

VISITATION PARISH
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 9, 2022



*A voice came from Heaven,
“You are my beloved son;
with you I am well pleased.”*

Luke 3:22

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

S.O.R. classes are on winter break December 27 - January 17. Classes resume Monday, January 24, 2022.

NOW ACCEPTING NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER!

See page 6 in the bulletin for more information about S.O.R.

To register your family in S.O.R., contact Teresa at teresa@church.visititation.org

BAPTISMS

In December, we welcomed two children to their new life in Christ through the saving waters of baptism.

- **Kennedy Fritzlen** - child of God, daughter of Julia and John Fritzlen
- **Mabel Wittrock** - child of God, daughter of Brent and Katie Wittrock

A BIG THANK YOU to Stephanie Barone, Linda Hughes, Justin Deeken and Ann Greene who visited the homes of our community's newly baptized throughout 2021. To become a *Baptism Visitor*, please contact Steph Barone at 286-6336 or myodyn@sbcglobal.net.

Blessing of the Newly Baptized

Loving God,

You created all the people of the world and you know each of us by name. We offer you grateful praise for the gift of eternal life. We thank you for these children and adults who recall today their own baptism. Bless them with your presence and surround them with your love and friendship that they may grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's witnesses in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation sessions will resume today, Sunday, January 9 at 12:00 noon in Tighe Hall. Check your emails or Confirmation Bitmoji Classroom for schedule and missed sessions.

WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

OUR SYMPATHY TO

Betsy Lynch on the death of her father, Bill Sharp, and to Keith and Kevin Connor on the death of their father, Dick Connor.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Rusty Denes
Tim MacNamara
Andy Metzler
Suzanne Adams
Pamela Atherton
Barbara Kopp Atkinson
Maggie Quirarte Bates
Marilyn Frechin Blank
Dorothy Bock
Leonardo Borders
Mary Ann Brown
Mike Caraway
Shari Caraway
Marianne Carl
Beverly Cascone
Joanne Comiskey
Olivia Connealy
Jimmy Connell
Hunter Cook
Polly Donnelly
Allie May Dudenhoeffer
Tom Fraley
Shana Gadt
Susie Haake
Brooke Kuechler Harris
Mike Henninger
Joe Irwin
William Jewell
Jaquie Kallman
Peg Kallman
Shirley Kempker
Marriane Kersten
John Langle
Bryan Larson
Betsy Lazere
Jeanne Lendabarker
Anthony Lipari, Sr.
Jorge Maldonado

Scott Martens
Priscilla McInnes
Thomas McNamara
Tricia Melland
Birdie Mendance
Mary Montgomery
Lionel Morgan
Joe Noblitt
Maggie O'Neill
Jennifer Olson
Charles Oppenlander
Nicholas Parscale
Leonardo Passantino
Connie Perucca
Pat Piranio
Nicola Pistone
Kat Potter
Peggy Pruitt
Quinn Regan
Carol Riesmeyer
Ellie Rose
The Ryan Family
The Saalberg Family
Jeff Schilling
Fran Schuetz
Barbara Schulte
Aimee Sesler
Sandra Sharp
Sharon Smart
Special Intention
Robert Stumpff
Jeannie Sullivan
Peter Thompson
Tripp Thompson
Salvador Valdeperas, Sr.
Annabelle Whalen
Dave Wittrock
Leigh Ann Zeller

Reminder:

Thank you for sharing your name *with* us. We are always ready to pray for you and your loved one. Please contact us and let us know when you or your loved one is doing better and ready to be taken off the prayer list. God Bless.

The parish community continues to pray for parish members and their families who are serving in the armed services: Major Philip Martin, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Maj. Chris Oppenlander, Hill Airforce Base; Maj. Gisselle Oppenlander, Hill Airforce Base; Staff Sgt. Louis Perez, San Diego, CA.

