

## Helping Hands

A community food pantry and thrift store just outside St. Elizabeth is proof of the amazing things that happen when people of faith join forces to help those in need.

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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

March 6, 2020 • Vol. 63 No. 18

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Donors eradicate \$6.2 million debt at Tolton Catholic H.S.



**Generous gifts open the door to growth and development**

By Jay Nies

Free of heavy debt, Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia can now focus more intently on its mission and its future.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight announced Feb. 25 that "multiple generous benefactors from the Columbia community and beyond" had agreed to pay off the school's \$6.2 million debt over the next three years.

"I am humbled, delighted and very grateful," the bishop stated during a gathering at the school. "By removing the burden of this debt, our benefactors have given us the chance to expand and enrich the educational and formation programs at Tolton Catholic."

The donors wish to remain anonymous.

Jill McIntosh, the school's interim president, said the benefactors' gift will have an immediate effect on day-to-day operations.

"It will allow us to serve our students even better," she stated.

"We can now invest more in teacher training and retention," she said. "We can invest more in the classroom. We can invest more in student resources that will increase the quality and substance of what we already have in place."

Opened in 2011, Tolton Catholic has 252 students in grades 9 through 12.

The diocese raised about \$8 million toward the roughly \$15 million cost of building and opening the school, financing the rest through about \$7 million in bonds.

"Over the years, we've been slowly,

**Students depart from Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia at the end of the day on March 3. A group of donors who wish to remain anonymous pledged to eradicate the school's \$6.2 million debt, freeing up resources to expand and enrich the educational and formation programs at the school, which opened in 2011.**

— Photo by Father Paul Clark

## Bishop McKnight appoints Dr. Erin Vader to be diocesan superintendent of schools

**Fort Worth school leader excited about renewed emphasis on stewardship**

By Jay Nies

Determined and joyful.

That's how Dr. Erin Vader sums up her approach to Catholic education.

"I set my mind to things and do everything I can to see them to fruition — and I like to have a good time while I'm doing it," stated Dr. Vader, newly-appointed superintendent of Catholic schools for the Jefferson City diocese.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight appointed Dr. Vader under the unanimous recommendation of a diocesan search committee.

She will begin on May 1.

"Her wealth of experience in Catholic education and her

mission-based leadership is certain to ensure that our students are equipped to be the next generation of Catholic innovators, community-builders and holy men and women," said Bishop McKnight.

Dr. Vader comes to Missouri from the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, where she grew up Catholic, attended Catholic schools and served for the past 24 years in roles pertaining to Catholic education.

She is currently the Fort Worth diocese's coordinator for schools advancement.

"My first priority has always been the students," she stated. "I'm eager to build on the Jefferson City diocese's very strong foundation of forming young people to be critical

See SUPERINTENDENT, page 15

See TOLTON CATHOLIC, page 14

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## Helias Catholic Musical

DATE: March 13-15

Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City will present its 2020 Spring Musical, "Disney's The Little Mermaid," from Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15, at the Miller Performing Arts Center, 501 Madison St.

Friday and Saturday's performances will be a 7 p.m., and Sunday's performance will be at 2 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now by calling Helias Catholic at (573) 635-6139.

## Pray for deceased priests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mar. 19 — **Fr. Fred J. Barnett**, St. Patrick, Laurie; and St. Philip Benizi, Versailles (2011)

## Seeking Christ for Our Nation

The next "Seeking Christ for our Nation" Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday, March 17**, at 6 p.m. in Our Lady of the Snows Church in Mary's Home.

## Women's Ecumenical Lenten Retreat at Kirksville Newman Center

DATE: March 29  
TIME: 9 am - 3 pm

Mary Immaculate parish in Kirksville will hold its annual Women's Interfaith Lenten Retreat from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 29.

It will be at the Kirksville Newman Center, 709 S. Davis St., on the campus of Truman State University.

The theme will be "@ Your Table: Love Like Mary, Serve Like Martha."

The presenters will be Kyle Clark, a member of St. Joseph parish in Edina and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and Janelle Stephens, a math teacher and part-time youth minister at Mary Immaculate parish in Kirksville. Both are involved in Great River and Mid-Amer-



Janelle Stephens and Kyle Clark will be the presenters at Mary Immaculate parish's 2020 Ecumenical Women's Lenten Retreat at the Catholic Newman Center in Kirksville.  
— Photo by Pat Lehr

ica Teens Encounter Christ.

All women ages 16 and up are invited and encouraged to attend.

The suggested donation is \$20 per person at the door.

Please bring a Bible. If you do not have one, there will be extras available.

Register online at [tinyurl.com/miyoustable](http://tinyurl.com/miyoustable) by March 23.

For information, contact Pat Lehr at [pat.lehr@miparish.org](mailto:pat.lehr@miparish.org).

## Position openings - Hannibal, Mo.

Holy Family School in Hannibal, Mo., an accredited elementary school (PreK-8) of 170 students, is seeking a **Third Grade Teacher** for the 2020-2021 school year.

In addition, we are looking for a dynamic, faith-filled **Principal** with proven leadership skills for the 2020-2021 school year, effective July 1, 2020. Qualified candidates for this position must be a practicing Catholic with administrative certification or the ability to become certified, and must have teaching experience of a minimum of 5 years. Catholic school experience preferred.

Applications for both positions are available at [www.diojeffcity.org](http://www.diojeffcity.org), scroll to bottom and select Schools Office, then click Job Opportunities.

## Daylight Savings Time starts March 8

Daylight Savings Time will start at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.

Remember to "spring forward" one hour before bed on Saturday, March 7.

### The Catholic Missourian

Official newspaper — Diocese of Jefferson City  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 104900 Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900. Phone: (573) 635-9127

"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."

— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight  
Publisher

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THE CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN (ISSN 1083-6977 or USPS 556940), March 6, 2020, volume 63, number 18. Published monthly at 2207 West Main, Jefferson City, MO 65109. Subscription price \$14 a year through parish plan. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, Mo. and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Catholic Missourian, PO Box 104900, Jefferson City MO 65110-4900.

## PRINCIPAL POSITION

Immaculate Conception School in Montgomery City, Mo. is seeking applications for the 2020-2021 school year for a Principal. For information, contact Fr. Austin Okoli at 573-564-2375 or [imm-con@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imm-con@sbcglobal.net).

## HOLY CROSS LENTEN FISH FRYS

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## Westphalia Senior Citizens Complex

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## Bishop McKnight sends health recommendations to parishes

*Bishop W. Shawn McKnight sent the following information and recommendations to parishes throughout the Jefferson City diocese on Feb. 28:*

As we face the annual cold and flu season, with a severe outbreak of influenza in our region, complicated by concerns over the novel coronavirus, it is important we all understand and

promote healthy practices in our parishes and schools.

With that, pastors are advised to consider the following temporary modifications as suggestions:

•Out of an abundance of caution, those who are ill should stay home. Those who have weak or compromised immune systems (i.e., the elderly, the infirmed, infants and young children)

should consider avoiding large gatherings. In this flu season, this means their obligation to attend Mass is lifted by the bishop.

•Discontinuing the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass. Please assure anyone concerned that the sacramental presence of the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, is present in each element of the Eucharist.

•Discontinuing the holding or shaking of hands during Mass (e.g., at the Lord's Prayer or Sign of Peace). An alternative could be a bow for the Sign of Peace.

•Changing holy water on a weekly basis.

*Further information can be found on the diocese's website at:*

***diojeffcity.org/public-health***

## Author, counselor to discuss suicide, parent-teen communication

**DATE: March 10**  
**TIME: 7 - 8:30 pm**

Roy Petitfils, an internationally-recognized expert in understanding and raising teens, will talk to parents on Tuesday, March 10, in Jefferson City.

His talk will be from 7 to 8:30 in the chapel of Helias Catholic High School, 1305 Swifts Highway.

He will discuss communication skills between parents and teens, highlighting suicide and depression, including how to dispel the stigma and have constructive dialogue with

young people.

He will also speak to students of Helias Catholic that morning.

Mr. Petitfils was born into poverty. His single mom worked four jobs to pay partial tuition for him at a Catholic school because she knew it was the only way for him to escape that poverty.

As a teen, he used food to "medicate" the pains of loneliness and anger he felt as a result of her working so much.

He weighed 535 pounds by the time he graduated from high school.

He got a job in a foundry, where he met people who listened to him and helped him get his life back on track.

Later, after spending five years in the seminary and then teaching religion and serving as a campus minister, he decided to pursue a master's degree in counseling.

He felt driven to show that

the language of spirituality and religion could be blended with that of the social sciences.

He's now in private practice, counseling mostly adolescents. He and his wife Mindi have two young sons, Max and Ben.

He has posted numerous free podcasts on his website and makes frequent livestreams on Facebook.

He has written several books including *What Teens Want You to Know But Won't Tell You*, and *Helping Teens With Stress Anxiety and Depression: A Guide for Catholic Parents and Educators and Ministers*.

***roypetitfils.com***

***facebook.com/roypetitfils***

## Night of Hope and Joy in Starkenburg

**DATE: March 12**  
**TIME: 6 pm**

St. George parish in Hermann and Church of the Risen Savior parish in Rhineland will host a Night of Hope and Joy for women of all ages, on Thursday, March 12.

It will feature 99.1 Joy FM radio personality Kim Underwood and local singer and musician Juanita Hadden.

The event will be held in Valentine Hall, 197 Highway P, near the Shrine of Our Lady

of Sorrows in Starkenburg.

Ms. Hadden will perform worship music at 6:30 p.m., and Ms. Underwood will share her testimony at 7 p.m.

For information, visit the

"Women's Ministry Event — Evening of Hope and Joy!" page on Facebook or contact Kate Engemann by phone or text at (573) 619-5832 or *Kate.engemann@yahoo.com*.

## Chrism Mass in cathedral

**DATE: April 2**  
**TIME: 5:30 pm**

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight invites all Catholics in the diocese to attend the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 2215 W. Main St., Jefferson City on Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m.

This Liturgy unites the diocese in recalling the gifts of the Holy Priesthood and the Most Holy Eucharist.

The Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Catechumens are blessed and the Sacred Chrism is consecrated at this time. These holy oils impact the lives of those who are preparing to enter into the Church, those who are ill, and all preparing for Confirmation and Holy Orders.



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

### MARCH

- Mar. 7** Deliver Opening Remarks at Diocese of Jefferson City Women's Conference: Walk in Her Sandals, 9 am, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Mar. 8** Confirmation Mass for St. Stanislaus Parish in Wardsville and St. Margaret of Antioch Parish in Osage Bend, 2 pm, at Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Mar. 9** Deliver Opening Prayer, Vitae Foundation 28th Annual Event & Dinner, 6:30 pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City
- Mar. 10** Catholic Rural Life Board of Directors Conference Call, 10 am, Jefferson City
- Mar. 14** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Catholic Center, Jefferson City; Closing Mass for Day of Prayer for Vocations, 5:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City
- Mar. 19** Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla's Banquet for Life, 6:30 pm, Rolla
- Mar. 20** Planned Giving Council Meeting, 11:30 am, Central Bank, Jefferson City
- Mar. 21** Confirmation Mass, 5:30 pm, St. William Church, Perry
- Mar. 22** Confirmation Mass, 10 am, St. Mary Church, Glasgow
- Mar. 25** Confirmation Mass, 6:30 pm, St. Joseph Church, Westphalia
- Mar. 26** Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee Conference Call, 10 am, Jefferson City



**BETTER TOGETHER**

*How do we become a "Church Living in the Midst of Her People?"*

Throughout our diocese this Lent, people are meeting in small groups to break open the Word of God and study Church teachings. In these small groups, we will discern action for our parishes and our diocese to live our faith. Over four weeks, we will explore themes related to Bishop Shawn McKnight's vision for our diocese. Contact your parish to join a small group!

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

For the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and understanding as our local church discerns a new pastoral plan.

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

Por los dones de sabiduría, conocimiento y entendimiento durante el discernimiento del nuevo plan pastoral de nuestra iglesia local.



