery is also proposing the creation of councils for coalition of parishes. These coalition councils could serve as an important part of the feedback loop for town hall meetings and parish leadership, allowing representatives from each parish council in the coalition to share information and increase ways to collaborate.

### Work in progress

The planning process continues, with two deaneries having submitted plans to Bishop McKnight for evaluation, and the other three deaneries on schedule.

Implementation of the deanery pastoral plans is expected to begin this Advent.





By Father Don Antweiler

### ACROSS

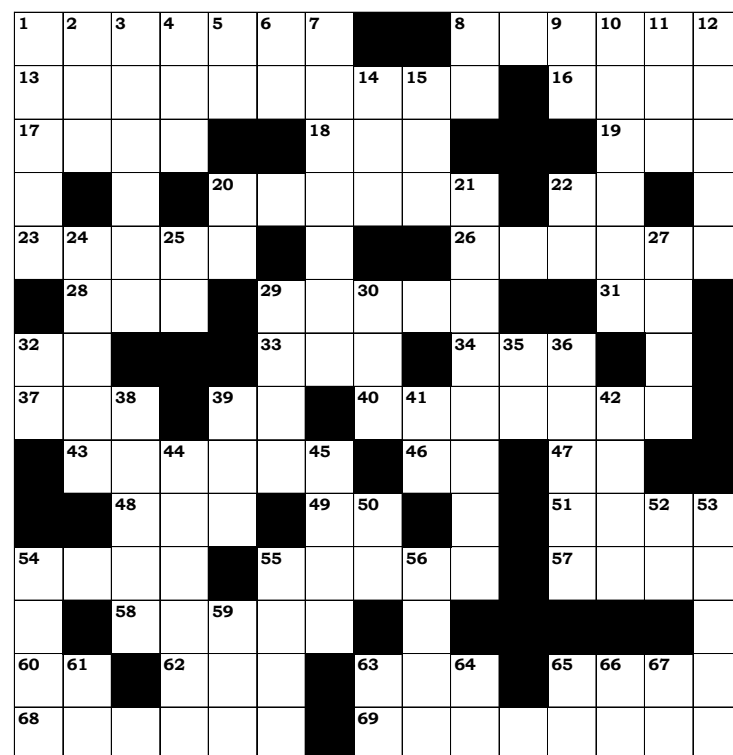
1. In 1899, St. Louis newspapers noted (buried on the last page) that a Frankie Baker shot an Allen Britt in the \_\_\_\_\_. Who knew that this little-noticed incident would inspire an unforgettable ballad, movies, books and a famous mural.
8. He and Moses were conversing with Jesus at the Transfiguration (see Luke 9:30).
13. "But these people, like \_\_\_\_\_ animals born by nature for capture, revile things they do not understand..." (2 Peter 2:12).
16. "The \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of life is to serve humanity," — Leo Tolstoy.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Street is the most popular residential street name to live on, followed by numbered streets.
18. "At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to \_\_\_\_\_." — introduction to the Our Father at Mass.
19. "Noting of him that doth fade But doth suffer a \_\_\_\_\_-change into something rich and strange," — "The Tempest," Shakespeare.
20. One story said Frankie was a beautiful woman who dressed well. Others said she was a "queen sport," (i.e., a prostitute). Allen Britt was a 17-year-old piano \_\_\_\_\_. He attached himself to Frankie.
22. Prefix for form or frost.
23. "Unless I see the marks of the \_\_\_\_\_ in his hands... I will not believe," (John 20:25).
26. "She read Dickens in the same spirit she would have \_\_\_\_\_ with him," — Eudora Welty.
28. Genetic material.
29. "...let us \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord who made us," (Psalms 95:6).
31. That's a laugh!
32. They gave her an intrave-

- nous (\_\_\_\_) drip to help hydrate her.
33. \_\_\_\_\_ Cruces, N.M. is home of the Museum of Nature and Science, the Railroad Museum and the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.
34. Which came first, the chicken or the \_\_\_\_\_?
37. To be sick.
39. Abbr. for the Evergreen State, which is the only State in the Union named for a President.
40. After the shooting, Bill Dooley, a black \_\_\_\_\_ and songwriter "composed a sorrowful dirge" called Frankie killed Allen. Allen Britt's family demanded Allen's name be dropped. We now know it as Frankie and Johnny.
43. The shooting became a \_\_\_\_\_. A play and then a book called *Frankie and Johnny* featured 20 different versions of the song, including the "St. Louis" version. Later more than 290 different versions were identified.
46. Bone.
47. Letters for gold on the periodic table.
48. Graduate Record Examinations (\_\_\_\_) is the world's most widely used admission test for graduate and professional schools.
49. "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world \_\_\_\_\_ fire," — St. Catherine of Siena.
51. "If you chance upon a bird's \_\_\_\_\_ with young birds or eggs in it...you shall not take away the mother bird along with her brood..." (Deuteronomy 22:6).
54. In Scotland, a steep bank or hillside.
55. "I was an athlete, but I also was \_\_\_\_\_. And so, I didn't really fit in with the jocks," — Trevor Bauer (2 wds.).
57. Former Russian ruler.
58. Also, in 1936 Thomas Hart Benton completed a \_\_\_\_\_ mural in Mo.'s State capitol building that portrayed Frankie shooting Johnny as part of Mo.'s history. It is part of every tour of the capitol.
60. "I started out playing clarinet at Xavier School. (But) \_\_\_\_\_ you were taught by the nuns, you didn't play jazz, I guarantee you!" — Hack in Charles Kuralt's "America: New Orleans."
62. "Rabbi, where are you

- staying?' He said to them, 'Come, and you will \_\_\_\_\_,' (John 1:38-39).
63. Hold your horses! I'll be there \_\_\_\_\_ minute! (2 wds.)
65. Hawaiian island ravaged by a fire.
68. A good usher not only seats people but \_\_\_\_\_ them with a hearty welcome.
69. "Frankie and Johnny were sweethearts" "She killed her man who was doing her wrong." The mural, the movies, and the legendary ballad remain as part of Mo.'s \_\_\_\_\_ history.