A LITTLE VISITATION

Dear Folks,

So this is the first bulletin column I have written in almost 2 years. I wonder how long it will take me to get the hang of it again. You might realize that sitting in front of the “Video Visitation” camera on Wednesdays is considerably simpler and easier than writing a bulletin column. I am over the initial disdain I felt for doing the video thing. When we began it I did not at all like the way I looked and sounded to myself. I thought, “Gee, is this what these poor people have to put up with week after week? How do they take it?” It seemed to me that my gestures were outsized, my inflections most peculiar, and my whole demeanor just sort of ill-fitting. I do not think I have been able to change my own gestures, inflections, and demeanor much, but I have come to think like Popeye. “I Yam what I Yam and that’s alls that I Yam.” If you are among the hundreds of people who watch that thing every week, all I can say is thanks for putting up with me. Megan Burdolski, our highly capable parish stewardship officer, is the presence I constantly refer to as “the producer.” I have found that she and I have an unanticipated, but very effective, chemistry between us that makes the Video Visitations downright fun to do much of the time. We will keep doing them on at least a semi-weekly basis, with off weeks getting a bulletin column. I do not have a good sense of where this will go. Covid has not exactly killed the traditional paper bulletin but it is like the Kansas City Star- a shadow of its former self. If I find over time that these written productions do not have the following that they once had I might just stop them altogether.

There are advantages to the written stuff. For one thing, it affords me the more realistic chance to present an issue in a more carefully cogitated way. You know, I can sit here and mentally parse things as I write them in a way I cannot do when being videoed. For the balance of this column, I want to raise one of those issues and that is the Annual Catholic Appeal. No, I am not talking about the pledges you and I make to Visitation Parish every year, which is the parish appeal. I am referring to the “ask” that the Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph makes of us on an annual basis. The diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal material was mailed to our homes in the same envelope in which the Visitation Parish Annual Report and pledge card were mailed. You might remember it. It was a sort of pretty bluish-purplish envelope that opened out like an unfolded napkin.

Well, truth to tell, I have done a lousy job of presenting the bishop’s Annual Catholic Appeal this year. I don’t have a good excuse except that this is a complicated place and I am alone in the sacerdotal parts of administration here. Other things got in the way; a spate of funerals that has yet to let up and the School Master Planning process are the major reasons. These things take a lot of time and much of what little psychic energy I have. But I am belatedly asking you now to please consider donating to the bishop’s appeal. I know some of you chafe at the idea because you believe withholding financial support from the wider Church is the only means you have of prodding the institution toward necessary reform. Believe me, I understand your point. As I was writing my own personal check to the diocese last week I had similar thoughts. But on the other hand, Bishop Johnston has, and is, working at the resolution of our local Church’s bigger problems. Yes, he has not been as alacritous at parts of it as I wish he had been, but he has been working at it and he is working at it more avidly right now. Ministerial ethics are supplied with serious people, and serious money, to help insure the safety and progress of souls entrusted to the care of diocesan personnel. Diocesan apostolates are at last being seriously evaluated in terms of pastoral and financial viability. A different and, we earnestly pray, fruitful approach is being taken toward the training of new priests and new pastors. These things are truly necessary, they are truly being attempted, and it truly costs money to get them done well. Expensive as they can be, their furtherance also costs the price of our encouragement. In the name of a picture bigger than today and a ministry wider than Visitation Parish, please remember the Annual Catholic Appeal when you consider where to apply your charitable dollars. See you on paper again in two weeks!

In our Holy Communion,

Msgr. Bradley S. Offutt

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



A consistent thread in our Racial Justice Committee discussions from the beginning has been the power of knowing someone's stories. As a committee, we seek opportunities to help members and interested parishioners expand their daily routines to learn more about the experiences of others. One powerful way to develop empathy for and knowledge of experiences other than our own is through reading or listening to a good story. 2021 inaugural poet Amanda Gorman notes "books have the power to change how we see ourselves and others. The choice is ours to harness that potential."

As this year closes, several organizations have published their "best of 2021" lists. Below, please find a list of fiction and non-fiction titles featuring black and brown authors and protagonists included on one or more of these lists. Happy reading!

School Library Journal Picture Books

Dream Street

This Magical, Musical Night

Time For Bed, Old House

Eyes that Kiss in the Corners

School Library Journal Middle Grade

Amari and the Night Brothers, Alston, B.B.