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



## Communal reconciliation services for Lent

Lent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for Easter. Here is a partial list of Lenten communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. The listings will be updated in the online edition of *The Catholic Missourian* at **cathmo.com**. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. **All services begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated.**

**Argyle** — Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m., St. Aloysius Church

**Boonville** — Thursday, March 12, Ss. Peter & Paul Church

**Brunswick** — Wednesday, March 25, St. Boniface Church

**Camdenton** — Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m., St. Anthony Church

**Canton** — Thursday, March 26, St. Joseph Church

**Chamois** — Tuesday, March 17, Most Pure Heart of Mary Church

**Columbia** — Monday, March 30, Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Tuesday, March 31, St. Thomas More Newman Center

**Cuba** — Sunday, March 22, 3 p.m., Holy Cross Church

**Fayette** — Tuesday, March 10, St. Joseph Church

**Frankenstein** — Thursday, March 26, Our Lady Help of Christians Church

**Hannibal** — Monday, March 23, Holy Family Church

**Holts Summit** — Tuesday, March 24, St. Andrew Church

**Jefferson City** — Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph (part of the Day of Prayer for Vocations); Tuesday, March 31, Immaculate Conception Church; Wednesday, April 1, St. Peter Church

**Kahoka** — Tuesday, March 31, 6 p.m., St. Michael Church

**Lake Ozark** — Wednesday, March 25, 6 p.m., Our Lady of the Lake Church

**Laurie** — Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m., St. Patrick Church

**Linn** — Thursday, March 12, St. George Church

**Louisiana** — Tuesday, March 24, St. Joseph Church

**Marshall** — Thursday, March 26, St. Peter Church

**Martinsburg** — Monday, March 9, St. Joseph Church

**Meta** — Tuesday, March 24, St. Cecilia Church

**Moberly** — Wednesday, March 11, St. Pius X Church

**Monroe City** — Wednesday, April 1, Holy Rosary Church

**Osage Bend** — Wednesday, March 11, St. Margaret of Antioch Church

**Owensville** — Wednesday, March 18, Immaculate Conception Church

**Palmyra** — Wednesday, March 18, St. Joseph Church

**Rolla** — Tuesday, March 31, St. Patrick Church

**Russellville** — Wednesday, March 18, St. Michael Church

**St. Anthony** — Friday, March 27, 6:30 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua Church

**St. Clement** — Tuesday, March 17, St. Clement Church

**St. Elizabeth** — Sunday, March 15, 4 p.m., St. Lawrence Church

**St. James** — Wednesday, March 25, 6 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church

**St. Martins** — Wednesday, March 25, St. Martin Church

**St. Robert** — Sunday, March 29, 3 p.m., St. Robert Bellarmine Church

**St. Thomas** — Tuesday, March 31, St. Thomas the Apostle Church

**Salisbury** — Sunday, March 8, St. Joseph Church

**Sedalia** — Tuesday, March 31, St. Patrick Chapel

**Taos** — Thursday, March 26, St. Francis Xavier Church

**Versailles** — Monday, March 16, 6 p.m., St. Philip Benizi Church

**Wardsville** — Sunday, March 29, 6:30 p.m., St. Stanislaus Church

**Westphalia** — Tuesday, March 10, St. Joseph Church

**Wien** — Thursday, March 12, St. Mary of the Angels Church

*Forgive me Father,  
for I have sinned.*

## Bishop McKnight extolls Lent as the only way to Easter

By LeAnn Korsmeyer,  
Carla McDaniel and Jay Nies

"It's LENT! Aren't you excited?"

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight got muffled laughs and a few odd looks from Ash Wednesday congregants in the

Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"Who doesn't love discipline, sacrifice, penance?" the bishop persisted.

He said he loves Lent and everything that goes with it for one reason: "Because without Lent, we can't have Easter."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's 40-day season of repentance leading up to the 40-day celebration of Jesus's passion, death and Resurrection.

Bishop McKnight and deacons of the parish traced ashes in

the shape of a cross on the foreheads of all who came forward.

The ashes are a public acknowledgement of human mortality, the constant need for God's mercy, and a desire to repent and receive the Good News of salvation.

The bishop spoke in his homily of the three pillars of Lent: praying, fasting and giving alms.

Echoing Jesus's warning not to pray, fast or give alms in order to be noticed by other people, Bishop McKnight urged

everyone to be subtle in their Lenten observances and "be holy in your motives."

He noted that fasting can include abstaining from favorite foods, TV or electronic devices or "something else you love."

"Because it's not really a sacrifice unless you give up something you love," he asserted.

He called to mind the First Commandment, which forbids bowing down in subservience of anything other than God.

"There can be no other gods in our life," the bishop said. "That can mean too much Internet, too much time on your phone, too much of anything that comes between you and God."

Almsgiving traditionally refers to making a sacrificial offering to the poor, but Bishop McKnight said it can also mean being kind and of service to others without expecting anything in return.

Prayer is what keeps all of these things focused on God, he said.

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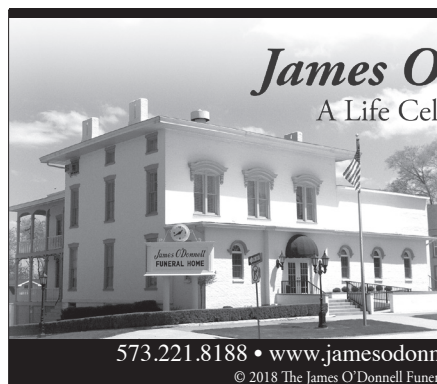
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# DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



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## RELIC OF THE APOSTLE ST. JUDE



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**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

#### VENERATION

8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

#### MASS

8:00 AM OPENING

5:30 PM CLOSING

*With Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight*

#### REFLECTION

10:00 AM & 2:00 PM

#### ADORATION

8:30 AM - 5:15 PM

#### CONFESSION

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM



DIOCESE OF  
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Vocations  
CALLED TO SAINTHOOD

*This icon of St. Jude is the central panel of a triptych that hangs in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Palmyra, Missouri.*



# Helping Hands of Central Missouri food pantry, thrift store unite people of faith in and around St. Elizabeth

By Jay Nies

Jon Robertson had been an executive at the Bank of St. Elizabeth for over a decade when a member of the nearby First Baptist Church dropped by his office.

"She said they were looking for some help with the food pantry they had going," Mr. Robertson recalled. "I'm ashamed to say, I had no idea what she was talking about."

Turns out, volunteers from First Baptist had been operating the Visions Unlimited Food Pantry inside their church for 20 years.

Mr. Robertson, who is a member of Immaculate Conception parish in Loose Creek, and his sons decided to visit the food pantry, located just outside St. Elizabeth.

"I was blown away by what they were working to accomplish with not a lot of resources," he recalled.

Members were sorting food onto the pews and welcoming people into their sanctuary to pick it up.

Back in town, Mr. Robertson started asking people if they had heard about the food pantry.

"Nobody really knew what was going on, that the people at First Baptist were trying to carry out this mission on their own, and that it was growing faster than what their smaller congregation could support."

It was time for some serious Christian collaboration.

Word began circulating among members of St. Lawrence parish in St. Elizabeth and other nearby Catholic congregations.

Parishioners, Knights of Columbus and other people around town wanted to help.

Catholics and Baptists worked together to form an independent nonprofit corporation known as Helping Hands of Central Missouri.

The board consists of First Baptist's pastor, a local bank vice-president, a retired electrical contractor, a local insurance broker, an employee of the local bank, a retired local poultry producer, and a retired state employee.



**Proceeds from the Helping Hands Thrift Shop, located on Highway 52 just outside St. Elizabeth, help sustain the Helping Hands food pantry, an interfaith enterprise that assists about 180 families in need each month.** — Photos by Jay Nies

"We come at this from the standpoint of our faith and our relationship with God," stated a board member who is a member of St. Anthony parish in St. Anthony.

"But it is truly a community effort that is not directly affiliated with one church or another," the board member said. "We help people, regardless of their denomination."

## Joining hands

The board considered buying and outfitting a mobile home to serve as the pantry's new headquarters but quickly aspired to something larger and more substantial.

A local accountant helped the board write a Missouri Department Economic Development grant request to help pay for an 80-by-100-foot permanent building.

First Baptist donated 0.63 acres of its property at 784 Highway 52.

The building was completed in 2014.

Half of it houses the food pantry, including a walk-in freezer and cooler, an open area for assembling food packages, and a separate room for clients to sign in and wait for their food.

The food pantry is open on the third Monday of each month and by appointment.

The other half contains a thrift store that is open three days a week to the public.

The store contains beautifully displayed, modestly priced clothing, shoes, home furnishings, toys, books and collectibles.

Proceeds from the store pay

for the building's maintenance and utilities.

Volunteers from St. Elizabeth parish, First Baptist and other faith groups work side by side at both ends of the operation.

They sort and wash the donated clothing and shoes in a workroom and then price it and creatively display it on the selling floor.

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays (1 to 7 p.m. on third Mondays of the month), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Regular shoppers drive for miles to find bargains at the thrift store's regularly rotating merchandise.

Local families who experience a disaster such as a fire can submit a request for assistance, which would allow them to shop for clothes and household items at the thrift store, free of charge.

## All who hunger

The food pantry distributes packaged and fresh food to an average of 180 families — about 400 people — per month.

Clients receive a computerized identification card showing that they live within Helping Hands's four-county service area and are eligible for services.

Several board members said they had no idea how many people are in need in their community until they started trying to help.

"You kind of feel ashamed, to be honest with you, to find out that there are so many people struggling," said Mr. Robertson.



Many of the clients just need a boost in order to get through a difficult time such as a temporary job loss.

Others are weathering massive obstacles to working their way out of poverty and need longer-term assistance.

Some are elderly and trying to make it on Social Security alone.

Board members are convinced that many more people in the area need help but are embarrassed to come forward to ask for it.

The volunteers offer no judgment, only help.

One regular volunteer said health issues about 10 years ago put her in a position to have to ask for help.

She and her family got what they needed, so she's passing that help along.

## "Give them something"

The food pantry is impressive.

Volunteers stock the food pantry, welcome guests, staff the monthly assembly line and carry the boxes to people's cars.

About 20 volunteers work on distribution days.

Much of the food comes from the Food Bank for Central & Northeastern Missouri, headquartered in Columbia.

Sam's Club in Jefferson City donates surplus bread, cakes, frozen meals and some meat and fresh vegetables, which a volunteer transports to the pantry every Friday morning.

Volunteers sort, repack and store that food in the cooler and freezer.

Local pork producers donate meat to be processed into sau-

sage for distribution to the food pantry's clients.

The local Knights of Columbus council donates hams, turkeys or other meats for special occasions such as Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Helping Hands is also making use of a one-year, possibly renewable grant from the Miller County Health Department to help pay for meat and fresh vegetables.

A board member noted that it's difficult to get healthy, nutritious foods into many people's homes because they don't have a deep-freeze to store it.

"It's always a juggling act — to give them enough to eat without overwhelming them with it," the board member stated.

## Looking to expand

Helping Hands is running out of space.

Volunteers have had to get creative about storing donated items as they work to help an increasing number of people seeking help.

The board is raising money to pay for a \$200,000, 3,100-square-foot addition, providing more retail and storage space for the donated clothing and higher-ticket items such as furniture.

"A larger building would allow us to display more items at any given time, accept and display more furniture than we can now accommodate, and increase the benefit to the multiple communities that we now serve," a board member stated.

See HELPING HANDS, page 23



# Catholic Rural Life: Workers to harvest the field

*The following article by the spiritual moderator for the Jefferson City diocese was originally published in the Winter 2020 issue of Catholic Rural Life magazine:*

**By Father Matthew J Flatley**

I was fly-fishing in the foothills of the Missouri Ozarks. I was standing chest deep in a stream of rushing, crystal-clear, cool water, while rays of warm sunshine were filtering through the sycamore, cottonwood and birch trees.

It was paradise. It was everything I love about living in rural Missouri: Living close to the land. Living in the garden.

I was reminding myself of many things that early afternoon, all of which I had been learning so as to catch a trout:

“Remember to keep your line out of the trees Matthew”; “remember to let the line fully roll out on the back-cast and to pause”; “remember not to force the front-cast.”

And then I heard a gentle, quiet little voice in my heart say, “Remember to enjoy it Matthew.”

I believe that little voice was the Holy Spirit.

I am a cradle Catholic, a life-long practitioner of my faith tradition, who found his vocation later in life.

In my early 30s and after a healing immersion into Twelve Step spirituality, I began an earnest search to find a deeper experience of prayer and meditation. This led me to Trappist monks and to a quiet, contemplative life for about 10 years, living in and out of monasteries.

All of that, I now understand, prepared me for the role of a diocesan priest. God always has a plan.

It was a tremendous shift from living as a Trappist monk to serving as pastor of four parishes in central Missouri.

However, with a disciplined practice of daily contemplative prayer, by grace, I am open to contemplation and action while in the midst of endless activity. And I love it.

But still, that little voice in my heart reminds me to enjoy it, too.

I love serving as a priest and pastor in what are rural and

largely farming communities. The faith tradition of the farm families I serve inspires me daily.

Yet I am troubled when I read that in our post-modern world, younger parents often feel anxious and guilty much of the time. They believe they are not giving their children enough of their time, because both Mom and Dad are working, and everyone is so busy.

It breaks my heart to know this. What a dreadful thing to feel guilty!

But never did I dream that I would someday be having a similar experience. You see, I spend tremendous amounts of time “administering to my parishes,” but I sometimes feel anxious because I fear that I do not spend enough time “pastoring” to them.

To make matters worse, there are now far fewer priests than ever before.

In the midst of so much busyness, I recently had the wonderful privilege of attending a retreat, entitled “Thriving in Rural Ministry,” presented by Catholic Rural Life (CRL).

I was absolutely delighted to learn about CRL and its founder, Father Edwin O’Hara.

I left the retreat feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and most of all inspired and hopeful that together, we — that is, priests and laity alike — can find the best path forward by working together in these rural parishes we love so much.

## Pastors’ rural retreat

The mission of the retreat is varied. Essentially, it is intended to nourish and inspire priests who serve in a rural setting.

It is crafted to provide spiritual refreshment, rural ministry insights and support, as well as individual leadership development, and fraternity with other priests serving in rural communities.

In my opinion, it was more than successful in all aspects of its mission.

