

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

VISITATION PARISH



OUR MISSION

Visitation, a community of communities, is committed to a way of life based on Christ's teaching and our Catholic tradition by being dedicated to life-long conversion in faith, healing sanctuary in our sacraments and relationships, an educational environment for our children which emphasizes Catholic values and is committed to excellence, awareness and responsiveness to the needs of our neighbors and our society.

M A S S E S

Sunday Masses

Saturday..... 4:00 pm

Sunday..... 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Confessions

Saturday 3:00 pm

Weekday Masses (St. Joseph Chapel)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.....6:45 am

Tuesday, Friday..... 8:15 am

Saturday..... 8:15 am

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

PLAN AHEAD FOR CHRISTMAS!

Please join us for Christmas Eve, December 24 at 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm or 10:00 pm or Christmas Day, December 25 at 10:00 am.

THANK YOU TO VISITATION FROM ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



To our Visitation
Neighbors,

Thank you so much for
your generous food
donations to our pantry
here at St. Francis Xavier.
As you know, the needs
are great and even more
families struggle to make
ends meet. This past
month at the food pantry
was the busiest one we

have seen all year—we served over 400 people with
food! We were just discussing ways to get more
canned meat for our neighbors and then your
donations showed up with canned ham! Thank you
for partnering with us to make food more accessible
for our shared community.

Aiden Bondurant & The SVX Food Pantry Team

FOOD BASKET - DON'T FORGET!

Donations to the food basket in the narthex go
directly to pantries serving those in need! So, during
this season of giving bring a donation of canned
goods to Mass each week! Your kindness will help
spread joy to all who receive them! Thank you in
advance for your generosity.



CONFIRMATION

JR. HIGH: We will meet
from 5:30 -6:30 pm on
Monday, December 15.

SYMPATHY

The parish extends prayers and sympathy to Nick
and Ashley Schulte on the death of their son,
Nicholas.

**PRAYING FOR OTHERS
HELPS US STAY CONNECTED
TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER.**

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Earl Adam
Pamela Atherton
Jack Baker
Bill Blanck, Sr.
Bill Fuss
Ed Growney
Brooke Kuechler Harris
Kristin Heyer
Megan Hoefer
Margaret Howard
Joe Irwin
William Jewell
Bryan Larson
Jeanne Lendabarker
Bob Lystad
Scott Martens
Thom McNamara

Tricia Melland
Virginia Moffett
Jack Myre
Jen O'Neill
Mary Ann Oswald
Peggy Pruitt
Ellie Rose
Kathy Scaglia
Gary Schafer
Barbara Schulte
Aimee Sesler
Sandra Sharp
Kathy Sims
Cenza Spadafore
Special Intention
Salvador Valldeperas, Sr.
Dave Wittrock

SICK LIST

Please call Jenny Greene at 816-753-5155 x1309 to
request an individual be added to our list. We ask
that you leave a contact name and number. We will
follow up with each request quarterly to keep the list
current and to offer any additional support if needed.

MILITARY

The parish community continues to pray for parish
members and their families who are serving in the armed
services: Major Philip Martin, Fort Leavenworth, KS; Major
Chris Oppenlander, Hill Air Force Base, UT; Major
Gisselle Oppenlander, Hill Air Force Base, UT; Major
Thomas Ranieri, Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD.

FUNERAL MEAL TEAMS

On Deck: Team # 12

On Alert: Team # 4

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners,

Part of the spirit of Advent is penitence. While it is a season of quiet joy anticipating God's arrival here and now, and at the end of time, it also invites us to make room for that arrival by turning from sin. We celebrated communal Reconciliation this past week, incorporating First Reconciliation for our second graders into the celebration, but also have ongoing opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament on Saturdays between 3:00 - 3:45 pm. Contrary to what many might think, it's usually a fairly steady 45 minutes of penitents. This is a good time to give a few reminders about Reconciliation on Saturdays.