Josephine and the Sea

Rez Dogs

Maya and the Robot

Take Back the Block

Black Boy Joy

Root Magic

The Wall Street Journal

Look For Me And I'll Be Gone, John Edgar Wideman

The New York Times

How Beautiful We Were, Imbolo Mbue

The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois, Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America, Clint Smith

Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City, Andrea Elliott

On Juneteenth, Annette Gordon-Reed

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY 11-16

Tuesday, January 11
6:45 am Hank Lespeance †
8:15 am Maurice Boucher †

Wednesday, January 12
6:45 am Kay McCarvill †
8:15 am Kelsey Kivistö †

Thursday, January 13
6:45 am Joe Crowe, Sr. †

Friday, January 14
8:15 am Vera Ossi †

Saturday, January 15
8:15am Danny Farrell †
4:00 pm People of Visitation

Sunday, January 16
8:00 am Becca Lueke †
10:30 am Cathy McGee Schuerer †

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 753-5155 or 753-7422 Fax 753-5505
Web Site www.visitation.org**

**PARISH STAFF 753-5155 x#
Pastor, Msgr Brad Offutt x1302,
msgroffutt@church.visitation.org**

**Pastoral Associate, Christine Sanders x1309,
chris@church.visitation.org**

**Pastoral Associate, Karen Miller x1308,
karen@church.visitation.org**

**Pastoral Associate, Teresa Albright x1306,
teresa@church.visitation.org**

**Director of Liturgy/Music, Alejandro Manso x1307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org**

**Stewardship & Development Director, Megan
Burdolski x1305, megan@church.visitation.org**

**Business/Financial Manager, Isaac Uzcanga x1313,
isaac@church.visitation.org**

**Parish Secretary, Debbie Gilbert x1301,
debra@church.visitation.org**

**Ministry Scheduler/Bookkeeper, Janet Ridder x1304,
janet@church.visitation.org**

**Priest in Residence, Fr. Charles Rowe
BULLETIN DEADLINE Noon Monday**

SACRAMENTS

**Anointing of the Sick by appointment
Msgr. Offutt, and Chris Sanders**

**Eucharist to Homebound and Hospital, Chris
Sanders**

**Sacrament of Matrimony, Contact Chris Sanders to
begin marriage preparation.**

Sacrament of Confirmation, Youth Chris Sanders

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

PARISH COUNCIL 2021-2022

Bill Dunn	Brandon McManamy
Dave Ekerdt	Msgr. Brad Offutt, Pastor
Lorraine Gordon	Anne Ryan
Sara Keenan	Sally Sallee
John Legg	Dylan Schoening
Don Lueke	Cindy Spaeth
Tina Mateski	Megan Burdolski, Staff Liaison

SCHOOL OFFICE

**5134 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone 531-6200Fax 531-8045**

**Principal, Mary Kallman x3140
Vice Principal, Kelli Minshall x3141
Secretary, Bridget Winget x3136**

**St. Vincent De Paul Help Line
753-9061**

**Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph
Ombudsman, Joe Crayon 812-2500
Victim Assistance Coordinator,
Whitney True-Francis 392-0011**

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Whitney True-Francis, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 392-0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

School of Religion is a catechetical program that serves the children of Visitation Catholic Community and their families. Classes are for K - 9th graders on Monday evenings from 5:15 - 6:15 pm at Visitation Church.



MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS - We use a lectionary-based curriculum that places the Gospel at the center of each lesson.

SUPPORTING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH - While the children are in class, parents and any adult parishioner is encouraged to use the sacred spaces in the church for personal and communal prayer as a way to support of the domestic church.

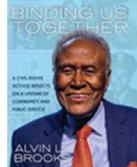
CELEBRATING OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY - Each week's lesson includes age-appropriate instruction from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. School of Religion at Vis also offers a sacramental preparation class for second and third graders who are ready for their First Penance and First Holy Communion.