What was most inspiring to this priest were the aspects of the program, which are specifically designed to renew rural pastors and provide wonderful ideas to help in this renewal,

and how these might best help revitalize our Catholic culture today.

I came away with a renewed vision and passion of the vocation of rural ministry, both for priests and for those faithful Catholics who live in these communities alike. It was very exciting.

I learned that Fr. O’Hara founded CSR in 1923 after having been inspired by his ministry to those who lived in sparsely populated areas.

At that time, he came to believe that the Church was the biggest single factor in building-up rural communities.

## Can we remember?

I returned home after the retreat and prayed about the experience and pondered all that I had experienced.

I realize that our culture and Church are very different today than they were in 1923, yet I am convinced that Fr. O’Hara’s beliefs still hold merit.

However, today, rather than simply embracing this idea of the Church building-up rural communities, perhaps now is the time for the lay members of Catholic rural communities to participate in the work of rebuilding our Church.

Could this be God’s plan in all of this?

I confess that whenever we pray for priestly and religious vocations at our Masses (which I earnestly pray for) I also pray at the same time for more lay vocations.

While attending the seminary in preparation for the Priesthood, I learned that at the Second Vatican Council, our Church produced four Major Constitutions, three Declarations and nine Decrees.

My favorite instructor insisted that it could be argued that all of these extraordinary and sweeping documents could be summed up in one declarative sentence: “Vati-

can II was the universal call to holiness and the call to full and active participation in the Church for one and all; religious and laity alike.”

What does this mean?

I wonder if with my contemplative background, I can help these busy parents to focus on what is most important and to remind them (and my-

joy it.

## Let them shine brightly

I loved learning about this larger community, this larger Body of Christ in the USA that is this wonderful organization called Catholic Rural Life.

I pray that all together, we can learn to celebrate our Catholic faith and be proud of our incomparable faith traditions and heritage in the rural life.

Let us place these precious gems high on the lampstand and let them shine brightly on our world today.

Let us join together and head out as workers to harvest in the fields.

## Diocesan CRL chapter

The Diocese of Jefferson City has formed a Catholic Rural Life (CRL) Chapter.

A CRL Chapter is a group individuals committed to upholding and supporting rural Catholic culture. A CRL Chapter is a part of a family of chapters around the country.

With both the national CRL office and the local diocese behind them, they maintain, with firm and unbending conviction, that genuine rural culture is a priceless and utterly essential bulwark of a healthy, flourishing community.

A CRL Chapter seeks to foster and celebrate rural Catholic culture in their local area.

If you live in a rural area of the Jefferson City diocese and wish to be part of the local CRL chapter’s leadership team, contact LeAnn Korsmeyer at (573) 635-9127, ext. 222, or [lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org](mailto:lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org).

self) to be still sometimes, to know God.

Can we remember to turn and thank God for our blessings? Can we remember to keep the Sabbath day holy and to spend more time in rest, enjoying leisure with those we love best?

And what can the wonderful lay folks to whom I minister teach me? How can they help me to administer to the parishes so as to allow me the exquisite privilege of pastoring to them?

Can we learn to be partners who help to build each other and our Church up?

Perhaps we can remind each other to remember to en-

*Fr. Flatley is pastor of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Vienna, Holy Guardian Angels parish in Brinktown, St. Aloysius parish in Argyle and the St. Boniface mission in Koeltztown.*

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## QUESTION CORNER

## Are relics 'macabre'? / Confession once a year?

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



Middletown, Indiana)

**Q. I am a Catholic convert and support all the dogmas of the Church. But there is one practice that I must admit gives me pause — the use of relics, preserving the body parts of deceased saints. I could see honoring robes or rings, but teeth or fingers seems a bit too much, bordering on the macabre. We never covered this in our RCIA program, and I'm hoping that you can explain. (New**

**A.** The veneration of the relics of saintly individuals has a long history — dating back to pre-Christian times. The bones of the Old Testament prophet Elisha once brought a dead man to life (2 Kings 13:20-21).

Then, when St. Polycarp was martyred in the middle of the second century, a contemporary account stated: "We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord will permit us to gather ourselves together as we are able, in gladness and joy, and to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom."

In venerating relics, the Church is not ascribing to them any magical powers, although they may sometimes serve as occasions of God's miracles. More often, they simply dispose those who view them to strive to live the virtues of that particular saint.

Perhaps St. Jerome, who lived in the late fourth and early fifth centuries, gave the clearest explanation of relics when he wrote in *Ad Riparium*: "We do not worship (relics), we do not adore (them), for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the Creator. But we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order to better adore him whose martyrs they are."

**Q. In one of your recent columns, you stated: "Strictly speaking, one is obliged to go to the Sacrament of Penance only for serious sins — although it is certainly a good idea to confess regularly even for lesser sins and imperfections."**

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, however (No. 1457), that all Catholics should go to Confession at least once a year. If this is actually a precept of the Church, my understanding is that all of the precepts must be obeyed under penalty of mortal sin. Can you explain your position on this and why it differs from the Catechism — or was it just an oversight? (Indianapolis)**

**A.** I stand by my recent answer, and it is consistent with Catholic teaching. The section to which you refer (No. 1457) in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, referencing the Church's Code of Canon Law, actually says this: "After having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year."

Again, though, I make a plea for much more frequent Confession, even for venial sins. The introduction to the Church's rite of penance states: "Frequent and careful celebration of this sacrament is also very useful as a remedy for venial sins. This is not a mere ritual repetition or psychological exercise, but a serious striving to perfect the grace of baptism so that 'His (Christ's) life may be seen in us ever more clearly.'"

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

## Pope asks Catholics to join week of climate reflection, action in May

Catholic News Service

Vatican City

Saying he wanted to renew his "urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis," Pope Francis asked Catholics around the globe to participate in the international observance of "Laudato Si' Week" May 16-24.

Sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and facilitated by the Global Catholic Climate Movement and Renova, the week is designed as an occasion for Catholics to look at steps they have taken to protect the environment and assist the world's poor people and to come up with next steps.

The sponsoring groups launched a website — [laudatosiweek.org](http://laudatosiweek.org) — that contains information, resources and a "toolkit" that includes several ideas that include lobbying elected officials, conducting an "energy audit," planting a "pollinator garden" and reviewing one's investment portfolio in favor of companies that protect the environment.

In a video message released by the Vatican March 3 and posted on the website, Pope Francis said the week was meant to mark the fifth anniversary of his encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."



**A ship sails on the Gulf of Thailand during sunset at Ko Samui March 3, 2020. Saying he wanted to renew his "urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis," Pope Francis asked Catholics around the globe to participate in the international observance of "Laudato Si' Week" May 16-24.**

— CNS photo/Navesh Chitrakar, Reuters

"The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" cannot continue to go unheeded, the Pope said. "Let's take care of creation, a gift of God, our good Creator."

New programs and services will always be needed in your local parish or school. You and your loved ones can be memorialized by endowing one of these important activities through your will to your local parish or school.

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



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# Finding God everywhere and everyday

By Bishop Robert Barron



There is, to be sure, a stress within the biblical tradition that God is radically other: "Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior." (Isaiah

45:15) and "No one shall see [God] and live" (Exodus 33:20).

This speaks to the fact that the One Who creates the entire universe from nothing cannot be, Himself, an item within the universe, One being alongside of others.

But at the same time, the Scriptures also attest to God's omnipresence: "Your Wisdom reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well" (Wisdom 8:1), and "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; . . . If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast" (Psalm 139:7-12).

This speaks to the fact that God sustains the universe in existence from moment to moment, the way a singer sustains a song.

## God is always close to us

What is perhaps the defining feature of the spirituality associated with St. Ignatius of Loyola "finding God in all things" — flows from this second great biblical emphasis.

Despite His transcendence, God should not be thought of as distant in any conventional sense of the term, certainly not in the Deist manner.

Rather, as Thomas Aquinas taught, God is in all things, "by essence, presence, and power." And mind you, since God is endowed with intellect, will, and freedom, He is never dumbly present, but always personally and intentionally present, offering something of

Himself to us.

Therefore, the search for God can commence right here, right now, with whatever is at hand.

One of the questions in the old *Baltimore Catechism* was "where is God?" The correct answer was "everywhere."

Once that truth sinks in, our lives irrevocably change, for now every person, every event, every sorrow, every encounter becomes an opportunity for communion with God.

The 17th century Jesuit spiritual master, Jean-Pierre de Caussade, expressed the same idea when he said that everything that happens to us is, directly or indirectly, the will of God.

Once again, it is impossible to accept the truth of that statement and remain the same person you were before.

This always already graced quality of "all things" functions as the starting-point for Ignatius' spirituality.

Ignatius has been very much on my mind, for I am in Europe filming a documentary on his life and teachings for my Pivotal Players series.

On the long flight from Los Angeles to Rome, I had occasion to enact the principle I have just been describing.

## God maps our lives

Ever since I was kid, I have loved maps, and so when I find myself on a lengthy plane voyage, I spend a good deal of time with the flight map, which tracks the location of the plane, vis-a-vis landmarks on the ground.

I had read and watched some videos for the first part of the flight, and then I had slept most of the time we were over the Atlantic, but when I woke, I began studying the map with great interest.

We were passing just north of Ireland, and I could clearly see the indications for Dublin, where my mother's father was born, and for Waterford, where my father's grandfather was born.

I commenced to think about these men, neither of whom I ever met, who bore the Catholic faith that eventually

came to my mother and father and finally to me, as a sheer grace.

As the plane continued its journey across the English Channel, northern France came into view on the map, and I saw the great name "Paris."

Suddenly, a slew of memories flooded my mind: my simple room at the Redemptorist House on the Boulevard Montparnasse; Notre Dame, where I used to give tours to English-speaking visitors; the Institut Catholique, where I did my doctoral studies; all of my Parisian friends, teachers, and colleagues who accompanied me across those three years; the beauty of Paris on a rainy day.

And all of it, I knew, was a grace, sheer gift.

Next, I saw that we were approaching the Alps, and so I opened the window screen and looked down on the snow-capped mountains that were gleaming in the sun.

How could I not appreciate this view, which untold generations of human beings wouldn't have even imagined possible, as a splendid gift?

## God seeks a deep relationship

In a word, the simple study of a

flight map toward the end of a tedious journey became a rather marvelous occasion of grace.

I wonder whether we would find this sort of experience less anomalous if we mused on the fact that God positively wants to share His life with us, wants to communicate with us.

Perhaps the problem is that we stubbornly think of God in the Deist manner and relegate Him to a place of irrelevant transcendence.

Then the spiritual burden is on us, to find some way to climb the holy mountain or sufficiently to impress a demanding moral overlord.

What if we accepted the deeply biblical notion that God is always already busily and passionately searching for us, always already endeavoring to find ways to grace us with His love?

What if we blithely accepted the truth that God can be found, as Ignatius taught, in all things?

*Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Learn more at [www.WordOnFire.org](http://www.WordOnFire.org). This article was written in August 2019.*

## REFLECTION

# Where's the beef?

By Mark Saucier

It's Lent. You pass on the steak and settle for shrimp.

It's a small sacrifice — very small, even meaningless, some would say.

Others think we need to ramp up the mortification. Still, I don't know if they want to go back to the beginning, to the Black Fast of the medieval Church. There was some serious purgation: one meager meal after sunset. Meat, eggs and dairy products were not on the menu.

By the 10th century, you could see the slippery slope begin to form. The one anticipated meal was moved to 3 p.m. and then to noon. People still whined (which without the "h" was forbidden during Lent) and the hungry hierarchy relented with an evening snack.

Within five centuries, they added a morning collation as well. Before long, the Lenten diet for the poor was pretty much the same as the rest of the year.

A big change came in the early 20th century. Abstinence was separated from fasting, and moral theologians jumped on an unprotected prey. Some argued that even a broth was mortal. Others set the bar in ounces, allowing a venial bite. You wonder about a God Who puts you on the eternal grill for a Whopper, but lets a White Castle slide.

It's not about the meat, the purported sin or even the penance. Jesus didn't tell the woman caught in adultery or the palsied man in Matthew to dress in sackcloth or make a novena. He just forgave their sins and lifted both to their feet. It is the grace of God and not our corporal acts that heal the heart.

Still, it's good to forego the meat. It is repair, not reparation. It is something extraordinary to knock us out of the numbness of the ordinary, not a deprivation but a detour that opens us to a different way.

We know it's working when the focus is not what we have given up, but what we have gained. When it works, there is a sense of something else, a tingle from tongue to toe with attentiveness to the presence of God.

That takes more than a tuna melt, but it is a place to start.

*This reflection was originally published in March of 2010.*

# On bended knee

By Jay Nies

Years ago, my grandfather's body was having more and more trouble keeping up with his spirit.

I went to visit him in that gigantic hospital. I pushed his wheelchair to the nursery, where we saw scores of little babies. Then we went down to the chapel.

Still attached to bags of medicine, he got up out of the wheelchair and knelt down on the cold marble floor of the sanctuary, close to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I knelt down beside him, and we both prayed silently.

I don't know what he and Jesus had to say to each other in the minutes that followed, but I do know that when I went to stand up, my 84-year-old grandfather with his terrible knees asked if we could stay for just a few more minutes.