If the candle outside the Reconciliation Room is burning, I am in the Confessional. I light it when I enter and extinguish it when I depart. I try to be in the room before 3:00 pm so as to allow any arriving the full guarantee of anonymity. And I need to depart as close to 3:45 pm as possible, as I have only 15 minutes to prepare for Mass. If you do celebrate the Sacrament during this time, you are welcome to kneel behind the screen or sit in the chair for face to face celebration. Once you enter, it's good to remember that others might arrive while you're in the Reconciliation Room. If your celebration of the Sacrament would take much longer than 10 minutes, it'd probably be best to make an appointment, as time on Saturdays is limited. If you have the Act of Contrition memorized, that's great. But don't feel compelled to do so if it's difficult. There are many apps that offer the Act of Contrition, and you are most welcome to read it from a mobile device during the celebration. I also have a printed copy available if needed.

Peace in these exciting, busy, demanding days!

Peace,

Fr. Greg

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sponsored by the Visitation Knights of Columbus


16th Annual

Front Porch Coat Drive

Drop off your donations of coats, gloves, hats, blankets and other winter items at these locations:

- Vasquez home - 5415 Baltimore
- Steinert home - 5818 Central
- Fedinets home - 433 W. 69th St.

Inside Tighe Hall!



Charity and service are at the heart of what we do as Knights. If works of charity and service are important to you, perhaps the Knights of Columbus is for you. If you'd like more information on the Knights, visit the Visitation website under the "Get Involved" tab or call/text Bob Steinert at 816-729-2748 or Mark Blanck at 816-419-7171.

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 20-21

Tuesday, December 16

6:45 am Maria Chalk †

8:15 am Theresa Williams †

Wednesday, December 17

6:45 am Fr. Norman Rotert †

8:15 am 2nd Graders who recently
received 1st Reconciliation

Thursday, December 18

6:45 am Joan Widmer †

Friday, December 19

8:15 am Carl Riester †

Saturday, December 20

8:15am Santa Maria Madre de los Pobres

4:00 pm People of Visitation

Sunday, December 21

8:00 am Gene Hall †

10:30 am Louise Williams †

ALTAR SERVERS

EMS

LECTORS

SACR. USHERS

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 20-21

4:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

E. Taylor C. Thompson sub req. R. Waldrup	G. Malter D. Kobler M. Gromowsky	J. Flanagan L. Esslinger E. Strupp
D. Bruegging J. Call Keith Connor Kevin Connor A. Coppage T. Cotton T. Egan E. Haines M. Shannon A. Sonnenberg L. Waters	D. Devine J. Dickmeyer P. Ekerdt J. Grego L. Gromowsky K. Larson R. Larson F. Lester A. McDonald J. McGee C. Schorgl	A. Florez E. Florez M. Florez J. Goeke G. Herrenbruck J. Johnson B. Jones T. McCray T. McGhie G. O'Brien J. Olivas
K. Brown L. Keens	T. Dakan B. Nelson	J. Anderson
S. Barone J. Waldrup NOT FILLED	J. Hughes M. Vrabac NOT FILLED	G. Canino J. Canino NOT FILLED
D. Laird	J. Palmer	C. Ruiz

PARISH BOUNDARIES

State Line on the West to Oak St. on the East;
47th Street on the North to Meyer Blvd on the
South

PARISH OFFICE, Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

5141 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64112

Phone 816-753-7422 Fax 816-753-5505

Web Site www.visitation.org

PARISH STAFF 816-753-5155 x#

Pastor, Fr. Greg Haskamp x1302,

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joni@visitation.org

Ministry Scheduler/Bookkeeper, Janet Ridder x1304,

janet@visitation.org

Priest in Residence, Fr. Charles Rowe

BULLETIN DEADLINE Noon Monday

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick by appointment
Fr. Greg and Jennifer Greene

Eucharist to Homebound and Hospital, Jennifer
Greene

Sacrament of Matrimony, Contact Jennifer Greene
to begin marriage preparation.