### DOWN

1. Peter's name before he became Peter.
2. \_\_\_\_\_-la-la.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ballad, Frankie and Johnny, that later would sweep the country, is somewhat murky and tawdry.
4. "Ambition in a \_\_\_\_\_ without morality is a dangerous thing," — Richard Boone as Paladin in the TV series "Have Gun, Will Travel."
5. "We'll go pray for the souls of those quitting this world. But all of us quit it \_\_\_\_\_ last, that's not the worst of evils," — *One Corpse Too Many*, Ellis Peters.
6. 101 in old Rome.
7. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ in the highest," — from the Holy, Holy, Holy in the Mass.
8. Elevated railroad, especially in Chicago.
9. "Faith \_\_\_\_\_ a precious ally in the search for truth," — Pope St. John Paul II (1998).
10. "They sold \_\_\_\_\_ to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver," (Genesis 37:28).
11. "Try the \_\_\_\_\_ houses and the Churches, Hugh. In either a man can be quiet and think," — *The Heretic's Apprentice*, Ellis Peters.
12. "'Now,' Peter said, 'tell me how much you know about Jesus.' Marcellus \_\_\_\_\_ himself saying 'I crucified him,'" — *The Robe*, Lloyd Douglas.
14. The legislature sits to vote yea or \_\_\_\_\_ on the proposed laws.
15. "I will not say \_\_\_\_\_ to what I do not believe," — *The Heretic's Apprentice*, Ellis Peters.
20. Letters for Post Script; an



- addition to the body of a letter.
21. He is expected to be \_\_\_\_\_ from the hospital today.
22. "Never hesitate to give and when you \_\_\_\_\_ give, never grumble, then you will know the One who will repay," — letter attributed to Barnabas, written sometime between 70-132 A.D.
24. Brand of headache medicine.
25. "He nodded. 'The published versions of the \_\_\_\_\_ Salette secrets are in the Vatican archives,'" — *The Third Secret*, Steve Berry.
27. Columbia, Mo. was founded in 1819 as Smithton, Mo. In 1821, it was moved ½ mile \_\_\_\_\_ across Flat Branch Creek (near the present Boone Co. Courthouse) to get closer to water supplies, and renamed Columbia.
29. Ku Klux \_\_\_\_\_.
30. Letters for what is called our sixth sense.
32. This State bordering Mo. is the nation's #1 producer of pork, home to around 12 million hogs (abbr.).
35. This book in the Bible tells of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (abbr.).
36. "The \_\_\_\_\_ mice were as tame as other Perelandrian beasts but seemed stupider," — *Perelandra*, C.S. Lewis.
38. The new Navy JAG officer went strictly by the book. She was known as the \_\_\_\_\_ eagle.
39. Very small.
41. Moon of Jupiter.
42. Mystery writer Grafton and
- WNBA basketball player Bird.
44. \_\_\_\_\_ gun; mechanic's tool.
45. In 1933, a movie called "She \_\_\_\_\_ Him Wrong," starred Mae West and Cary Grant. Another followed in 1936, called "Frankie and Johnny."
50. Warren Buffett, Marlon Brando and Fred Astaire are all from this State bordering Mo. (abbr.).
52. Letters a doctor may jot down indicating stomach ache.
53. Because of its breadth, Missouri has more miles of the infamous Cherokee \_\_\_\_\_ of Tears than any other State, over 600 miles through southern Mo.
54. Jail on a ship.
55. "Rock of \_\_\_\_\_"; — Christian hymn written in 1762 by Rev. A.M. Toplady.
56. City in Nevada, around Lake Tahoe.
59. Abbr. for retired.
61. Possible abbr. before a priest's name.
63. Letters for Ivory Coast; west African country which is home of Our Lady of Peace Basilica, the largest Church in the world, larger even than St. Peter's in Rome.
64. Hirt or Gore.
65. Possible abbr. before the name of a male.
66. Abbr. for Air Force.
67. Letters for Unitarian Universalism; liberal religious movement which includes a central belief in the singular and unique unitary nature of God.

ANSWERS on page 19



# Seminarians reconnect with families during recent visits



**LEFT:** Seminarian Luke Dalton, his parents, several of his siblings and three of his nephews gather with him during Family Weekend, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri.



**RIGHT TOP:** Seminarian Christopher Hoffmann and his parents represent the Jefferson City diocese in the four-mile walk during Parents' Weekend, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

## instituted as lector



**RIGHT BOTTOM:** Seminarians Christopher Hoffmann, Bryce Smith and Gabriel Eckstein take a break during Parents' Weekend events at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

Jacob Hartman, right, a seminarian in his second year of theology, which the Church now refers to as the Configuration Stage, at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, is instituted as a lector of the Church at Mass on Oct. 11. Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct the faith. Mr. Hartman is a native of St. Andrew Parish in Holts Summit.