Wisdom from a man who was studying for finals. Just a few more minutes. What could it hurt?

*Mr. Nies is editor of The Catholic Missourian.*



## Introduction to Centering Prayer

**DATE: March 26**  
**TIME: 6:30 pm**

St. Andrew parish in Holts Summit will hold an introduction to Centering Prayer at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, in St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrews Drive, off Center Street.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that

is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship, according to Contemplative Outreach Ltd. ([centeringprayer.com](http://centeringprayer.com)).

It adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer to a receptive prayer of resting in God.

Jim Penfold, a parishioner at St. Andrew parish, who

is trained in this method of prayer, will lead the session.

He will share information about the origin of Centering Prayer, the method of Centering Prayer and its benefits.

There will be time for questions and a short period of Centering Prayer.

For more information, call Deacon Ed Stroesser at (573) 680-2091.

## Lenten Day of Reflection at Columbia Newman

**DATE: March 14**  
**TIME: 9 am - 3 pm**

St. Thomas More Newman Center parish in Columbia will hold a Lenten Day of Reflection from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, in the Multipurpose Room of the center, 602 Turner Ave.

Dominican Sister Joanne Delahanty, pastoral associate of St. Benedict the African parish

in Chicago, will offer insights on how to be a parish of compassion and hope.

Dominican Father Richard Litzau, pastor of St. Thomas More Newman Center parish, will also speak to participants.

Register online at: [comonewman.org/parish/parish-sign-ups](http://comonewman.org/parish/parish-sign-ups)

Contact Dominican Sister Karen Freund at [srkaren@comonewman.org](mailto:srkaren@comonewman.org) for information.

## Priest from Haiti at St. Martin mission

**DATE: March 22-24**  
**TIME: 7 pm**

F a t h e r  
Louis Merosne will

lead a parish mission from Sunday to Tuesday, March 22-24, in St. Martins.

He will give mission talks at 7 p.m. each evening in St. Martin Church, 7148 Business 50 West.

All are invited and encouraged to attend any or all of the sessions.

The theme will be "Relentless Love: The Fulfillment of Your Heart."

Fr. Merosne was born in Haiti and moved to Boston in 1993. He studied at the Franciscan University and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 2011.

He now serves in Haiti. Preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ is both a duty and a passion for him.

### Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## Panel discussion on the dangers of pornography

**DATE: March 12**  
**TIME: 7 - 8:30 pm**

Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia will hold an anti-pornography panel discussion for adults from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12.

It will be in Flanagan Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 903 Bernadette Drive near Stadium Boulevard and I-70.

The discussion will be for any adult involved in daily interaction with young people in elementary through high school.

Counseling experts will share facts, address concerns, offer ways to initiate difficult discussions with young people, and offer adults the information they need to help keep children safe from pornography.



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## Osage Co. native Sr. Bernice Orscheln was a nurse, missionary

Osage County native Sister Bernice Orscheln, 85, of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), died peacefully the afternoon of Feb. 15, at her home at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 19 in St. Alphonsus Church in McComb, Miss., with Father Suresh Thirumalareddy, pastor of St. James Church in Magnolia, presiding.

Sr. Bernice was born on Oct. 23, 1934, in Loose Creek, the second of four children and the only daughter of Charles P. and Conradine (Muenks) Orscheln.

When she was 5 years old, the Orschelns moved to a farm two miles south of Chamois.

She attended the old two-room Most Pure Heart of Mary School in Chamois. There, visiting missionaries who had been to far-away places fed her childhood dreams of emulating their work.

One day, one of the SSNDs at the parish told her, "You are going to be a sister someday, and you will be a missionary, too."

Sr. Bernice replied, "How do you know that?"

The sister pointed to a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, referring to the person it represents, said, "He told me

so."

Sr. Bernice continued her education at Notre Dame High School in St. Louis and entered the candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame upon graduating in 1951.

She studied at Notre Dame College in St. Louis and was received into the SSND congregation and given the name Sister Marie Charles.

She pronounced her vows in 1954.

She taught children in the elementary grades in Illinois, Texas and Louisiana.

After earning a degree in biology, she taught the subject to high school students in San Antonio, Texas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

She returned to her Baptismal name, Bernice, in the 70s.

Even as she was teaching, she felt called to serve as a nurse. She pursued and completed a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 1973.

The following year, she and four other SSNDs volunteered to be the founding members of the SSND mission in Ghana, West Africa.

She wrote to her mother to inform her of her decision to enter the missions. Her mother wrote back that she had discovered a reflection Sr. Bernice had written in a notebook during a high school retreat.

It said: "My monthly intention: Dear Jesus, I want to offer everything I do during this month of February for the missions in Africa, and I ask that some day, you will send me there where I long to go."

In Ghana, Sr. Bernice worked with Church and government officials to open and serve as administrator of the Notre Dame Clinic in the village of Adogyiri-Nsawam.

Many of the cases she and the other nurses dealt with in the clinic were burns, because most of the cooking is done outside over a fire.

"One of the hardest things was to take care of children who had accidents with fire," she recalled in 2001.

The scarcity of water also led to malnourished children and the spread of disease.

"We saw a lot of people suffer," Sr. Bernice once told *The Catholic Missourian*.

Working to ease that suffering helped relieve her own pain over what she saw.

After seeing the clinic well established during the next 10 years and upon helping to acclimate her successor, Sr. Bernice returned to the United States.

She then served on the



**Sr. Bernice Orscheln SSND (1934-2020)**

nursing staff at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa for five years.

She then served as a home health nurse in Pike County, Miss.; as head nurse at the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Health Care Center, in Fort Worth, Texas; and as coordinator of Health Care at St. Mary of the Pines.

She lived in community in Jefferson City from 1998-2008, assisting her parents in their final years and serving on the staff of St. Joseph Home for the Aged.

She said she was happy to be back home in the United States but missed the simplic-

ity of her life in Ghana.

In a 2012 letter to the people of Most Pure Heart of Mary parish in her hometown, she wrote: "May you continue to be active members of your parish community, continue to nourish each other's faith and bring joy and friendship to one another in the spirit of Christ, our Lord."

Sr. Bernice survived several bouts with cancer in the past 10 years, attributing the successful outcomes of successive treatments to prayer.

She required increasing levels of healthcare in the past several years as she tried to maintain her usual regimen of community activities and service.

She became more fragile over the past few months, and with great faith she peacefully approached her death.

Preceding her in death were her parents and two of her brothers.

Surviving is a brother, Ralph Orscheln, of Holts Summit, a sister-in-law, Carol (Mrs. Herbert) Orscheln, and many devoted nieces, a nephew and cousins.

Burial was in the Chatawa Cemetery, with members of Knights of Columbus Charles R. Brill Council 8054 in McComb serving as pallbearers.

## Deadly tornado in Tennessee



Debris is seen near damaged homes after a tornado touched down in Nashville, Tenn., March 3. Dozens of people died across central Tennessee as a result of severe storms and at least one tornado that hit Nashville and the region early March 3, officials said.

— CNS photo/Alan Poizner, *The Tennessean* via Reuters

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# Fr. Okoli: Lent is an opportunity to reconnect with God

## Ash Wednesday Mass in Church of the Resurrection in Wellsville

By Jay Nies

For Catholics, “40” isn’t the new anything.

The number of days in Lent draws on thousands of years of salvation history recorded in the Bible.

Even so, no two Lents are ever quite alike.

“Our Lent this year will not be the same as our Lent of last year, because we have changed, and so have the people around us,” Father Austin Okoli stated during Mass for Ash Wednesday in the Church of the Resurrection in Wellsville.

“Our lives are a spiritual journey, a process of growth,” he said in his homily. “Each year at this time, we are presented a new opportunity to get closer to God.”

Fr. Okoli — pastor of the Wellsville parish and of St. Joseph parish in Martinsburg, Immaculate Conception parish in Montgomery City and St. Patrick parish in Jonesburg — offers Mass each Wednesday evening in Wellsville.

Ash Wednesday draws a larger congregation than usual.

It marks the beginning of the Church’s 40-day season of

repentance leading up to the 50-day celebration of Jesus’s passion, death and Resurrec-

tion.

“The Lenten Season is kind of a retreat — a time for looking inward,” said Fr. Okoli. “It’s intended to be 40 days of quiet time for you to reflect and work on your relationship with God.”

He noted that especially in the Old Testament, ashes represent humility and mortality.

“That’s why when I give you the ashes on

your forehead, I will say to you, ‘Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return,’” he said.

See 40, page 13

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



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## 40

From page 12

Namely, life is short.

"Lent gives us this opportunity to stop and reconnect with God," he stated. "And how do we do that? Through prayer, through fasting and abstinence, and through almsgiving."

He said those traditional Lenten practices of giving up, giving away, and making time to pray work best when they're connected.

The priest noted that prayer is an essential part of Christian life.

"Prayer connects us with God," he said. "A Christian who doesn't pray is a danger to himself and to others."

He told a story of man who consistently spent time in prayer.

A friend asked the man what he gets out of all that praying.

The man responded: "I get



nothing. But let me tell you what I lose: I lose being angry. I lose being greedy. I lose my ego. I lose my insecurity. And

by losing all these things, I gain. That's why I pray."

Fr. Okoli recommended the Stations of the Cross as a

**Deacon Ronald Deimeke and Father Austin Okoli process out of the Church of the Resurrection in Wellsville at the end of Mass on Ash Wednesday.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

good prayerful practice for Lent.

"When you meditate on those 14 stations, you are calling to mind all that Jesus went through for the sake of humanity," said Fr. Okoli. "You are also thinking about the pain the mother of Jesus had while watching her Son suffer for us."

After the homily, Fr. Okoli

and Deacon Ronald Deimeke traced ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of all who came forward.

The ashes are a public acknowledgement of human mortality, the constant need for God's mercy, and a desire to repent and receive the Good News of salvation.

Calling forth a blessing over the people at the end of Mass, Fr. Okoli prayed: "Pour out a spirit of compunction, O God, on those who bow before Your majesty, and by Your mercy may they merit the rewards You promise to those who do penance."

## Laurie St. Patrick parade

**DATE:** March 17  
**TIME:** 1 pm

St. Patrick parish in Laurie will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day parade and visit to the Laurie Care Center on Tuesday, March 17.

People will gather at 10 a.m. in St. Leo Hall in the lower level of St. Patrick Church, 176 Marian Drive, off of Highway 5 in Laurie, to blow up balloons for the parade.

They will decorate cars and the parish float at noon and will proceed to the care center at 1 p.m.

There, they will serenade the residents with Irish tunes.

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## TOLTON CATHOLIC

From page 1

ever-so-slowly, chipping away at that bond amount," said Bishop McKnight.

He noted that the debt had slowed the school's growth and development and forced the administration to place several necessary long-term projects on hold.

Early this year, Bishop McKnight began contacting

possible donors.

They came through, pledging enough to retire the bonds and pay back a loan of about \$337,000 from Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia.

"The level of humility is unbelievable," said Ms. McIntosh. "When people make an investment like this with zero expectation of receiving any-

thing in return, it's an example of pure philanthropy and genuine stewardship."

### "Forming young disciples"

Bishop McKnight made the announcement to about 60 members of the administration, faculty, staff, the school advisory board and the community at large.

Among those present were Kenya Fuemmeler, interim diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools; Gwendolyn Roche, principal of Tolton Catholic; Father Christopher Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia; Father William Peckman, pastor of the Boonville and Fayette parishes; Father Michael Coleman, a chaplain at the school and pastor of the Centralia parish; and Father Paul Clark, a chaplain at the school and associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Bishop McKnight said Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos's decision, in consultation with local leaders, to open a Catholic high school in Columbia was extraordinary.

"I hope you now have a sense of the permanence of Fr. Tolton Catholic High School," Bishop McKnight told the audience.

He emphasized the school's importance to the Church and the wider community in Columbia and beyond.

"Catholic schools enrich the education of our young people," he said. "And as part of our mission as the Catholic Church, forming young disciples is front and center."

### "Stay the course"

Ms. McIntosh said this moment is "transformational."

"There are so many fami-

lies and faculty members and people in the community who have been invested on a personal level here for so many years," she said. "Now, they'll be able to see us take their investment to the next level."

It will require a quick change of mindset from debt-

council president Jay Burchfield said this will be remembered as a turning point in the school's already impressive history.

"Now that we're relieved from the burden of servicing that debt, we can focus all of our energy, money and re-

sources on the mission of the school, which is to educate and intentionally form our students — spirit, heart, mind and body — to help them become servant leaders in our community," he said.

More than half of the students at Tolton Catholic belong to Our Lady of Lourdes parish and went to Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School.

Fr. Cordes, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, believes eliminating the debt sends a strong message to parents that Tolton Catholic will be around for a long time.

He said Catholic schools provide a solid foundation for lifelong spiritual growth.

"I believe Catholic education really does give the best opportunity for formation in the Catholic faith during the developmental years of a person's life," he stated.

Ms. Fuemmeler said she recognizes a collective will to emulate the school's namesake, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, in "blazing a trail" for God and for future generations.

"Removing the debt will allow the people at this school to truly live out that mission for the students entrusted to their care," she said.

She believes Catholic education is an investment in the legacy of the Church.