Sacrament of Confirmation, Youth Jennifer Greene

Sacrament of Infant Baptism, Adult Confirmation
and Sacraments of Initiation, *For those who wish to
become Catholic.* Teresa Albright

PARISH COUNCIL 2025/26

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St. Vincent De Paul Help Line

816-753-9061

Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph

Independent Ombudsman, 816-213-6024

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Michelle Graff
816-714-2357

PASTORAL CARE

FAITH & GRIEF GATHERINGS IN TIGHE HALL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 AT 12:00 NOON



Speaker: Rev. Sally Wright

Sacred Memory: **How to Weave Loved Ones Into Everyday Rituals**

As we begin the new year, Sally will share more about the healing power of small daily rituals and offer suggestions for spiritual practices that help keep memories alive.

NEW ! Faith & Grief Online Caregiver Support Gathering

Fourth Monday of each month from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Register on the Faith and Grief website. Join this monthly offering online for sharing experiences, encouragement and support from others who understand. Register at www.faithandgrief.org. Visit faithandgrief.org or scan the QR code to RSVP for a gathering and learn more about all our grief programs online and in-person.



NEW! Grief Support Group, *Facilitated by Ryan Speed, LMSW*

First Tuesday of each month | 6:00–7:00 pm

Starting January 6, 2026! Village Church on Mission Rd.

Grief is a natural, complex response to loss—and no two experiences are the same. This monthly group provides a compassionate, confidential space to share, listen and heal alongside others who understand. Facilitated by therapist **Ryan Speed, LMSW**, the group offers support, reflection, and practical tools for navigating the emotional and spiritual challenges of grief.

Here is a link for info about Ryan: <https://www.prairieskycc.org/ryanspeed>

Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Rd. Room 232
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RACIAL JUSTICE



An ongoing initiative of the Visitation Racial Justice Committee is offering Just Faith study sessions for parishioners and the community at large. The most recent offering, Faith and Racial Justice: Changing Systems and Structures, concluded on December 2. This course offered an opportunity for individuals to more intently study mass incarceration, redlining, the racial wealth gap and



reparations. Despite the weighty subject matter, several participants noted the course left them feeling more hopeful for the future and better equipped with ways in which to use our faith as a guide in the work of racial justice. One participant noted “for me, this is the beginning of a journey.”

Recognizing the value of continued conversations, the Racial Justice Committee will host a Just Faith Reunion in early February, gathering past participants and interested newcomers to revisit recurring themes and select readings from the Faith and Racial Healing course. Stay tuned for more details.

For an overview of the **Faith and Racial Healing** series, go to <https://justfaith.org/courses/faith-and-racial-healing-embracing-truth-justice-and-restoration/>

For an overview of the **Faith and Racial Justice** series, go to <https://justfaith.org/courses/faith-and-racial-justice-changing-systems-and-structures/>

STEWARDSHIP

GIVING AT VISITATION

As we near the end of the calendar year, the parish would appreciate 2025 pledges being fulfilled by year end. If you did not make a pledge but consistently give a year-end gift, we value your past support and appreciate any contribution you make this year. Please allow adequate mail or processing time depending on your type of transaction to enable us to credit the donation by December 31, 2025 for possible tax-deduction purposes.

There are numerous ways to contribute:

- Drop an offertory envelope in the Sunday collection.
- Mail a check to the parish office.
- Call us to set-up a one-time or regular, automated gift using your bank account or credit/debit card.
- Send your contribution via the online banking offered by your financial institution.
- Use the online giving tab on our parish website for a one-time gift: <https://www.visitation.org>.
- Donate appreciated assets.
- Make a charitable distribution from your IRA.

Please keep in mind that we distribute offertory envelopes based on your giving preferences. Please contact the parish office if you are wish to change those preferences.

If you have any questions regarding your pledge balance or how to initiate an automated withdrawal, gift of stock or any other type of transaction, please contact Megan Burdolski, Director of Stewardship, at 816-753-5155 x1305 or megan@visitation.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT | ADVENT SMALL GROUP

The Faith Formation Team is happy to be hosting our second annual Advent Small Group between the Masses each Sunday during Advent. Come celebrate hope, peace, joy, and love with us through reflection, discussion, and prayer.

Every Sunday during Advent | Between the Masses |
Retreat Room (head to Tighe Hall and look for the sign)



FAITH FORMATION IN ACTION!

