

VISITATION PARISH

DECEMBER 24, 2023



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.

MASS SCHEDULE

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, Wednesday, Friday..... 8:15 am
Saturday..... 8:15 am

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORNING LITURGY THIS WEEK

There will be no 6:45 am Masses this week. Join us at 8:15 am on December 26, 27, 29 and 30.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed for Christmas on December 25 and December 26. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1.

ATTENTION LENT SMALL GROUP LEADERS!

The Faith Formation Team is planning a breakfast gathering for all of our amazing Small Lent Group leaders in order to build community and discuss "best practices" for the upcoming Lenten season, which begins February 14.

If you are new to leading a prayer group, or you hope to *start* a small group for Lent 2024 and want to attend the Leader's Breakfast, *please contact Ashley Rodden at* ashley@lover-cosmetics.com.

ATTENTION 2024 LENT BOOK WRITERS!

Thank you for agreeing to write a reflection for the 2024 Lent Book. This beloved Vis tradition is a project created *by* parishioners *for* parishioners each year. If you were asked to write a reflection but have not received a letter with your assigned Scripture reading in the mail yet, *please contact Teresa Albright in the parish office as soon as possible.*

SAVE THE DATE! BLESSING OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

All Children of God baptized in 2023 will receive a special, New Year's blessing on Sunday, January 7 during the 10:30 am Mass.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH - SAVE THE DATE!

If you have been considering attending a Christ Renews His Parish retreat, you are in luck! The next weekend for both men and women will be on **February 24 - 25**. It will be a wonderful way to prepare your spiritual walk through Lent this year! If you have questions or want to register now, please contact Karen Miller at karen@church.visitation.org.

WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

OUR SYMPATHY

We, as a parish community, extend our prayers and sympathy to Mary Kay Hogan, on the death of her mother, Marie Lichtenauer. And, to Bertie Daw, on the death of her daughter, Deidre Daw.

ROSARY FOR THE SICK
IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY IS HELD EVERY
WEDNESDAY IN THE ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL
AT 8:00 PM.

LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Earl Adam	Jeanne Lendabarker
Brian Adams	Scott Martens
John Anderson	Tim McNamara
Pamela Atherton	Thom McNamara
Maggie Quirarte Bates	Pam Murray
Bryan Bownick	Peggy Pruitt
Marianne Carl	Ruth Quirarte
Mary Beth Cicchetti	Theresia Ritchie
Olivia Connealy	Ellie Rose
Bill Fuss	Barbara Schulte
Brooke Kuechler Harris	Aimee Sesler
Laura Horigan	Sandra Sharp
Margaret Howard	Bill Stone
Joe Irwin	Special Intention
William Jewell	Jeannie Sullivan
Erin Kallman	Salvador Valdeperas, Sr.
Kevin Koch	Annabelle Whalen
Bryan Larson	Dave Wittrock
	Leigh Ann Zeller

SICK LIST UPDATE

Please call Jenny Greene 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 additional support as needed.

The parish community continues to pray for parish members and their families who are serving in the armed services: Maj. Philip Martin, Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Maj. Chris Oppenlander, Hill Airforce Base; Maj. Gisselle Oppenlander, Hill Airforce Base; Master Sgt. Louis A. Perez, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.

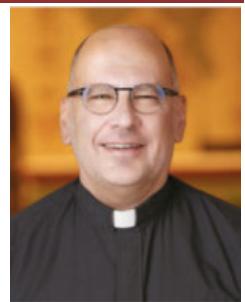
FUNERAL MEAL TEAMS

On Deck: Team # 6
On Alert: Team # 7

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners,

At the beginning of the year, Visitation began the process of a feasibility study to determine the parish's level of interest in supporting a capital campaign for renovations and improvements to Visitation School. As you will recall, our consultant produced a case statement outlining what a two-phase project would entail based on Hollis + Miller's master planning recommendations.



The feasibility study is complete and was recently presented to leaders of our various ministries and school. We are hopeful that you, too, will take an opportunity to read the results along with the wealth of data that will help to inform our decision-making in the months ahead. But if I may, I would like to share just a few highlights of the study that are both encouraging and affirming of this parish's appreciation for our school:

- One of the top takeaways from the study is the overwhelming appreciation expressed for this parish community. 90% of the participants stated that their spiritual needs are being met at Visitation.
- Another strength: more than 98% of the participants expressed that our school ministry is highly valued – that it brings vitality to our church, and serves as an anchor in the neighborhood and community.
- Of the 230 people participating in survey, 85% indicated that they would indeed consider supporting a campaign to improve our school campus.