"If we're going to have vibrant, lifelong, enthusiastic Catholics, it starts in the walls of our schools," she said.



**Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School Interim President Jill McIntosh, Diocesan Communications Director Helen Osman, Tolton Catholic Advisory Council President Jay Burchfield and Bishop W. Shawn McKnight prepare for the Feb. 25 announcement of gifts and pledges to eliminate the school's \$6.2 million debt.**

— Photo by Jay Nies

service to planning for things that were previously out of reach.

Ms. McIntosh looks forward to the school offering more dual-credit classes, bolstering fine arts programming and adding more depth and substance to its faith-formation activities.

She believes God continues to reveal His presence "in the commitment that we see from our donors, from our faculty, from our families who continue to stay the course and invest and believe and advocate for us."

Ray Beck, who led the building committee for the school and was active throughout the planning process, said the announcement made for "a great day for the Church and the whole community here."

He said it was important to build the school with the future in mind.

"You have to do that in Columbia," he said. "You always have to plan for growth ahead of time or you won't be in a good position when it comes."

### Where it all starts

Tolton Catholic advisory

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## SUPERINTENDENT

From page 1

thinkers, lifelong learners and servant leaders who want to make the world a better place for everyone."

She previously served as president or principal of three Catholic schools and taught at two additional Catholic schools.

She has served as an accreditation chair for the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops' Education Department.

For three years, she was president of Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, from which she, her parents and her two sisters had graduated.

There, she facilitated donations and pledges of more than \$30 million while stabilizing enrollment as the school changed over from more than 60 years of Marianist leadership to lay leadership.

She holds a doctorate and a master's degree, both in education leadership, from Texas Wesleyan University, along with a Catholic School Leadership Certificate from the University of Dallas and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington.

### Joy of the Gospel

Dr. Vader said she's eager to assist Bishop McKnight, the pastors, the religious, the administrators, teachers and families of the diocese in promoting a spirituality and ethic of gratitude and active discipleship.

"Bishop McKnight's vision of Catholic stewardship and his work to facilitate our churches and schools as places

where pastors and laity work together to create communities of compassion and mercy, speaks to me as a Catholic and as an educator," Dr. Vader said.

She is convinced that God wants all of His people to be cheerful givers and stewards.

"He wants us to come to Him with joy!" she said. "We're supposed to be models of Christ for the children, and isn't that what we want them to know about the Lord — that He welcomes us with joy and compassion and mercy?"

### A life of learning

Dr. Vader said her parents, Pat and Judy Vader, instilled in their children a strong sense of Catholic missionary discipleship.

"It was always about service and about recognizing that we have been given much through the grace of God and that it was up to us to help other people with what we have been given," she said.

She studied English in college but didn't know what she wanted to do after graduation.

Her mother and her high school English teacher both encouraged her to apply for teaching positions in Catholic schools.

"And now I can't imagine not working with kids and with teachers who work with kids," she said. "It's the best!"

### To lead and serve

Dr. Vader's first principal, Clarice Peninger, recognized leadership potential in her and served as a mentor.

A few years later, Dr. Vader became a teaching principal

at a small Catholic school.

"That's when you start learning how to walk the line between being Church and taking care of business," she said.

She never stopped listening and learning and asking questions.

"Being open to asking for help and talking to people who knew more than I did — that was the best thing in the world," she said.

She frequently turned to God and His saints for help.

"I found a lot of strength through prayer — a LOT of prayer," she said. "St. Jude is a very good friend of mine."

One of the schools she led was in the inner-city, where most of the students were poor and had access to few opportunities.

Keeping the school going was always a challenge, and it eventually had to close.

"That was the hardest dose of reality," said Dr. Vader.

She did what she could to help the families find other Catholic schools to send their children to. She then entrusted them to the intercession of the school's patroness, Our Mother of Mercy.

"Even so, I'm still trying to come up with ways in my head to save it," she acknowledged.

### "Go forth"

Serving as president of her alma mater and then thriving



Dr. Erin Vader

in a diocesan role could have been enough.

But Dr. Vader began to sense that God was calling her to take on more responsibility, even if it meant moving far away.

A colleague she met at a conference told her about several dioceses that were looking for a school superintendent.

Visiting the Jefferson City diocese's website ([diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org)) filled her with excitement.

"Everything about being stronger together and the idea of building a diocesan pastoral plan that is all about reaching out and welcoming people —

all of that speaks to me at the level of my soul," she said.

She was also impressed by a renewed commitment to stewardship and the diocese's long-standing practice of having all parishioners support their Catholic schools through a tithe rather than tuition.

"You want that kind of buy-in and ownership from all parishioners when it comes to educating children and forming them in the faith," she said.

Her resolve solidified when she interviewed with Monsignor Robert A.

Kurwicki, the diocese's vicar general and chairman of the search committee, and Interim School Superintendent Kenya Fuemmeler.

Also serving on the search committee were: Cheryl Hertfelder, the diocese's human-resources director; Father Michael Quinn, pastor of Holy Family parish in Hannibal; Debbie Reinkemeyer, principal of Holy Family School in Freeburg and Sacred Heart School in Rich Fountain; and Dr. Aaron Vitt, a member of St. Pius X parish in Moberly,

See DR. VADER, page 23





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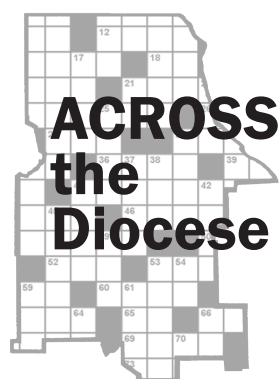


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By Father Don Antweiler

## ACROSS

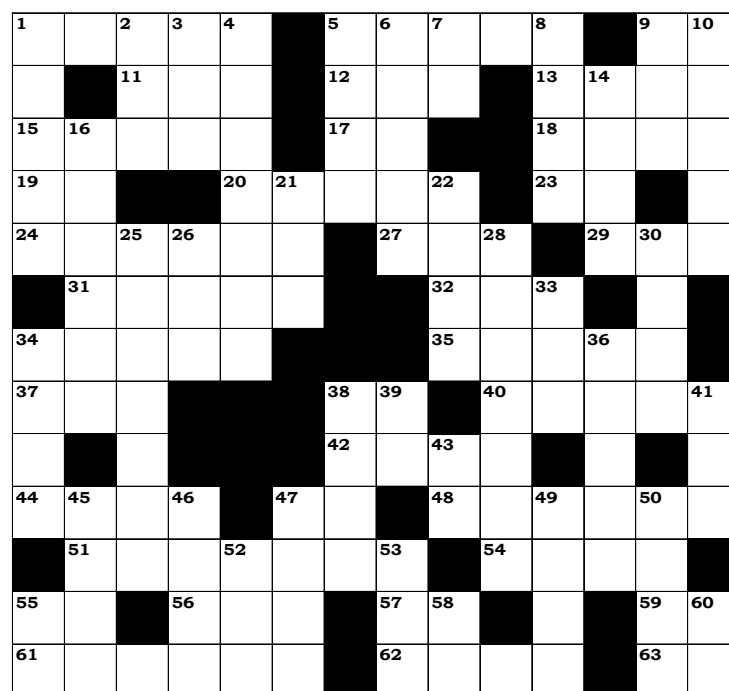
1. Many Mo. towns can claim some claim to fame. For example, Princeton, Mo. can claim Calamity Jane (i.e., Martha Jane Cannary), a frontierswoman and professional \_\_\_\_ acquainted with Wild Bill Hickok and a member of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.
5. Home County of Truman State Univ.
9. "\_\_\_\_ only" is a phrase that usually conjures up regrets.
11. King of Judea and Godly reformer (2 Chronicles 15:8).
12. The old gray mare, perhaps.
13. "Whoever denies the Father and the Son, this is the \_\_\_\_ christ," (1 John 2:22).
15. Despite the growth of cities like Columbia, our diocese as a whole is still considered \_\_\_\_.
17. Letters for Northern Ireland.
18. I was dismayed to see a police car in my \_\_\_\_ view mirror signaling me to pull over!
19. Short for anode, esp. in electronics schematics.
20. "(there are) teachable moments to grow our faith in the dark. To live and \_\_\_\_," —*Sacred Wandering* by Dana Arcuri
23. \_\_\_\_\_. White, Am. author of *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*.
24. Memphis, Mo. was the birthplace of Tom Horn who was notable for being nearly 7 ft. in height. But he was much more famous as a Wild West gunslinger "credited" with killing 17 men. He was \_\_\_\_ in 1903.
27. \$100 US dollars will get you 10,812 \_\_\_\_ in Japan.
29. Month in which we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (abbr.).
31. *Beauty and the \_\_\_\_*; fairy tale written by French novelist Gabrielle Barbot de Villeneuve in 1740.
32. Part of WWW, the world wide \_\_\_\_.
34. \_\_\_\_ from the past (e.g., a top 10 golden oldie).
35. Marshfield, Mo. can boast of Edwin Hubble, the famous astronomer. The groundbreaking Hubble telescope in \_\_\_\_ is named for him. A replica of the satellite is on the courthouse grounds.
37. Suffix for auction or musket.
38. Home State for the Pirates and the Phillies (abbr.).
40. Chevy SUV. Also a lake in Nevada.
42. A Hawaiian island.
44. Part of RIP.
47. Abbr. for spelling, esp. in editing and correcting texts.
48. Word \_\_ \_\_, a Catholic media org. founded by Bishop Robert Barron. It produced the popular series "Catholicism" and also, "The Pillars of the Church," both used by small groups in some of our parishes (2 wds.).
51. In Bloomfield, Mo., The

National Stars and \_\_\_\_ Museum and Library tells how U.S. Grant, fighting Confederates in nearby Belmont, Mo., commanded the *Bloomfield Herald* press to print news for his troops. It tells of the continued 150 years of subsequent issues of that military magazine for armed forces worldwide.

54. "Whoever has \_\_\_\_ ought to hear," (Matthew 11:15).
55. Redwood State (abbr.).
56. A card game.
57. "But who do you say I \_\_\_\_?" (Matthew 16:15).
59. Seventh note.
61. Marshfield, Mo. claims to have the \_\_\_\_ July 4th celebration west of the Mississippi.
62. Main body of a Church.
63. "...but deliver \_\_\_\_ from evil."

## DOWN

1. Wife of Abraham (Genesis 18:6, 9).
2. Paddle.
3. This country is the world's top exporter of corn products.
4. La Grange, Mo. is the birthplace of Ella Ewing (1872-1913). At 8' 4", she toured with Barnum & Bailey as the Missouri Giantess, the \_\_\_\_ woman in the world.
5. Prophetess who spoke about the child Jesus (Luke 2:36-38).
6. Near Mansfield, Mo is the Rocky Ridge \_\_\_\_ and poultry farm of the Almanzo & Laura Ingalls Wilder family. After writing for years for the *Mo. Ruralist Magazine*, Laura began her *Little House on the Prairie* memoirs. On the site is a museum as well as the Wilder 10-room farmhouse, a National Historic Landmark site.
7. The Mo. Dept. of \_\_\_\_ regulates the biggest industry in Mo.
8. Near Mansfield, Mo. is the Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co. selling, since 1881, vegetable, flower, herb, pumpkin, etc. seeds worldwide including \_\_\_\_ tomato varieties from Belize and Thailand, planted in gardens from Monticello to Disneyland.
9. Don't give up. Give \_\_\_\_ chance! (2 wds.)



10. Marshfield, Mo. is home to the National \_\_\_\_ Families Library & Museum. To inaugurate it they hosted in 2006 the largest gathering of presidential relatives in the nation's history, representing 26 presidential families.
14. Mt. \_\_\_\_; where Moses died (Deuteronomy 31:1, 5).
16. Try as he might, he was \_\_\_\_ to complete his task.
21. New York summertime time.
22. "...and the poor have the good \_\_\_\_ proclaimed to them," (Matthew 11:5).
25. In times of trouble, hold your \_\_\_\_ and dearest close to you.
26. Near Cuba, Mo. is Bob's Gasoline Alley on the old Rt. 66. It's called a gem with 200 vintage gasoline signs, Burma Shave signs, \_\_\_\_ pumps, and 3 buildings of Rt. 66 memorabilia.
28. 8th planet from the sun. This bluish planet is named for the Roman god of the sea.
30. Cleopatra to her friends, perhaps.
33. Sound from the sheep pen.
34. Microbrewery product.
36. Near Fanning, Mo. sits what is advertised as the biggest rocking \_\_\_\_ in the world. It beats that of Iowa (11 ft.) and Texas (25 ft.). But alas, Mo.'s (42 ft.) has been surpassed by one in Illinois (55.6 ft.). After all, 2nd in the world is not so bad.
38. St. \_\_\_\_ John Paul II gave us the first major addition to the Rosary since its be-

ginning: the luminous mysteries.