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



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

## Fundraisers & Social Events

**Oct. 28**

**St. Anthony**, K of C Halloween dance, 8-11 pm, St. Anthony of Padua Parish hall

**Oct. 29**

**Mokane**, St. Jude Thaddeus Church rededication open house, 2-5 pm; **Monroe City**, Holy Rosary Parish fall dinner, 11 am-1 pm

**Oct. 31**

**Jefferson City**, Keep Warm clothing drive, sponsored by SSM Health St. Mary's and Helias Catholic High School, 8 am-5 pm, both locations

**Nov. 4**

**Columbia**, 12th Annual Blaze of Glory Gala, 6-10 pm, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School, for tickets email [jweimer@toltoncatholic.org](mailto:jweimer@toltoncatholic.org); **Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School open house, 9-11 am; **Warsaw**, K of C Monster Shrimp Boil, 3-7 pm

**Nov. 4-5**

**Jefferson City**, St. Peter Parish Sale-A-Rama, Sat 5-7 pm, Sun 8 am-2:30 pm, Selinger Centre

**Nov. 5**

**Boonville**, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish 50th annual turkey dinner, 11 am-3 pm; **Brookfield**, Immaculate Conception Parish annual turkey dinner, 10:30 am-1:30 pm; **Camdenton**, St. Anthony Parish annual turkey dinner, 11 am-2 pm; **Jefferson City**, Immaculate Conception Parish Holy Name Society pancake & sausage breakfast, 7:30 am-noon, Kertz Hall; **St. James**, Immaculate Conception Parish fall dinner, 11 am-5 pm; **Starkenburg**, Church of the Risen Savior Parish (Rhine-land) fall dinner, 11 am-3 pm,

Valentine Hall; **Taos**, St. Francis Xavier Parish fall supper, 11 am-6 pm

**Nov. 8**

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School vocal music concert, 7-8 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center

**Nov. 12**

**Glasgow**, St. Mary Parish fall dinner, 11 am-2:30 pm

**Nov. 25**

**Starkenburg**, Sounds of Starkenburg Holiday Concerts, 2 pm & 5 pm; soup supper & vendor market, 1-5 pm

## Meetings/ Workshops

**Oct. 28**

**Jefferson City**, Information session on the Permanent Diaconate, 9:30 am-noon, Alphonse J. Schwartze Memorial Catholic Center,

**Nov. 4**

**Columbia**, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, North Central Mo. District Council meeting, 10 am-noon, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's Flanagan Hall, for info or to RSVP call 573-449-8256 or email [mcmdcjc@gmail.com](mailto:mcmdcjc@gmail.com)

**Nov. 5**

**Edina**, Post-weekend Ultreya for Cursillo, 2-4 pm, St. Joseph Parish, for info contact [diocese.cursillo@gmail.com](mailto:diocese.cursillo@gmail.com)

**Nov. 7**

**Columbia**, Protecting God's Children for adults (VIRTUS training), 7-9 pm, Sacred Heart Parish education building

**Nov. 9**

**Jefferson City**, "Hot Topics: Current Moral Issues & the Catholic Church," presented by Jamie Morris and Fr. Louis

Nelen, 7-9 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph's Cana Hall

**Nov. 15**

**Perry**, Protecting God's Children for adults (VIRTUS training), 6:30-8:30 pm, St. William Parish

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

**noviembre 10-12**

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Crecimiento para Hombres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

**noviembre 17-19**

**Sedalia**, Retiro de Crecimiento para Mujeres, Escuela Sagrado Corazón, para más información contacte a Ilsi Palacios al 316-530-1004 o por correo electrónico a [ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com](mailto:ComiteDiocesanoRCCH@gmail.com)

**noviembre 18**

**Marshall**, Noche de Alabanza, 6:30-9:30 pm, San Pedro, para más información contacte a Liliana Ruano al 660-202-0317 o por correo electrónico a [nellymruanorn6@gmail.com](mailto:nellymruanorn6@gmail.com)

## Faith Formation & Spiritual Renewal

**Every Tuesday**

**Jefferson City**, "Tuesday With Faith," small group discussions, 6:30-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info, call 573-645-2478 or email [jimkemna@gmail.com](mailto:jimkemna@gmail.com)

**Every Friday**

**Jefferson City**, Centering Prayer Group, Immaculate Conception Parish, 11 am-noon

**Oct. 28**

**Columbia**, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd come and see event, 9 am-4:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops](https://diojeffcity.org/registration-workshops)

**Oct. 30**

**Jefferson City**, "Dwell: A Blessed Is She Study on The Eucharist" for women of all ages, 7-8:30 pm, Mary Room at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, for info or to register contact [julie.g@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Nov. 9**

**VIRTUAL**, "Fuel the Body, Fuel the Soul," monthly program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 7-8 pm, for info visit <https://bit.ly/fuel-the-body-and-soul>

**Nov. 13**

**Jefferson City**, "Dwell: A Blessed Is She Study on The Eucharist" for women of all ages, 7-8:30 pm, Mary Room at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, for info or to register contact [julie.g@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Nov. 18**

**Columbia/Jefferson City/VIRTUAL**, "Living Flame 1" 7-session program on in-depth spiritual study and enrichment of centering prayer, 9 am-2 pm; participants may join via Zoom or in-person at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia or Immaculate Conception Church in Jefferson City; to register visit [cocemo.org](https://cocemo.org)

**Nov. 27**

**Jefferson City**, "Dwell: A Blessed Is She Study on The Eucharist" for women of all ages, 7-8:30 pm, Mary Room at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Office, for info or to register contact [julie.g@cathedraljc.org](mailto:julie.g@cathedraljc.org)

**Nov. 28**

**Jefferson City**, "Seasons of

Christmas" Spirit-filled evening presented by Arise Women's Ministry, 6-8 pm, St. Peter Parish's Selinger Centre, for info call 573-690-2882, to register email [RegisterAriseEvent@gmail.com](mailto:RegisterAriseEvent@gmail.com)

## Liturgical

**Nov. 10**

**Jefferson City**, Veterans Day Mass and Prayer Service, 9:30 am, St. Peter Church

**Nov. 14**

**Starkenburg**, Second Tuesday Mass, 11 am-2 pm, Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows, for info visit [risensavior.diojeffcity.org](https://risensavior.diojeffcity.org)