Additionally, the feasibility study process provided an opportunity for you to express your concerns and ideas, as well as your hopes and dreams for the future. Your candor and thoughtfulness are appreciated AND are shaping the action steps we are taking to prepare for a successful campaign. These action steps include:

- Ensuring everyone at the parish has access to the feasibility study results. You will find a link to the study below as well as in the all-parish email that was sent this past Friday.
- Completing the Strategic Planning process that the school is currently undertaking and ensuring its implementation.
- Developing a business plan to determine the viability of an Early Childhood Center that is proposed in Phase II of the master plan.
- Investing time and effort to continue strengthening Mass attendance, community-building, stewardship and tithing – all things that will make for a vibrant parish AND a successful campaign.

I am grateful to everyone who took the time to participate in the study. Your feedback says a lot about what is on your hearts and minds, and gives our parish leadership an opportunity to build upon our strengths and to implement change in the areas that need improvement.

So, please, make time this week to check out the study on our website (utilize the QR code at right or visit <https://tinyurl.com/visfeasibility>) and please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Megan Burdolski with any additional feedback. We will continue to keep you updated as we follow through on the study's recommendations and next steps.

Peace,

Fr. Greg



SHAMROCK SNAPSHOT

ANNUAL SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



It certainly wasn't a "Silent Night" but a festive evening indeed – Visitation Students (K-4th Grade) showed their holiday spirit for the school's annual Christmas Program, held on December 13. Kazoos, talented solos, Santa hats, and spirited performances filled our gym with joy, pride, laughter and gratitude.

A special THANK YOU to Mrs. Edwin for all her hard work, patience and vision, to make this year's performance a highlight of the holiday season for our school families.



FAMED
VISITATION SCHOOL'S
TRASH BAGS

The school will no longer have its annual fall trash bag sale fundraiser
BUT rolls of these famed bags are always available for purchase.

Pick-up is from the front office.

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(green)

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(big blue)

'TIS THE SEASON
TO STOCK UP!



VISIT, SCAN, OR CLICK
tinyurl.com/vistrashbags



**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR DECEMBER 25– 31**

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day
10:00 am Michael Siragusa †

Tuesday, December 26
8:15 am Amy Thompson †

Wednesday, December 27
8:15 am Martha Beckers †

Friday, December 29
8:15 am Maria Chalk †

Saturday, December 30
8:15 am Bill Hodes †
4:00 pm Beattie Muraski †

Sunday, December 31
8:00 am People of Visitation
10:30 am Bill Hodes †

LITURGICAL MINISTERS DECEMBER 30-31

	4:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
ALTAR SERVERS	C. Tietjen L. McPherson S. Munjak-Khoury	C. Fanning J. Kobler W. Lueke	J. Lynch L. Maginn A. Wittrock sub req
EMTS	D. Tietjen M. Tietjen C. Brain D. Bruegging M. Rice Keith Connor Kevin Connor A. Coppage T. Cotton J. Franke J. Johnson	Amy Thompson M. Thompson Addie Thompson H. Shinn C. Jackson G. Bauman J. Dickmeyer C. Schorgl J. McGee J. Grego F. Lester	B. Palmer M. Innes B. Jones sub req C. Spaeth A. Bergner E. Connell V. Connell K. Esslinger sub req A. Florez E. Florez M. Florez
LECTOR	M. O'Neill	T. Fanning	S. Derks
USHERS	P. Dunlay J. Waldrup NOT FILLED	K. Levi P. Levi NOT FILLED	K. Maginn J. Mateski NOT FILLED
SACRISTAN	J. Rebman	E. Johnson	J. Palmer

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,
frgreg@church.visitation.org

Pastoral Associate, Jennifer Greene x1309,
jennifer@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

Director of Stewardship, Megan Burdolski x1305,
megan@church.visitation.org

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

Parish Secretary, Joni Chichuk x1301,
joni@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