39. Group for those grappling with alcohol addiction.
41. First lady.
43. A type of RR gauge, or 1/3 of Santa's laugh.
45. Acronym for equivalent single axle load, used to assess the road damage affected by axles carrying different loads.
46. I'll always choose the option that is tried and \_\_\_\_.
47. That glass of ice tea sure hit the \_\_\_\_!
49. The Mo. Walk of \_\_\_\_ was founded in 2006 in Marshfield, Mo. Each year at that city's April Cherry Blossom Festival a star for each of the six recipients chosen is placed in a sidewalk downtown.
50. Q-V.
52. She knows all the \_\_\_\_ and outs of the process.
53. Moses Austin is buried in Potosi, Mo. In 1821, he brought with permission 300 families from Potosi to \_\_\_\_ Antonio, TX. Shortly after, he died of pneumonia in Mo. But his son Stephan fulfilled his dream by becoming the founding father of Texas, even branding its capital with the Austin name.
55. "...that we may merit to be \_\_\_\_ heirs to eternal life..." —from the 2nd Euch. Prayer.
58. Home State of Boston College, founded by the Jesuits in 1863 (abbr.).
60. "Life \_\_\_\_ life. Fight for it!" —St. Teresa of Kolkata.

ANSWERS on page 19

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# Pro-lifers hopeful about court's first abortion case in four years

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

Washington, D.C.

Optimism among pro-lifers ran high March 3 for a successful outcome to the first abortion case heard by the Supreme Court in four years.

It also is the first such case heard by new Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, both appointed by President Donald Trump and considered favorable to pro-life issues.

"This one, I expect, will be a win," said U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, at an afternoon news conference at the National Press Club in Washington.

On March 4, the court hears oral arguments in *June Medical Services v. Russo*, a challenge to a Loui-

siana law, passed in 2014, that requires abortion providers to have "active admitting privileges" at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion facility.

Without the privileges, the law imposes a fine of up to \$4,000 per violation and imprisonment for up to two years, with loss of a doctor's medical license.

The law is nearly identical to one in Texas struck down by the Supreme Court in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* in June 2016. The court ruled the Texas law created a burden to women's access to abortion and was therefore unconstitutional.

A victory for the Louisiana law will be considered a key step in chipping away at *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 court decision legalizing abortion on demand, by moving the issue to state legislatures instead of the

Supreme Court.

Critics call it a "TRAP law," meaning, "Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers," because it could force abortion clinics to close because they have not followed safety requirements, which supporters of legal abortion consider a guise, when the aim of pro-life advocates is to end abortion altogether.

A federal district court in Louisiana decided the law did exactly that and blocked the law, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit overturned that ruling in 2018, leading to the Supreme Court hearing.

"This industry needs to be regulated, and if anyone tries to tell you otherwise, they're not looking at the facts," Johnson said.

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Jeff Fennewald  
573-473-7590



## Fundraisers & Social Events

### Mar. 6

**Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Columbia**, Sacred Heart K of C fish fry, 4:30 pm, Fr. Tolton High School; **Cuba**, Holy Cross fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, St. Andrew K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C #12992 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft; **Jonesburg**, St. Patrick fish fry, 11 am-2 pm and 4-7 pm; **Lake Ozark**, K of C Council #9273 fish fry, 4-7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish hall; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Leo Hall; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 11 am-1 pm & 4:30-6:30 pm; **Rolla**, K of C Council #2627 & Ladies Auxiliary fish fry, 5-7 pm; **St. Clement**, St. Clement parish fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. Martins**, St. Martin fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Sedalia**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Taos**, K of C Council #6430 fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm

### Mar. 6-8

**Marceline**, Fr. McCartan Memorial School dinner theater production "School for Nerds," Fri. & Sat. snack night 6:30 pm, Sun. matinee noon, for info and tickets search School for Nerds at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

### Mar. 7

**Linn**, St. George School band pork burger sale, 9 am-1:30 pm, Thriftway parking lot

### Mar. 8

**Belle**, St. Alexander parish breakfast, 7-11 am; **Fayette**, St. Joseph pancake & sausage breakfast, 8 am-noon; **Linn**, "The Way of the Cross," by Donna Cori Gibson, 3 pm, St. George Church, for info visit [church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church](http://church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church); **Palmyra**, St. Joseph Altar Society smorgasbord, 11 am-1 pm, Fr. Farischon Hall; **St. Thomas**, St. Thomas the Apostle ham & sausage breakfast, 8-11:30 am

### Mar. 9

**Jefferson City**, Vitae Foundation 28th Annual Jefferson City Pro-Life Event, featuring keynote speaker Trey Gowdy, luncheon program noon-1:30; dinner program 6:30-9 pm, for info visit [vitaefoundation.org](http://vitaefoundation.org)

### Mar. 12-14

**Vienna**, Visitation parish Spring

rummage sale, Thurs. 4-7 pm, Fri. 8 am-7 pm, Sat. 8 am-4 pm

### Mar. 13

**Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Chamois**, Most Pure Heart of Mary seafood buffet, 4-7:30 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Edina**, K of C fish fry, 5:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, St. Andrew K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Jonesburg**, St. Patrick fish fry, 11 am-2 pm and 4-7 pm; **Lake Ozark**, K of C Council #9273 fish fry, 4-7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish hall; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Leo Hall; **Marceline**, K of C Council #9208 fish dinner, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 11 am-1 pm & 4:30-6:30 pm; **Rolla**, K of C Council #2627 & Ladies Auxiliary fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael parish hall; **St. Clement**, St. Clement fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Vienna**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Koerber Hall; **Wardsville**, Wardsville/Osage Bend K of C fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm, parish gym

### Mar. 13-15

**Jefferson City**, Helias Catholic High School spring musical "The Little Mermaid," Fri. & Sat. 7 pm, Sun. 2 pm, Miller Performing Arts Center, for tickets call 573-635-6139

### Mar. 14

**Centralia**, Holy Spirit parish garage sale, 8 am-noon

### Mar. 15

**Clarence**, St. Patrick parish St. Patrick's Day dinner, 11 am-1 pm; **Marceline**, Fr. McCartan Memorial School St. Patrick's Festival, 11:30 am-1:30 pm; **St. Patrick**, Shrine of St. Patrick parish St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 8 am-3 pm; **Westphalia**, St. Joseph chicken dinner, 11 am-6:30 pm

### Mar. 17

**Mexico**, St. Brendan annual corned beef & cabbage dinner, 11 am-1 pm & 4-7 pm

### Mar. 20

**Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Columbia**, K of C Council #1529 fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fayette**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, St. Joseph parish; **Holts Summit**, St. Andrew K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C #12992 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm,

Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft; **Jonesburg**, St. Patrick fish fry, 11 am-2 pm and 4-7 pm; **Lake Ozark**, K of C Council #9273 fish fry, 4-7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish hall; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Leo Hall; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 11 am-1 pm & 4:30-6:30 pm; **Rolla**, K of C Council #2627 & Ladies Auxiliary fish fry, 5-7 pm; **St. Clement**, St. Clement fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. Elizabeth**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. Martins**, St. Martin fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Sedalia**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Taos**, K of C Council #6430 fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Vienna**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm, Koerber Hall

### Mar. 21

**Boonville**, Ss. Peter & Paul parish "St. Paddy's Celebration," 6:30 pm; **St. Martins**, K of C Cosmic Bingo event to benefit the Community Breast Care Project and the Central Missouri Honor Flight, 5 pm; **Vienna**, Vienna Senior Center "Imagine Italy" benefit, 4-9 pm, K of C hall

### Mar. 22

**Bonnots Mill**, St. Louis of France parish chicken dinner, 11 am-6:30 pm

### Mar. 27

**Bonnots Mill**, K of C fish fry, 5:30-8 pm, St. Louis of France parish hall; **Camdenton**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Cuba**, Holy Cross fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **Edina**, K of C fish fry, 5:30 pm; **Eldon**, K of C fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Fulton**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Holts Summit**, St. Andrew K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **Jefferson City**, Fr. Helias K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, K of C Hall; **Jefferson City**, K of C #12992 fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft; **Jonesburg**, St. Patrick fish fry, 11 am-2 pm and 4-7 pm; **Lake Ozark**, K of C Council #9273 fish fry, 4-7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish hall; **Laurie**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-6:30 pm, St. Leo Hall; **Marceline**, K of C Council #9208 fish dinner, 4:30-7:30 pm; **Montgomery City**, K of C fish fry, 11 am-1 pm & 4:30-6:30 pm; **Rolla**, K of C Council #2627 & Ladies Auxiliary fish fry, 5-7 pm; **Russellville**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Michael parish hall; **St. Clement**, St. Clement fish fry, 4:30-7:30 pm; **St. James**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm; **St. Robert**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm; **St. Thomas**, K of C fish fry, 4:30-7 pm, St. Thomas the Apostle parish center

### Mar. 28

**Linn**, St. George parish Spring Fling, 5-10 pm, activity center

### Mar. 29

**Freeburg**, Holy Family parish Spring dinner, 11:30 am-6 pm

## Eventos del Ministerio Hispano

### 7 de Marzo

**Marshall**, Encuentro De Grupos Base RCC, Iglesia San Pedro. Informes: Moisés Sosa 661-346-7161

### 14 de Marzo

**Marshall**, Planificación Familiar Natural, 9 am a 1 pm, Iglesia San Pedro. Inscripciones e Información: Diácono Enrique Castro 573-680-3650 & Amada Garcia 573-635-9127, ext. 226

### 21 al 22 de Marzo

**Marshall**, Retiro De Inicio, Iglesia San Pedro. Informes con Marcelino 660-631-3748

### 28 de Marzo

**Sedalia**, Concierto De Alabanza, Iglesia San Patricio. Informes Yolanda y Vicente, 660-287-7317

## Meetings & Conferences

### Mar. 7

**Jefferson City**, "Walk in Her Sandals" women's conference with speaker Kelly Wahlquist, 9 am-3 pm, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry)

### Mar. 9

**Jefferson City**, Vitae Foundation 28th Annual Jefferson City Pro-Life Event, featuring keynote speaker Trey Gowdy, luncheon program noon-1:30; dinner program 6:30-9 pm, for info or to register visit [vitaefoundation.org](http://vitaefoundation.org)

### Mar. 12

**Columbia**, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program Orientation, 5:30-7 pm, 916 Bernadette Drive

### Mar. 16

**Taos**, Jefferson City area Ultreya for Cursillo, 7 pm, St. Francis Xavier school cafeteria

## Liturgical

### Mar. 8

**Linn**, "The Way of the Cross," by Donna Cori Gibson, 3 pm, St. George Church, for info visit [church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church](http://church.saint-george-parish.org/St-George-Church)

### Mar. 14

**Jefferson City**, Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations, with Mass at 8 am, and opportunity for re-

flection, Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, confession and veneration of a relic of St. Jude the Apostle, Cathedral of St. Joseph, for more info visit [diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org)

### Mar. 17

**Mary's Home**, Seeking Christ for Our Nation Mass, 6 pm, Our Lady of Snows Church

## Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

### Mar. 19

**Columbia**, "Acts 2:42: A Night of Dinner & Prayer," featuring dinner, praise & worship music, talk, and Adoration and Reconciliation, 6-8:30 pm, St. Thomas More Newman Center

### Mar. 21

**Columbia**, 28th Annual United in Prayer Day, with Fr. Matthew Flatley, 9 am-12:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, for info visit [cocemo.org](http://cocemo.org)

### Mar. 28

**Jefferson City**, Pre-Cana experience for engaged couples, 9 am-4:30 pm, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, for info or to register visit [diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/precana-registration/](http://diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/precana-registration/); **Kirksville**, "@Your Table: Love Like Mary, Serve Like Martha," diocesan women's Lenten retreat, 9 am-3 pm, Kirksville Newman Center, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry](http://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry)

### Mar. 31

**Lake Ozark**, "Let's Talk Faith," women's ministry event, 6:30-8 pm, Our Lady of the Lake parish hall, for info visit [diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry/](http://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry/)

## Youth & Young Adults

### Apr. 4

**Jefferson City**, Girl Empowerment Day, for girls in grades 6-8, sponsored by Z-Club of Jefferson City, with proceeds going to Central Mo. Stop Human Trafficking Coalition, 10 am-2 pm, Memorial Park Pavilion, for info or to register, search "Girl Empowerment Day" at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

## Health & Wellness

### Mar. 11

**Loose Creek**, Blood drive, 3-7 pm, Community Center

### Mar. 22

**Wardsville**, Blood drive, 8 am-noon, St. Stanislaus Gym



## Anniversaries

**Brookfield, Immaculate Conception**  
Fred & Michelle Lewis, 21 years

**Indian Creek, St. Stephen**  
Artie & Carolyn Whelan, 66 years

**Jefferson City, St. Peter**  
Clarence & Shirley Stieferman, 65 years

**Jonesburg, St. Patrick**  
John & Bridget Cobb, 16 years

**Kirkville, Mary Immaculate**  
Donald & Shayla Reynolds, 42 years  
Adrien & Theresa Presley, 39 years

**Milan, St. Mary**  
Joe & Deanna King, 60 years  
Audel & Lilia Arellano, 38 years  
Edwin & Cielia Pacheco, 21 years  
Victorino Gregorio & Yolanda Osorio, 15 years

**Montgomery City, Immaculate Conception**  
Alan & Marie Rock, 33 years  
Tim & Sandy Bethel, 25 years

**Morrison, Assumption**  
Daniel & Mary Ann Lamb, 50 years

**Palmyra, St. Joseph**  
Craig & Kathy Bent, 42 years  
Frank & Connie Burch, 40 years  
David & Janice Kroeger, 32 years  
Chuck & Susan Chambers, 30 years  
Duane & Judith Martin, 29 years