On November 24th, Visitation's School of Religion hosted a Family Gathering, which also welcomed households from Visitation School. The event was a wonderful opportunity for family members of all ages—from toddlers to grandparents—to share in real conversation about their Catholic faith around a dinner table.



And on November 30th, parishioners celebrated the beginning of the Season of Advent by gathering for the Advent Small Group and participating in Visitation's annual Advent Wreath Making event.



JANUARY 12 | SUPPER SERIES SESSION 4: GOSPEL VALUE OF INCLUSION

At our fourth Supper Series event focused on Catholic Social Teaching, we will explore two principles - "Call to Family, Community, and Participation" and "Rights and Responsibilities." In this session, we'll hear from a variety of speakers about their experiences supporting and being supported by the Visitation ministries and committees that embody the value of inclusion. All are welcome. Come be nourished in body, mind, and spirit.

Next Event: January 12 in Tighe Hall | 6:15 pm - Doors Open | 6:30 pm - Dinner Served | 7:00 pm - Program

SAVE THE DATES! FOR FULL CALENDAR GO TO VISONMAINKC.COM

- Every Sunday of Advent, Between the Masses: Small Advent Group
- January 12: Supper Series Session 4: Gospel Value of Inclusion

Questions about Faith Formation events or joining the Faith Formation team? Contact Teresa Albright: teresa@visitation.org

SHARED VISION CAMPAIGN

THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS!

The Shared VISION Campaign has surpassed \$10.3 Million in gifts and pledges* as of December 7, 2025.

Together, we're making possible a renewed Visitation School which includes much-needed major renovations and construction of an all-new Maker Space. It's not too late to Share in the VISION. Every gift is appreciated. Every gift makes a difference! **Thank you for your kindness and generosity.**

*\$10.3M does not include value of generous in-kind contributions pledged. Due to print deadline, any omission is sincerely regretted. Any additions or corrections will be reflected in future gratitude acknowledgements.

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It takes all of us!

Your one-time gift or pledge before year-end is sincerely appreciated. Gifts may be pledged over a 1-, 2- or 3-year period. Please reach out to the parish office to arrange gifts of securities or other appreciated assets. megan@visitation.org or call 816.381.6911

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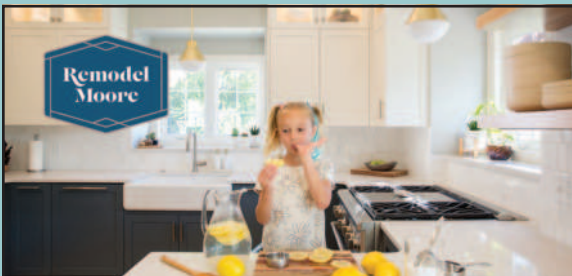
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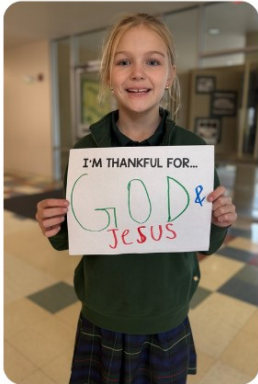
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Hopeful Waiting

Preparing Our Hearts This Advent Season

Throughout this season of hopeful waiting, our students have been learning about the meaning of Advent through prayer, service, and simple daily practices. Each week, they gather to reflect on the virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love - carrying these gifts into their classrooms and our wider community.

Throughout December, our school community has been joyfully walking the Advent journey together. The month began with a beautiful Monday morning prayer service, where each classroom brought its Advent wreath forward to be blessed - a simple but powerful reminder that we prepare as one school family.

Students have spent the month creating Advent artwork, helping with children's liturgies, and sharing Christmas activities with their Faith Families and younger school buddies. Many families also embraced the Peace Tree project, selecting gifts that brought light and hope to local parishes and charities.

Our PTO has been collecting contributions for the Teacher Christmas Appreciation Fund, a heartfelt way for families to show how much our faculty and staff are valued and appreciated.

Behind the scenes, parent volunteers have been hard at work getting our upcoming auction ready - now officially live at visitationauction.com.

It has been a month filled with generosity, prayer, and hopeful anticipation as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