## Youth & Young Adults

**First Wednesdays each month**

**Jefferson City**, Rooted/Connected/Searching in Community young adult group, 5-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall, for info visit [icangels.com/youngadults](https://icangels.com/youngadults)

**Third Sundays each month**

**Jefferson City**, Young Adult Mass, 5 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

**Nov. 1**

**Jefferson City**, Praise, Prayer & Pizza, 7-8 pm, Immaculate Conception Parish's Pleus Hall

**Nov. 4**

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School open house, 9-11 am

**Nov. 16-19**

**Indianapolis, In.**, National Catholic Youth Conference, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference](https://diojeffcity.org/national-catholic-youth-conference)

## Health & Wellness

**Nov. 30**

**Jefferson City**, Blood drive, 10 am-4 pm, Helias Catholic High School

[cathmo.com](https://cathmo.com)

## ENROLLMENT

From page 24

self-service option to enroll, you will receive a confirmation email upon completion of your enrollment.

If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of completing your online enrollment, please contact the enrollment center,

at 877-338-6311, prior to the end of Open Enrollment, as this means the enrollment was not completed.

Once Open Enrollment is closed, we are unable to make adjustments to your benefits unless you have a qualifying event.

## QUESTION

From page 8

and distinguish them from their same-named predecessors. Since Pope Francis is the first (and so far only) Pope to have taken the name "Francis," there is no need for a numeral after his name. But if we were to ever have a "Pope Francis II" in the future, then we would retroactively refer to our current Pope Francis as "Francis I."

*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@osv.com](mailto:CatholicQA@osv.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](http://diojeffcity.org/parish-correspondence)

For marriages and deaths, use the form at [diojeffcity.org/parishioner-update/](http://diojeffcity.org/parishioner-update/) so that we may update our mailing lists and records.

### Anniversaries

#### Argyle, St. Aloysius

Richard & Janie Buschjost, 40 years  
Vince & Kate Falter, 40 years  
Patrick & Holly Wulff, 15 years  
Terry & Laine Benson, 10 years

#### Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception

Tony & Carolyn Bruemmer, 66 years

#### Salisbury, St. Joseph

Steve & M'liss Sanders, 50 years

### Marriages

Rhineland, Church of the Risen Savior — **Tiffany Elsenraat & Stephen Crutcher**

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Cassie Twehus & Andrew Angerer**

### Baptisms

Argyle, St. Aloysius — **Clara Joyce Swarthout**, daughter of Anthony & Melanie Swarthout

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Josephine Mae Limbach**, daughter of Koby & Morgan Limbach

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Waylan McKenna Otto**, daughter of Jason & Mason Otto; **Carly Rose Wieberg**, daughter of Rodney & Dunja Wieberg

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Jayden Elliott Thomas**, son of Seth & Lindsey Thomas

### ROSARIES

From page 7

Beatrice said she offers each individual prayer in the Rosary for different people or different prayer intentions.

She pointed to how those who pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet do so "in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

"We're not just praying for ourselves but also for everyone in the world — not just on earth now but potentially for people who have died," she noted.

All three said they benefit from taking part in their school's XLT Adoration and XLT Ignite.

These activities bring fifth- through eighth-graders together for social interaction and communal Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament with contemporary worship music.

"There's also Reconciliation," said

### Birthdays

Mokane, St. Jude Thaddeus — **Freida Krenz**, her 97th on Oct.

St. Thomas, St. Thomas the Apostle — **Irene Boessen**, her 92nd on Oct. 16; **Eldora Hoecker**, her 92nd on Oct. 21

### Deaths

**Nellana DeGraff**, 80 — wife of Deacon John DeGraff, a retired deacon of the Jefferson City Diocese, on Oct. 3. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 24 at St. Mary Parish in Shelbina. Burial was in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, Mo.

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Francis Clark**

Kirksville, Mary Immaculate — **Gerald Carolan; Dorothy Gonnerman; Jane Lubbering; Carmelita McVay**

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Greg Adrian; Addie Goose; Mary Kempker**

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Florence Oakes**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **Robert Borghardt; Audrey Goodin; Samuel Hager**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Lawrence Lage**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Helen Boeckmann**

Liam, "so you can give your sins to God and allow yourself to be forgiven. And you pray to God with your friends and have fun with them before that."

All three said they appreciate going to a school where they can explore and grow in their faith.

"It really builds a strong foundation," said Fisher. "If you have that, you're less likely to veer away from it later in life."

"Here, you don't have to hide your faith from others," said Liam. "You can be yourself in all areas of your life."

Beatrice pointed to a moment this past summer that she could only have experienced if she was Catholic.

"It proved to me that God does exist and he does care about all of us," she said. "And praying the Rosary helps me to connect to that moment even more."

## CARDINAL

From page 9

Archbishop Paul Gallagher, "It is unacceptable that you put out a statement expressing worry primarily for Gazan civilians while Israel is burying 1,300 who were murdered."

### Morality can't be abandoned in the response to terror

Israel has the right to defend itself. But that defense cannot come at the expense of innocent human life. News media report that Hamas continues to hide behind civilians. Palestinians are being prevented from leaving their homes and from moving to safer locations. The evil means through which this war is being fought must be clearly condemned, and it has been by Cardinal Pizzaballa and the leaders of Christian churches in the Holy Land.

For his part, Pope Francis called for the release of hostages and the protection of civilians on Oct. 15. "Humanitarian law is to be respected, especially in Gaza, where it is urgent and necessary to ensure humanitarian corridors and to come to the aid of the entire population," the pope urged.

The response to terrorism cannot come at the expense of morality. And the leaders of the Catholic Church are teaching this clearly.