**Russellville, St. Michael**  
Roger & Carol Zink, 50 years  
Dan & Gail Cartee, 45 years

**Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul**  
Larry & Sharon Price, 50 years

**Taos, St. Francis Xavier**  
James & Margaret Cassmeyer, 60 years

**Vienna, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Larry & Loretta Haller, 45 years

## Birthdays

Brookfield, Immaculate Conception — **Doris Dennis**, her 96th; **Sybil Schreiner**, her 92nd

Russellville, St. Michael — **Pat Meller**, his 91st on March 15

## Baptisms

California, Annunciation — **Levi John St. Onge**, son of Charlie & Lauren St. Onge

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Elliott Finder, Juniper Jones, Brooks McDougal, Nolan Wesley**

Freeburg, Holy Family — **John Albert Locker**, son of Nick & Chassidy Locker

Hermann, St. George — **Clayton Alan Kuhn**, son of Nathan & Abigail Kuhn

Indian Creek, St. Stephen — **Madden Eugene Hays**, son of Donnie & Ashley Hays

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Beckett James Myren**, son of Peter & Cory Myren

Marceline, St. Bonaventure — **Zane Andy Svendsen**, son of Ross & Danielle Svendsen

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Josephina Adelinette Maysleigh Roberts**, daughter of Brandon & Anna Roberts

Russellville, St. Michael — **Sylvia Nicole Mosley**, daughter of Jeff & Vicky Mosley

Shelbina, St. Mary — **Emerson Lee Keller, Kelby Anne Pollard, Beckett Emersyn Prange**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Trenton Daniel Pointer; Carter Joseph Vieth**

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Gunnar Patrick Keilty**, son of Chase & Natasha Keilty; **Samson Clay Kleffner**, son of Cory & Kelly Kleffner

## Marriages

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Susanne DeClue & Andrew Talken**

Shelbina, St. Mary — **Kenzie Kendrick & Jake Niemeyer**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Donna Hurley & Laron Hilke**

## Deaths

**Luis Alonzo Reyes Pimentel** — the father of Deacon Luis E. Reyes Pimentel of St. Peter parish in Marshall — in the state of California

Hannibal, Holy Family — **Jimmie Boef, Donna Hark**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Col. Lloyd R. Cain (US Army, ret), Harold F. Kuster**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Joseph R. Ryan**

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Donald V. Cline, Charles W. Heet, Ronald J. Kay, Margaret A. Vieth**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Bernie Chisholm**

Linn, St. George — **David L. Boes, Jack Peters**

# Shrine of St. Patrick's envelope to honor a town founder

The St. Patrick's Day envelope and special postage cancellation have been a long-standing tradition for Shrine of St. Patrick parish and the small village of St. Patrick in northeastern Missouri.

This year's specially-designed envelope honors one of the founders of St. Patrick, Rose Simpson Riney.

Many settlers in America moved westward from the East Coast to Kentucky, and that was the case in the Simpson and Riney families.

Settling in Washington County, Kentucky, in the 1780s, both families relocated to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1829.

Richard Riney and Rose Simpson got married there July 19, 1830.

They moved to Clark County, Missouri, in 1833 and settled near a Native American village just south of St. Patrick.

They were the parents of eight children and lived there for the remainder of their lives.

Other settlers soon arrived, and a small log church was built around 1834 to accommodate the growing population.

Richard died on Dec. 18, 1858, and Rose died exactly 50 years later.

Their earthly remains are at rest in the St. Patrick parish cemetery.

Rose's obituary states that she helped with the construction of the original log church by tying logs together with her own hands. It also notes that she was the great-niece to the famous frontiersman, Daniel Boone, on her mother's side.

That relation has been difficult to document due to the fact that the County Courthouse in Kentucky was destroyed by fire, along with many marriage and birth records.

Mary's Home, Our Lady of the Snows — **Alma G. Loethen, Wesley B. Mormann, Josephine Schwallier**

Moberly, St. Pius X — **Vivian Wisniewski**

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Thomas P. Kremer, Dorothy N. Mebruer**

St. James, Immaculate Conception — **Elynn M. Rubczak**

St. Martins, St. Martin — **James E. Loethen**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Thomas Bernard, Thomas T. Keating**

Vienna, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary — **Aaron Weckenborg**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Christopher A. Markway**

### Postal cancellation

Shrine of St. Patrick parish, working in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service, has been developing a special postmark for St. Patrick's Day every year since 1979.

This year's special cancellation replicates the Claddagh Ring, symbolizing love, loyalty and friendship.

The special cancellation postmark can be applied from March 1 through 31.

The St. Patrick envelope includes the envelope, special Postal cancellation, postage stamp, insert, and cachet stamping "St. Patrick, Mo. The Only One in the World," for the cost of \$2 each.

Please send your request for envelopes to the Shrine of St. Patrick, P.O. Box 34, St. Patrick, MO 63466. Include your check, along with your list of recipients, and the ladies from the Shrine of St. Patrick will address and mail on the date you require.

"Who doesn't like receiving mail?" stated St. Patrick parishioner Myrna Daughtry.

## Names for the People Page

Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers. Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to [editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org); FAXed to (573) 635-2286 (please designate *The Catholic Missourian* as the recipient); or mailed to: *The Catholic Missourian*, P.O. Box. 104900, Jefferson City, MO 65110-4900.



**ROSE SIMPSON RINEY  
FOUNDER, ST. PATRICK, MO, 1833**

## Crossword puzzle answers

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



# St. Peter Interparish School students 'Mix It Up' while observing Random Acts of Kindness Week

By Jay Nies

A large, handmade poster adorned the wall right inside St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City.

It contained the letters K, N and D.

Students stopped to stand between the K and the N, reminding themselves that they can't have "KIND" without "I."

The students and staff were observing Random Acts of Kindness Week, one deliberate act of kindness at a time.

"I think we could all use some more kindness in our life," stated seventh-grader Caroline Hayes.

"It makes other people happy, and it makes you happy, too," seventh-grader Maddie Schrimpf added.

Students made posters promoting kindness and posted them throughout the school.

At lunchtime, Student Council members sold "Candied Compliment Cards," with the proceeds benefiting student philanthropies.

Each card was pre-printed with the words, "What I like about you is ..." Students, teachers and parents filled out the cards. Student Council members presented the cards to their recipients on Friday afternoon, along with a Tootsie Pop at the end of school.

Also on Friday, third-through eighth-graders took part in "Mix It Up At Lunch," an activity designed to help them get to know different people better.

Teachers in the cafeteria handed out randomly colored pieces of candy to students while they stood in line. The colors determined where each student would sit for lunch that day.

To jump-start fun conversations, each student also received a list of unusual questions such as "Would you rather give up TV or music?" "Would you rather have a giant



Students at St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City "mix it up" with random seating arrangements on the Friday of the school's observance of Random Acts of Kindness Week.

— Photos by Jay Nies

hamster or a tiny rhinoceros?" or "Would you rather dive into a swimming pool full of marshmallows or Jell-O?"

They were also encouraged to ruminate on favorite books, favorite pizza toppings, favorite board games and other bits of offbeat minutia.

Aside from having fun, the goal was "to make a new friend, get to know a little bit more about your classmates," stated Sara Garner, St. Peter Interparish School's counselor.

The school has more than 500 students.

"Some of our eighth-graders have been together since kindergarten, but in a school this size, it's possible not to have one real conversation with this person or that person in all of those years," Mrs. Garner noted. "So it's nice for some of those kids to wind up spending a little time together at random and maybe even rekindle some old friendships."

She said the Candied Compliment Cards are another great vehicle for choosing kindness over indifference.

"It's important for kids to recognize good things about each other and to express their appreciation, whether

it be for doing something kind or being cheerful or friendly or offering a smile," she said.

Seventh-grader Lydia Gas-

sen agreed that it's important to notice when other people are being kind and to thank them.

## Goodness and kindness

"I think it's working out pretty good!" third-grader

you sit by new people, you might find something in common that you didn't realize, and might become friends."

"I like it," said seventh-grader Mazie Patek. "We get to talk to other people we enjoy talking to. It's really fun."



Students get serious about the ice-breaker questions at their tables.

Hadlie Hubble said of the "Mix It Up At Lunch."

Third-grader Nolan Vassos said it's a nice part of Random Acts of Kindness Week.

"We're learning how if you do random acts of kindness, then everybody might be nicer," he said. "It's fun that we're sitting here at different tables and asking different questions about what people like and how we're different from each other, to find out interesting stuff about them."

Fifth-grader Kingston Forck said mixing up table mates at lunch could help people expand their circle of friends.

"We usually sit by our friends and don't sit by different people," he said. "But when

She said kindness is important "because without kindness, there wouldn't be friendship. There wouldn't be love."

Kingston said kindness makes the world better.

"Villains are usually made by people being mean to them," he asserted. "If there's no kindness in the world, we would probably see more villains, because there would be no one being kind to them."

## "He wants us to know"

Mrs. Garner said the goal for Random Acts of Kindness Week was to help create a more positive, affirming environment at school and ideally have that spill over into students' interactions with friends and

family.

"Hopefully, we're all becoming a bit more friendly, a bit more forgiving and a bit more understanding," she said.

That, Mrs. Garner insisted, is exactly what God wants.

"He wants us to know what's special about ourselves, which all comes from Him," she said. "And it's our responsibility to tell each other, to give each other those compliments."

Mrs. Garner is a St. Peter Interparish School graduate. This is her second year as the school counselor.

"There are teachers who have been here since I was a student," she noted. "It's kind of fun to work with the teachers who taught me!"

While she spends some one-on-one time with students, she mostly spends time visiting classrooms to offer guidance on navigating the world of academics, extracurricular activities, family life and friendships.

Each month, the school focuses on a positive character trait and pairs it with one of the theological virtues.

"We're always trying to make those connections so the kids are aware of what those words mean and how they can live them out every day," she said.

In the meantime, Kingston thinks the school should have "Mix It Up At Lunch" more than once a year.

"Maybe like four times," he said. "Everyone likes being around different people, but we don't usually do it because we also like being around our friends."

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



# A father celebrates his son's return

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

One day, tax collectors and sinners gathered around Jesus to hear Him speak.

The Pharisees and scribes were disgusted.

"This Man welcomes sinners and eats with them," they sneered.

Jesus overheard them and decided to tell the parable of the lost son.

There was a man who had two sons, Jesus told the crowd.

The younger son wanted to leave home, so he asked to be given his share of his father's estate. The father did so, and the younger son set off for a distant country.

The younger son squandered all of his money. Afterward, a famine struck the



country, and he could not afford to support himself.

He found work tending swine for a local farmer. He was so hungry that he was tempted to eat the pigs' food.

Suddenly, the younger son came to his senses.

"How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger," he

said to himself.

The younger son decided to return home. He planned to admit his sinfulness to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him coming home and ran to embrace and kiss him.

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers," the younger son said.

Instead, the father told his servants to bring a fine robe, sandals and a ring for his son.

"Take the fattened calf and slaughter it," the father ordered. "Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has

come to life again; he was lost, and has been found."

The older son, who always had done everything his father had asked, was angry that his wayward brother was being celebrated.

"My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours," the father said to his older son.

"But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

## Read more about it...

### Luke 15

1. What did the younger son want from his father?

2. Why was the father excited to see the younger son return home?

## Bible Accent

In Luke 15, Jesus told the crowd two more parables about lost things.

In verses 8-10, he told of a woman who lost one of 10 coins. He said that she surely would light a lamp and sweep the house carefully until she found it.

"And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost,'" Jesus said. "In just

the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

And in verses 1-7, Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep.

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the 99 in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?" Jesus asked. "And when he does find it ... he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice

with me because I have found my lost sheep."

"I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who have no need of repentance," he said.

## Essay

When have you asked someone to forgive you for poor choices or bad behavior?



## Saint Spotlight

St. Nicholas Owen was born in England in 1550. He became a lay Jesuit brother in 1597. In the late 1500s in England, Catholic clergy and laypeople began to be persecuted by the government. During the persecution, Nicholas traveled with the Jesuit provincial and stayed in the homes of Catholics who refused to obey a law requiring them to attend the Anglican Church of England. In these homes, Nicholas saved the lives of many persecuted priests by creating hiding places for them. Nicholas eventually gave himself up to protect other Jesuits. Although he was tortured, he never revealed the location of his brothers. Nicholas died in 1606, and we honor him on March 22.

## Puzzle

Below are sentences about another lost son, Joseph, the son of Israel (Jacob). Put a T next to the sentences about Joseph that are true and an F next to the ones that are false. Hints from Genesis 37 have been provided.

- \_\_\_ 1. Joseph was Israel's favorite son. (verse 3)
- \_\_\_ 2. Joseph's brothers hated him because of his dreams and the bad reports he made about his brothers. (verses 2 & 8)
- \_\_\_ 3. All of Joseph's brothers agreed to kill him. (verses 20-22)
- \_\_\_ 4. Joseph's brothers let Israel believe Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. (verses 28-33)



Answers: 1. T; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T.