SHOWING LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS - A few times each year the S.O.R. community gathers for Family Faith Events that are open to the whole community. Some of these are opportunities to serve the poor, while others are opportunities to evangelize others. S.O.R. families are encouraged to invite older siblings, grandparents, godparents and neighbors into their faith-life.

An Ecumenical Note to Non-Catholic Parents:

The S.O.R. Ministry Team strives to make Monday nights at Vis a welcoming place for all through common prayer and Gospel values. We extend a warm welcome especially to non-Catholic parents. Please let us know how we can best welcome you and your tradition's love for Christ.

FAITH FORMATION



Looking for a new book for the New Year? Look no further...

Join others in our faith community who are reading *Binding Us Together* by Alvin L. Brooks, a Kansas City icon. In his memoir, Mr. Brooks reflects on a lifetime of community and public service. Pick up your free copy today from the church narthex or parish office.



The Faith Formation Team is planning its fourth season of the Vis-on-Main podcast with parishioner and host, Lorraine Gordon. Episodes will discuss key themes of Alvin Brooks' memoir. Stay tuned! ALSO COMING THIS SPRING!....Bonus episodes in collaboration with the Visitation Racial Justice Committee.

SCHOOL

Save the Date for Trivia Night 2022 on February 26!

The Visitation Annual Trivia Night 2022 will be on Saturday, February 26 this year! Mark your calendars, start gathering your friends for your table, and planning your theme! Trivia Night is always so much fun!!

To reserve your table or spot at the table, go to:

<https://form.jotform.com/213346714882157>

Questions? Contact Nina LaFavor: ninabeana24@yahoo.com We hope to see you there!



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Congratulations on your Engagement! Visitation welcomes you into the marriage preparation process that will enrich and equip you to experience a joy-filled marriage. Visitation's engaged couples who are preparing for marriage are guided in an insightful and life-giving marriage preparation process. Our process helps form essential marriage tools and establish a closer connection with our parish community. The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph sets the expectation that engaged couples will notify parishes at least nine months in advance of their weddings in order to participate fully in preparation for the sacrament of marriage. Over the years our

parish community has learned this and, without exception, contacts the parish as soon as they are engaged. For the most part people have to do that in order to get the church and reception site dates lined up well in advance of nine months. More recently, couples who are going "home" (out of Kansas City) to be married have contacted the parish three – six months before their weddings which does not allow adequate time. To be fair to those couples themselves and to the 40+ couples currently in marriage preparation at Visitation, if you are newly engaged, please contact our pastoral associate, Chris Sanders at 753-5155 x1309 or



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



NEXT WEEK: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST JANUARY 16 IN TIGHE HALL

You are invited join the Knights of Columbus in Tighe Hall on Sunday, January 16 for a delicious pancake breakfast! Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the Children's Place. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 am-10:30 am.



ABOUT TOWN

ST. JOHN VIANNEY INAUGURAL LUNCHEON

- Thursday, February 17 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Hotel Kansas City, 1228 Baltimore Avenue, in the Tudor Ball room
- Tables: \$1,000 Sponsorships

Join Bishop Johnston for the *1st Annual St. John Vianney Luncheon* to support the Seminarians of the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. We are pleased to launch this inaugural event as we look to support the young men in our diocese studying for

vocations. This event will feature a celebration of the priestly vocation and all the work that is needed to ensure that we have priests for generations to come. Your support will help the Diocese to provide resources needed to support these young men on this special and important journey. This event will end promptly at 1:00 pm so that you may plan for your day. Those who wish to support by purchasing a table or donating may return this envelope or register online at www.kcsjcatholic.org.

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Visitation Parish

Tuesday, January 25th

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Tighe Hall
Visitation Church
5141 Main

Book your appointment today at savealifenow.org/group, enter Group Code: VH. For additional details contact Megan Burdolski at (816) 753-5155 ext. 305 or megan@church.visitation.org.

Medical eligibility questions? Call 1.800.688.0900

Appointments are preferred.

Masks are required for all donors regardless of vaccination status.
For full list of COVID-19 safety protocols, visit savealifenow.org/coronavirus.



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