On Sept. 28, speaking to journalists,

## HOLY LAND

From page 4

That's what makes it so beautiful."

Mr. Durbin's family and the larger community back home helped shape him into a devout Catholic, especially his mom, Amanda Durbin, who as parish youth director encouraged him to stay active and connected to the Church.

"We all have the ups and downs of the faith, but that doesn't mean give up on it," he stated. "Keep striving for and asking questions if you're confused on something."

He noted that being Catholic means loving everyone, "even your enemy," and striving for holiness and sainthood.

"Faith alone won't get us into heaven," he noted. "That's why I try daily to do as many works of faith as I can toward others, and everyone needs to do that."

Mr. Durbin loves the Eucharist and can't imagine life without it.

"It's the heart of the Catholic faith, where we consume the real Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, not symbols," he said.

He tries to receive Christ at Mass daily.

"What better way to complete your day than having Christ at the center of it?" he stated. "As John Paul II said, 'Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure!'"

Cardinal Pizzaballa said, "To be a cardinal is not just a title, but also a responsibility, to be a voice from Jerusalem, of Jerusalem, about our situation, and also from Jerusalem to all the churches, to be able to say something positive for constructive building in this very complicated context." In his words and actions, Cardinal Pizzaballa is carrying this responsibility with heroic courage on the global stage.

Hamas is not likely to accept the cardinal's offer. But in extending it, he made the Christian response clear. The cardinal's willingness to put his own life on the line for the sake of others is a remarkable example of Christian selflessness and compassion. His public, unshakeable commitment to the Gospel is an inspiration to all Catholics.

— Our Sunday Visitor Editorial Board: Father Patrick Briscoe, O.P., Gretchen R. Crowe, Scott P. Richert, York Young

## HEINLEIN

From page 9

"In the Eucharist Jesus becomes our nourishment, so that His divine Heart may assimilate ours and make it one with His."

Our lives are busy. Many demands are put upon our time. Making a daily holy hour might not be a possibility, but we should not let that deter us. Christ has no body now on earth but ours, and we are members of his body. Rather than building our lives around our schedules, let's build our schedules around the Lord — making time to bask in his presence, so we can bring his presence to the world.

Michael R. Heinlein is author of "Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I." and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.

## Crossword puzzle answers





## Fire away!

**LEFT:** Students from St. Joseph School in Salisbury sport a replica fire hat they received during a Fire Safety Week visit to their school by Firefighter Perkins and Firefighter Jones from the Salisbury Fire Department on Oct. 12. Students learned how to stay safe if they were ever in a fire. They also toured the fire truck and saw the clothes the firefighters wear for safety in a fire.

— Photo from the St. Joseph School-Salisbury Facebook page

**BELOW:** Students of St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool in St. Thomas learn about fire safety and prevention Oct. 10 during a visit from the Cole County Fire Department. The students loved checking out the fire truck and hearing the sirens and horn.

— Photo from the St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool Facebook page

## Young people celebrate



Young parishioners of Shrine of St. Patrick Parish in St. Patrick gather on Sunday, Oct. 8, for their very first Youth Mass. Students from the Religious Education program proclaimed the readings, took part in the Offertory Procession, served at the altar and sang from new song books. Father Robert Fields, pastor, brought the entire parish outside to discuss the history of the Shrine's cornerstones during the homily. After Mass, the children played games with a new parachute. The next Youth Mass will be on Nov. 5.

— Photos from the Shrine of St. Patrick Facebook page

## “I was hungry and you gave me food”



Students of Immaculate Conception School in Loose Creek gather up the 569 food items they collected for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in Linn during a school-wide food drive in October.

— Photo from the Immaculate Conception School, Loose Creek Facebook page

## All in Christ! For Pro-Life!



**RIGHT:** Members of the LIFE Runners Team at St. Martin School in St. Martins don their “Remember the Unborn” gear for LIFE Runners Day on Oct. 5.

— Photo from the St. Martin Catholic Parish Facebook page



## Bible Accent

In the Gospel of Matthew, we can read another story about Jesus and a coin.

In verse 22, we learn that Jesus and the apostles had gathered in Galilee, and Jesus had just finished explaining that he would be killed and raised on the third day.

Jesus and the apostles then traveled to Capernaum. There they were met by a man who was responsible for collecting the Temple tax.

According to a note in the New American Bible, this payment was required of every male Jew above 19 years of age, and the money was used for the Temple's upkeep.

The man who was collecting the tax spoke to Peter. "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?" he asked. "Yes," Peter replied.

Peter then entered the house in which they were staying. Before he could say anything, Jesus spoke.

"What is your opinion," Jesus asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?"

"From foreigners," Peter answered.

"Then the subjects are exempt," Jesus said. "But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth, and you will find a coin worth twice the Temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you."

## St. Martin of Tours

St. Martin of Tours was born into a pagan family in Hungary in the early fourth century. His father was a member of the Roman army who moved the family to Italy, which is where Martin became a catechumen. He eventually followed in his father's footsteps and joined the military. After he was discharged, Martin lived a monastic life and founded France's first monastery. The people of Tours, France, declared him their bishop in 372. Martin was the first nonmartyr to be honored as a saint. He died in 397, and we remember him on Nov. 11.



## Pharisees try to entrap Jesus in speech

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic Courier

One day, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached Jesus as he taught in the Temple.

"By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?" they asked.

Jesus refused to answer them, because they were afraid to answer his questions about whether John the Baptist's baptism was of human or heavenly origin.

Jesus then told two parables, one of which was about a landowner who leased his vineyard to tenants.

The landowner twice sent his servants to collect the vineyard's produce. Each time, the servants were beaten or killed.

Then the landowner sent his son, thinking the tenants would respect him. Instead, his son was thrown out of the vineyard and killed.