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## Knights of Columbus releases videos to help men grow in their faith

Catholic News Service

New Haven, Connecticut

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, the Knights of Columbus, the international fraternal organization based in New Haven, released videos and other resources to help men on their spiritual journey.

Titled "Into the Breach," the video series has 12 episodes that address "many of the challenges modern men face, including fatherhood, marriage and leadership," said a news release from the Knights.

The videos and other resources can be found at [kofc.org/intothebreach](http://kofc.org/intothebreach).

"Catholic men and fathers shoulder a great responsibility. Our role in evangelization is indispensable, especially within our homes — building the domestic Church," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said in a statement. "Our families and our parishes need our faithful witness more than ever."

"As Catholic men and as Knights of Columbus, it is our duty to 'step into the breach' and play our part in the renewal of our families and the Church," he added.

The Knights said the series was inspired by Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's 2015 document, "Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men," which called men to be prepared for the spiritual battle for their souls and the souls of their families.

The series builds off the popularity of the organization's "Everyday Heroes" series that focused on "remarkable Knights whose courage, faith and commitment to charity show that heroism is attainable to the everyday man."

"The 'Into the Breach' series contends that men are made for greatness and that the true expression of that greatness is to be heroically virtuous — to have a character marked by goodness and truth, strength and courage, in imitation of

Christ," the news release said.

Episodes include: "Masculinity," "Brotherhood," "Leadership," "Fatherhood," "Family," "Life," "Prayer," "Suffering," "Sacramental Life," "Spiritual Warfare," "Evangelization" and "The Cornerstone."

Those who contribute commentary to the series include Bishop Olmsted; author and theologian Scott Hahn; prominent Catholic speaker Father Mike Schmitz; former NFL player Matt Birk; and Curtis Martin, founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Through the series, the Knights of Columbus "is seeking to offer Catholic men tools and opportunities to grow in their faith, pursue Christ-like virtue, and become better Catholics, husbands and fathers."

## A Devotional Journey into the Easter Mystery

The bestselling author of *A Devotional Journey into the Mass* (Sophia Institute Press, 2018) has released a follow-up

volume to draw readers into the central mystery of the Catholic Faith: the Paschal Mystery.

In *A Devotional Journey into the Easter Mystery*, liturgy expert Christopher Carstens reveals how prayerful participation in the events of Holy Week brings life, joy and holiness.

Drawing on the solemn texts for each celebration and the writings of the Church Fathers, Carstens unveils the spir-

## Movie Ratings



Adults and Adolescents

The Call of the Wild (PG)  
Sonic the Hedgehog (PG)



Adults

Brahms: The Boy II (PG-13)  
Burden (R)  
Fantasy Island (PG-13)  
Gretel and Hansel (PG-13)  
Les Misérables (R)  
The Photograph (PG-13)  
The Rhythm Section (R)  
The Turning (PG-13)



Limited Adult Audience

Downhill (R)  
The Invisible Man (R)  
Parasite (R)



Morally Offensive

Birds of Prey (R)  
The Gentlemen (R)

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



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103.3 FM, Fulton  
K216GM 91.1 FM, Canton

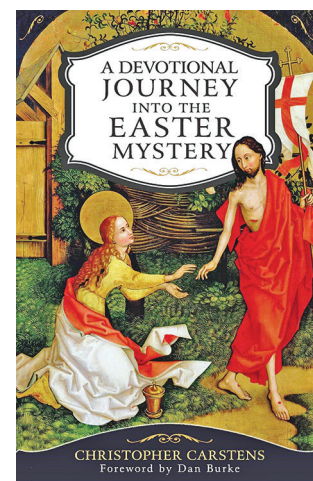
itual treasures of Lent, the Triduum and the Easter season.

Additionally, he clarifies the meaning and purpose of each celebration and suggests practical ways for participants to pray these observances more fruitfully.

Ultimately, *A Devotional Journey into the Easter Mystery* allows the faithful to more effectively engage with Christ Himself and to share in His divinity.

As Avila Institute Founder and President Dan Burke writes in the foreword, "[This book] seeks to draw back the veil that has hidden the melody of God from our generation. Carstens leads us, as into the most beautiful but abandoned room in an ancient, majestic castle, into the throne room of grace, where the angels sing and the heart is lifted to the glory of the Blessed Trinity."

In a summary guide to participation in the Easter



Mystery, (available online) Carstens' draws forth a fundamental insight into each solemn celebration from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost.

Significantly, he adds to each a principal activity intended to help the faithful integrate these

insights into their lives.

With this practical advice, readers will learn to live liturgically, infusing the graces of the Church's sacred feasts into the rhythms of everyday life.

Thousands of readers have lauded the wisdom and lucidity of Carstens' earlier work, *A Devotional Journey into the Mass*, which has helped individual Catholics and entire parishes across the country cultivate a richer understanding of the liturgy.

The online summary guide can be found at: [www.sophia-institute.com/docs/Easter\\_Mystery\\_Summary\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.sophia-institute.com/docs/Easter_Mystery_Summary_Guide.pdf).



## HELPING HANDS

From page 6

### From near and far

The back of the volunteers' T-shirts says, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time. They have the heart."

Food pantry volunteers come from Loose Creek, Meta, St. Anthony, St. Elizabeth and Tuscumbia.

Most of the thrift store volunteers come from St. Elizabeth, although some travel from Folk, Koeltztown, Loose Creek, Meta, St. Anthony and Tuscumbia.

Ten people from St. Elizabeth volunteer in both the food pantry and the thrift store, as do seven people from St. Anthony, two from Tuscumbia, and two from Meta.

Members of St. Elizabeth R-IV School's Future Business Leaders of America chapter, the

National Honor Society, the St. Anthony 4-H chapter and the Catholic Youth Organizations in St. Anthony and St. Elizabeth occasionally help stock food and fill orders.

No volunteer or board member receives a salary. "Without these great volunteers, this thing is nothing," one of the board members stated.

There's always a need for more volunteers to help with the food pantry and thrift store operations and to add to the pool of experience and perspective.

The volunteers enjoy each other's company and are always happy to expand the circle of fellowship.

"The more the merrier!" a member of the board stated.

## DR. VADER

From page 15

who is superintendent of the Paris R-II School District.

Partners in Mission (*partnersinmission.com*), a nationally recognized organization that provides advancement and leadership services for Catholic education, coordinated the search.

When Bishop McKnight told Dr. Vader the search committee had recommended her unanimously, she felt like the "Holy Spirit was knocking at the door."

As she told her parents when she applied, "this is the first position I have read about where my interest and excitement about the possibility is bigger than the terror I feel about moving away."

### "By our love"

Dr. Vader is looking forward to working with the principals of the diocese's 37 Catholic grade schools and three Catholic high schools.

"I've heard about how dedicated the administrators and staffs are at the schools," she said. "I've been told how collaborative they are and committed to helping each other succeed."

She called to mind an old Catholic lyric: "They will know we are Christians by our love."

"I can't tell you what an ideal Catholic school looks like, but I can tell you how it feels," she said. "It feels welcoming and loving and open to whomever comes into the school."

"You feel the excitement of the students about what their learning," she said. "You see

the excitement on the faces of the teachers about what they are teaching.

"You feel a dynamic that impresses upon you that this is a positive place, that this is a safe place," she said. "And above all else, you feel what it's like to have people modeling Christ for one another."

It's about working together as disciples with a common mission of forming children into strong Catholic Christians.

"It's a type of environment you have to experience in order to understand," she said. "And I want all of the families and all of the kids to experience it."

### Coming home

Dr. Vader is grateful to all the people who have helped her reach this point in her career.

They include her parents and her sisters; the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur (*ssmnwestern.com*) who taught her in school; Bishop Michael Olson of Fort Worth; and her first principal, who encouraged her and helped cultivate her leadership skills.

"That's part of what anyone in administration is called to do," said Dr. Vader. "You have to grow that next generation of leaders."

As difficult as it will be to leave the family, friends and coworkers she has known for most of her life, Dr. Vader is excited to embark on a new adventure.

"For as far away as Jefferson City is from Fort Worth, and

as different as some of the aspects of the Jefferson City diocese are from the diocese I'm in now, it still feels familiar and comfortable," she said.

"The people I've already met are some of the warmest, most helpful, positive people I've encountered in a long time," she stated. "It doesn't seem like it's going to be difficult to call my new diocese home."

### Rejoice!

Dr. Vader asks for prayers for courage and wisdom.

She is fond of sharing with children and adults her three favorite Bible verses:

• "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jeremiah 1:5)

• Psalm 139, especially, "You formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb. I praise You, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works!" (13-14)

• "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

She frequently calls on the saints — including St. Peter and St. Oscar Romero — to pray with her and inspire her by their example.

"St. Oscar Romero's fight for social justice for the most vulnerable speaks very clearly to me," she said. "St. Peter exhibits such good intentions and such human failures, yet he never stops trying to do better."

"Their stories give us all hope!" she said.

## Daily Readings

### Sunday, Mar 8

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

### Monday, Mar 9

St. Frances of Rome, religious  
Dn. 9:4b-10  
Ps. 79:8-9, 11, 13  
Lk. 6:36-38

### Tuesday, Mar 10

Is. 1:10, 16-20  
Ps. 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23  
Mt. 23:1-12

### Wednesday, Mar 11

Jer. 18:18-20  
Ps. 31:5-6, 14-16  
Mt. 20:17-28

### Thursday, Mar 12

Jer. 17:5-10  
Ps. 1:1-4, 6  
Lk. 16:19-31

### Friday, Mar 13

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

### Saturday, Mar 14

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

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

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

### Sunday, Mar 15

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex. 17:3-7  
Ps. 95:1-2, 6-9  
Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8  
Jn. 4:5-42

### Monday, Mar 16

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

### Tuesday, Mar 17

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

### Wednesday, Mar 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church  
Dt. 4:1, 5-9  
Ps. 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20  
Mt. 5:17-19

### Thursday, Mar 19

ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16  
Ps. 89:2-5, 27, 29  
Rom. 4:13, 16-18, 22  
Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a

### Friday, Mar 20

Hos. 14:2-10  
Ps. 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17  
Mk. 12:28-34

### Saturday, Mar 21

Hos. 6:1-6  
Ps. 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab  
Lk. 18:9-14

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## 40 Days for Life daily prayer vigils in Columbia

The 40 Days for Life campaign is taking place through April 5 in Columbia.

It is an opportunity to help

protect mothers and children by praying, fasting and taking part in peaceful vigils and community outreach for an end to

abortion.

Prayer vigils take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the public sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood, 711 N. Providence Road in Columbia.

This is one of over 500 40 Days for Life prayer vigils

taking place throughout the United States and around the world.

For information or to sign up to pray, contact Kathy Forck at (573) 821-5130 or visit:

[40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/columbia-2](http://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/columbia-2)

## SHS Spring Musical in Sedalia

**DATE:** March 20-21  
**TIME:** 7:30 pm

The Sacred Heart High School Theatre Department will present its 2020 Spring Musical, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, at the Hayden Liberty Center, 111 W. Fifth St.

The musical by Clark Gesner is based on the characters created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz in his comic strip, "Peanuts."

**Knights of Columbus Jay Harris Council 8620**

# Fish Fry

## WARSAW

**EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT THRU APRIL 10**

**4-7 pm**

Serving fish, hush puppies, french fries, coleslaw, coffee & tea

All you can eat!

\$11/person — ½ price kids 6-12 — Kids 5 & under FREE

**Taos K of C Council #6430**

**4:30-7:30 pm**

# FISH FRY

**K of C Hall in TAOS**

**March 6 & 20 April 3**

Endless Fish \$12	Boiled shrimp \$12	Fish & shrimp \$12
Burger & fries \$4	Kids fish \$6 (under 12)	

With baked potato or fries, coleslaw, baked beans, hush puppies, tea & coffee, & ice cream. Refreshments available. Carryout line for "To Go" plates.

Enjoy an evening out with good food and good friends!

**St. Martin Home and School**

# FISH FRY

Where: **St. Martin Church Basement, Business 50 West**

When: **Fridays, March 6 & 20 - 4:30-7:30 pm**

Catfish, homestyle potato chips, mac & cheese, cornbread, coleslaw, green beans, applesauce & desserts

Adults \$11 - Seniors (65+) \$10  
Children 6-12 \$6 - Children 5 & under FREE

To-go orders available in school gym for \$11. For large to-go orders, call or text 573-619-7060 during serving hours.

**ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC PARISH SCHOOL**

**Wardsville/Osage Bend Knights of Columbus**

# Fish Fry

**Friday, March 13 4:30-7:30 pm**

**St. Stanislaus Parish Gym Wardsville**

Fish fillets, hushpuppies, baked potato, French fried chips, baked beans, coleslaw, & homemade rolls

**Adults \$12 Kids \$6 (6-12) Kids 5 & under Free**

Carryouts available

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# FISH FRY

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**Served 4-7 pm**

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# LENTEN FISH FRYS

**Fridays March 13 & 27 4:30-7 pm**

**St. Michael's Parish Hall**

Fried USA catfish fillets, coleslaw, potatoes, baked beans & dessert  
Mac & cheese & hot dogs available  
Adult carry-outs available

**Adults \$11 • Children 6-12 \$5**

**All you care to eat**

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