"What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" Jesus asked.

"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times," the chief priests and elders answered.

"Did you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?' Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that



Illustration by Linda Rivers

will produce its fruit," Jesus said.

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest Jesus, but they were afraid of the crowds, who considered Jesus a prophet.

Instead, the Pharisees went off and plotted how to entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their followers to Jesus to ask a question.

"Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

they asked.


Jesus wanted to see the coin that pays the census tax. They handed him the Roman coin.

"Whose image is this, and whose inscription?" Jesus asked. "Caesar's," they replied.

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," Jesus said.

**Read more about it...**  
**Matthew 21 & 22**

1. How many parables did Jesus tell?
2. What coin was Jesus given?



**What did the scholar of the law ask Jesus to test him?**  
(Hint: Matthew 22:36)

**Answer: Which commandment in the law is the greatest?**

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### Puzzle

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

si            showe            stih            gemia

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_?

Answers: is, whose, this, image; Whose image is this?



## ‘Martyred and Blessed Together’: WW II is still giving us saints

*Martyred and Blessed Together: The Extraordinary Story of the Ulma Family*, by Father Pawel Rytel-Andrianik and Manuela Tulli, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing (2023), 176 pages, \$16.95.

Reviewed by Cecilia Cicone

Józef Ulma was a normal young father with a photography hobby who loved taking pictures of his children playing and taking care of one another.

He likely never expected that his photographs of his family would one day appear on holy cards.

In a new release from Our Sunday Visitor, Father Pawel Rytel-Andrianik and Manuela Tulli tell the story of the newly beatified Ulma family (parents Józef and Wiktoria and their seven children, including one in utero), Polish Catholics killed by the Nazis for hiding eight Jews in their farmhouse in 1944.

While there have been some miracles attributed to the intercession of the Ulma family — including one in the United

States, in Maryland — the basis for the family’s step toward sainthood is their martyrdom, as martyrs of charity.

*Martyred and Blessed Together: The Extraordinary Story of the Ulma Family* explores the family’s story from several angles, including a traditional biographical narrative, a chapter on the three Jewish families who were killed alongside the Ulma family, and a discussion of the impact the Ulma family has had on the Church in Poland and around the world.

With a main text that is just 125 short pages, *Martyred and Blessed Together* is a wonderful introduction to a family on the road to sainthood.

Rightfully so, the authors focus on two novel aspects of the Ulma family’s beatification: that they are an entire family of nine persons whose holiness is being recognized by the Church and the fact that one of the new blessed is a child who was not yet born, reinforcing the Catholic Church’s belief in the sanctity of life, beginning at the moment of conception.

The Ulma family faced an extraordinary moral decision as Christians who were watching their Jewish brothers and sisters being persecuted right in front of them.

No one would have blamed Józef and Wiktoria Ulma if they had chosen to ignore the situation in hopes of keeping their own family safe. Surely, many Christians made that exact decision.

But what makes the Ulma family saints is their heroic virtue, their willingness to risk their lives. — and ultimately to lay down their lives — out of love for their neighbors.

In living out Christ’s commandment to “love one an-

other as he has loved us,” Józef and Wiktoria Ulma fully lived out their vocations not only as spouses who aided one another’s journey to heaven, but also as parents whose selfless decisions, undoubtedly united to Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross, resulted in their children being granted eternal life.

*Martyred and Blessed Together* introduces readers to these holy ones who can intercede for them in all areas of suffering and growing in holiness, but especially for graces in marriage and family life.

The Second World War was a time of almost unprecedented evil, which produced such saints as St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Edith Stein, and Blessed Franz Jägerstätter — all of whom are known for their heroic virtue and willingness to suffer out of witness to the truth of the Gospel and God’s boundless love for his children.

Christians today who find their faith challenged, especially as they see injustice in their neighborhoods or witness the suffering of others, will benefit from reading *Martyred and Blessed Together*.

Perhaps we can all benefit by calling upon the intercession of the Ulma family for the

## Movie Ratings



General Patronage

Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG)



Adults and Adolescents

A Million Miles Away (PG)



Adults

The Creator (PG-13)  
A Haunting in Venice (PG-13)  
Killers of the Flower Moon (R)  
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (PG-13)  
Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Dumb Money (R)  
The Nun II (R)



Morally Offensive

Deliver Us (R)  
The Exorcist: Believer (R)  
Expend4bles (R)  
Saw X (R)

Ratings are supplied by OSV News Service.

### On air

**Mustard Seed**  
Sunday Scripture readings  
and reflections

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

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

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

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## Memoir tells story of priest’s suffering

**Fr. Stuart Long was played by Mark Wahlberg in the hit movie ‘Father Stu’**

*That Was Father Stu: A Memoir Of My Priestly Brother and Friend* (Ignatius Press) takes readers behind-the-scenes of edgy Father Stuart Long, as told by his good friend and priestly brother Father Bart Tolleson.

Fr. Long’s story was featured on the big screen by actor Mark Wahlberg in “Father Stu,” released last year, but this new book digs deeper into the priest’s life and suffering.

Tolleson received a bachelor’s degree in communication at Wheaton College and a doctorate in philosophy in Communication at Regent University, where he entered the Catholic Church in 1994.

He also received an M.Div. at the University of St. Thomas. He was ordained to the Priesthood in 2007 and has served as parochial vicar, administrator and pastor for various parishes in the Diocese of Helena, Montana.

*That Was Father Stu* will no doubt make readers laugh out loud at the priest’s rule-breaking antics from his teen-age years all the way through close to his death. He loved fiercely but was also

courage to love our neighbors and communicator who works without counting the cost. in diocesan ministry in North-

Cecilia Cicone is an author west Indiana.

blunt in his spiritual advice, hearing confessions often, leading people to believe he had a similar gift that Padre Pio had: to read souls.

Because *That Was Father Stu* is about Fr. Long, the book is naturally inspiring, insightful and often humorous. Fr. Tolleson and Fr. Long forged a deep and long-lasting friendship where they challenged each other to grow in holiness and face the challenges of a parish priest.

As the exuberant, edgy Fr. Long confronted a rare degenerative disease, the former brawler and professional boxer used every ounce of his declining strength to fight the good fight for souls.

*That Was Father Stu* includes interesting background on how the film about his life came about and eventually made it to production and release. Fr. Tolleson highlights some unlikely heroes in his friend’s life and how Fr. Long’s parents came into the Catholic Church before he died.

“It picks up where the ‘Father Stu’ movie leaves off,” said Mark Wahlberg, actor and producer, of “Father Stu.” “Father Bart put on the ‘big boy pants’ for this one. We come to realize in God’s mercy that Father Stu is still watching out for us.”



## ANNIVERSARY

From page 14

“Christians who suffer the demands of love and charity come to discover the true meaning and purpose of their lives,” the bishop noted.

Fr. Nwosu said the celebration was a testament to the deep Catholic faith that has been planted in Hickory county for over 50 years.

“Our ancestors in faith planted that seed in this place, and today God has blessed us immensely,” the priest stated. “We have continued to grow in holiness, in love of God and our neighbor.”

He said the people of St. Bernadette have en-

riched him by their faith and dedication.

He thanks God “for all blessings of this beautiful Catholic community over the past 50 years.”

“The love and passion for the Gospel is so intense,” the priest stated. “I feel so much love and friendship here.”

Mrs. Samborski invited anyone visiting or moving to the area to come to Mass and spend time with her and her fellow parishioners.

“You’ll feel like it’s where you belong,” she said. “I know that this is where I belong.”

## MISSION

From page 6

the Social Concerns Office of a mission diocese in northern India, in the State of Gujarat, serving more than 100 mission centers.

“It was extremely different from my home diocese,” he noted. “When you leave your home state, everything is different. It’s like traveling to the different countries around Europe.”

The people extended a remarkable welcome to him.

“Life is very simple there,” he noted. “When you go to the villages, it’s just bare-minimum things.”

He noted that there are numerous languages and some 2,000 regional dialects spoken in India.

“Every state is formed based on the language, after independence (in 1947),” he said. “We have 26 to 28 official languages.”

“Malayalam was my native tongue,” he said. “We also had to learn some Hindi. That’s one of the languages of India.”

### Now hear the word

Fr. Parakkacharuvil learned some basic English in grade school and became fluent while studying in the United States.

He said it took a little time for people in this diocese to get used to how he speaks.

“I tell people, ‘You might not understand everything I say right away. English is not my first language, not my second language, not my third but one of the languages I try to speak,’” he said.

A few weeks after he’d arrive at a new parish, people would always tell him, “You speak better English now.”

He’d reply: “You’re just getting used to my accent now. That makes a difference.”

From his first day back in Missouri, Fr. Parakkacharuvil found his parishioners to be warm and welcoming.

“Every parish in the world is unique,” he noted. “But in my experience, people are remarkably similar anywhere in the world.”

They may differ in skin tone, language, food preferences and manner of dress, but “if you have joy in your life, you celebrate; if you have sorrow, you cry,” he said.

He’s found the parishioners he ministered to in this diocese to be “very welcoming, very sincere, very hardworking, and very supportive of the Church and its ministries.”

He has enjoyed taking part in family celebrations and rituals of the parishioners he has served.

He applied for and was granted U.S. citizenship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He remains an outspoken promoter of Catholic education as he used to run Catholic schools in India even though he attended only public schools in his life.

“It’s a wonderful gift that we give to our people,” he said. “And whether it’s a full-time school or a CCD program, it’s a joint mission of the parish, and everyone in the parish participates in that mission.”

The key element, he insisted, is the practice of faith.

“Our school may have all the state-of-the-art elements and wonderful teachers and great kids,” he said. “But if they’re not practicing their

faith, then the ‘Catholic’ part is missing.

“Mind you, it may still be a wonderful school,” he said. “But the mission of the Church is not to run wonderful schools. The mission of the Church is to draw people closer to God.

“We are not here to run schools, but Catholic schools,” he stated. “If the teachers, children and the parents do not attend church and live their faith, that school is a school, not a Catholic school.”

He noted that the foundation for all the commandments and all Church law is “the two parts of one commandment: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

“That’s the pillar, the cornerstone on which all of it is built,” the priest said. “Any law that doesn’t go with love of God and love of neighbor has no value.”

### Stars of the heavens

Like countless men of faith before him, Fr. Parakkacharuvil studies the firmament and sees evidence of God’s unimaginable handiwork.

“The James Webb Space Telescope is picking up all that infrared radiation and trying to find the exact age of the Universe,” he said.

“It ultimately goes back to the ‘Big Bang,’ but we know that something had to come before that,” he said.

“There are around 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone, and 30 galaxies in our ‘Local Group’ of galaxies, and two trillion galaxies in the observable universe,” he said. “So, if we say we came to be by some

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Oct 29

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ex. 22:20-26

Ps. 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

1 Thes. 1:5c-10

Mt. 22:34-40

### Sunday, Nov 5

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mal. 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

Ps. 131:1, 2, 3

1 Thes. 2:7b-9, 13

Mt. 23:1-12

### Monday, Oct 30

Rom. 8:12-17

Ps. 68:2, 4, 6-7ab, 20-21

Lk. 13:10-17

### Monday, Nov 6

Rom. 11:29-36

Ps. 69:30-31, 33-34, 36

Lk. 14:12-14

### Tuesday, Oct 31

Rom. 8:18-25

Ps. 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6

Lk. 13:18-21

### Tuesday, Nov 7

Rom. 12:5-16b

Ps. 131:1bcde, 2, 3

Lk. 14:15-24

### Wednesday, Nov 1

ALL SAINTS (Holyday of Obligation)

Rv. 7:2-4, 9-14

Ps. 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

1 Jn. 3:1-3

Mt. 5:1-12a

### Wednesday, Nov 8

Rom. 13:8-10

Ps. 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9

Lk. 14:25-33

### Thursday, Nov 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)

Wis. 3:1-9

Ps. 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Rom. 6:3-9

Jn. 6:37-40

### Thursday, Nov 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ez. 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

1 Cor. 3:9c-11, 16-17

Jn. 2:13-22

### Friday, Nov 3

St. Martin de Porres, religious

Rom. 9:1-5

Ps. 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

Lk. 14:1-6

### Friday, Nov 10

St. Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

Rom. 15:14-21

Ps. 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

Lk. 16:1-8

### Saturday, Nov 4

St. Charles Borromeo, bishop

Rom. 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29

Ps. 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18

Lk. 14:1, 7-11

### Saturday, Nov 11

St. Martin of Tours, bishop

Rom. 16:3-9, 16, 22-27

Ps. 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11

Lk. 16:9-15

### The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for November:

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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sort of chance, that is an awfully big chance.”

He makes the comparison between the immensity of the universe and the immensity of the mercy of God.

“So far we know only a little about both,” he said.

However, the priest insisted, “God did not send his Son to judge us. God sent his Son to save us! If he allowed his own

Son to die for us, his focus is not the judgement, but the saving.”

Fr. Parakkacharuvil now asks for prayers for his future missions.

“I don’t know what exactly I will be doing when I get home, but I’m not worried about it,” he said. “I am convinced that God will continue to help me find what I need to be doing.”



# Message for diocesan employees about Open Enrollment

The following information is for employees of the Diocese of Jefferson City, including parishes and Catholic schools:

The Open Enrollment period for calendar year 2024 is

Nov. 6-17.

Please watch for an email from [no-reply@benmanage.com](mailto:no-reply@benmanage.com), which will include the 2024 Benefit Enrollment Guide.

Included in the benefit

enrollment guide will be directions on how to enroll for benefits effective Jan. 1, 2024, as well as information and rates for all benefits offered by the Diocese of Jefferson City.

If you are eligible for full benefits and you didn't receive an email with the 2024 Benefit Enrollment Guide, please check your spam/junk folder.

Your parish bookkeeper and principal will also receive a copy of the guide.

A few items to emphasize:

•If you would like to participate in the FSA (Flexible Spending Account) or DCF-SA (Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account) for calendar year 2024, you MUST make a new election. This benefit will not automatically renew.

Unused FSA funds, up to a maximum of \$610, will auto-

matically rollover to 2024.

•If you choose to utilize the

See ENROLLMENT, page 18

**Sale-A-Rama!**  
Vendor and Craft Show

St. Peter Parish's  
Selinger Centre  
Jefferson City

Saturday & Sunday  
November 4-5

Homemade Soups \* Country Store \* Snack Bar \* Quilt Drawing

**Holy Name Society**  
**PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**

Adults \$10  
Children 5-12 \$5  
Age 4 & under FREE  
Carryouts available

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5** from 7:30 am to noon

Bring your family and friends!

Immaculate Conception Parish, Kertz Hall  
**Jefferson City**

St. Francis Xavier  
**FALL SUPPER**  
TAOS, MISSOURI

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5** 11am - 6pm

Games - Country Store  
Prizes - Muffin Pan  
Kids Games - Refreshments

Turkey, sausage, mashed potatoes & gravy, Heritage dressing, green beans, fried apples, homemade breads & desserts

**BACK THIS YEAR: sweet potatoes & turnips**

Adults \$15 Kids 6-12 \$7  
5 & under free  
Dinners to go \$15

Mass at 8:00 & 10:00 am

**Monster**  
**SHRIMP BOIL BENEFIT**

Saturday, November 4  
3-7 pm

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL—WILDCAT DRIVE  
**WARSAW**

Great food...ALL you can eat!  
Shrimp, Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Roll, Drink, Dessert

Adults \$20 with advance ticket / \$22 at the door  
Children under 12 is 1/2 price

**NEW!**—Take-out curbside \$20 per meal

Come join us for a great meal and benefit your local charities!

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Jay Harris Council 8620  
For more info contact Joe Gazarek @ 660-890-5013  
or Dave Grimes @ 573-776-8333

St. Mary Parish Annual  
**FALL DINNER**

Sunday, November 12

Drive-thru dinner at St. Mary School  
**Glasgow**

Turkey, Smoked Ham, Dressing, Pie and More!  
\$15 per meal • Drinks and seating available at the Knights Hall  
Limited in-town deliveries, call 660-728-2013 or 660-728-2921 after 3 pm  
Served from 11 am to 2:30 pm

All day festival fun at the Knights of Columbus! • Booths open from 10 am to 3 pm  
Craft Corner / Country Kitchen / Religious Goods / Prizes & Games / Auction 3 pm

**Church of the Risen Savior**  
**FALL DINNER**

Valentine Hall — Starkenburg  
197 Highway P, Rhineland  
Handicapped accessible hall; paved parking spaces.

**Sunday, November 5**  
11 am - 3 pm

Dine-In or Carry-Out Adults \$15 | Kids 6-12 \$5  
Kids 5 & under FREE | Adults 90 & over FREE

Country fried chicken, whole hog sausage, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, Missouri baked apples, dinner rolls, salads, pie & desserts

Country Store  
Quilt Prizes  
Religious Articles