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 2023-24

Lindsey Anderson	John Legg
Dave Ekerdt	Melissa Lising
Jim Erlacker	Sandie McCray
Mary Gigliotti	Steve Torline
Fr. Greg Haskamp	Katie Wendel
Ryan Larson	Kathleen Wiedeman
Megan Burdolski, Staff	

School Office

5134 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone 816-531-6200Fax 816-531-8045

Principal, Mary Kallman x3140

Vice Principal, Bridget Gronniger x3141
Secretary, Bridget Winget x3136

St. Vincent De Paul Help Line
816-753-9061

Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph
Ombudsman, Joe Crayon 816-812-2500
Victim Assistance Coordinator,
Whitney True-Francis 816-392-0011

RACIAL JUSTICE

The Visitation Racial Justice Committee strives to provide educational resources to its members and parish as a whole. Look for more information in future bulletins about two upcoming events:

- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” Reading, Monday, January 15
- Just Faith: Faith and Racial Healing 8-week transformative study session, starting Wednesday, January 31, at 6:30 pm, facilitated by Peg Ekerdt, Angela Florez and Linda Hughes.

Please contact Peg Ekerdt, peggyekerdt@gmail.com, Karen Miller, karen@church.visitation.org, or Linda Hughes, Ichteach20@gmail.com, for more information about either event.



EXCERPT FROM “THE ABOLITIONIST HISTORY OF ‘O HOLY NIGHT’” DELANEY COYNE, AMERICA: A JESUIT REVIEW

The Incarnation is the great miracle of salvation history, and perhaps no song better expresses that miracle—and its continued implications—as well as “O Holy Night.” With its soaring high notes and poetic depiction of God’s light breaking through to a world cloaked in sin, the song helps us to revel in that glory. The man who translated “O Holy Night” into English, John Sullivan Dwight, believed that reflection on this miracle had the potential to confront oppression and injustice in his day. The song was introduced to the United States by a Unitarian minister, John Sullivan Dwight, remembered as the first American music critic. He translated the poem into English and released it in 1855.

Benjamin Ivry called the original French “didactic,” “as if lecturing a crowd.” In Dwight’s rather liberal translation, the text takes on new life. The French, which would directly translate to “People kneel down, wait for your deliverance,” becomes “Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!”

The most interesting part of Dwight’s translation appears in the third stanza. A literal translation of the original French goes:

*The Redeemer has overcome every obstacle.
The Earth is free, and Heaven is open.
He sees a brother where there was only a slave.
Love unites those whom iron had chained.*

Dwight translated the verse to:

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.*

To Dwight’s American contemporaries, this would have been a radical political statement. By 1855, it had become increasingly clear that the long series of compromises that preserved slavery in the South was untenable.

Dwight himself was an ardent abolitionist. He wrote publicly about his horror that “three or four millions of our human brethren [are] in slavery” and believed that the United States was committing “moral suicide,” according to his biographer, Bill F. Fawcett. Dwight’s translation confronted listeners with the truth that Christ came to free humanity from sin, and therefore aligned the Christian witness with the abolitionist cause that sought to eliminate the evil of chattel slavery. It is thus unsurprising that “O Holy Night” gained fast favor among Northerners during the Civil War.

In “O Holy Night,” we are reminded of the promise of the Incarnation and its continuing resonance today. The Incarnation marks God’s entrance into humanity, done to fulfill the promise to “bring good news to the poor.... Proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk 4:18-19). As Christians, we must participate in this mission in the present, striving constantly to bring forth the kingdom of God. For Dwight, that called him to an abolitionist witness.

“O Holy Night” can still remind us of Christians’ duty to participate in Christ’s liberating mission. Our guest on “Hark!,” Gregory Boyle, S.J., says that he adopted the lines, “Long lay the world, in sin and error pining/ until he appeared and the soul felt its worth” as a kind of mantra: “It’s a song about Christmas and it’s a song about Jesus, but how is it not the job description of anyone who is the proud owner of a pulse?”

From Dwight’s abolitionist cause to Father Boyle’s ministry with gang members, we are all called to see the worth in each soul, and to fight against a world that denigrates it. “O Holy Night” is a reminder that in Christ, we all belong to one another, slave and free.

PARISH SAFETY

SAVE A LIFE

Did you know that over 4 years ago we applied for and received a grant to install an AED device in our Usher Greeter Room? At that time, all staff were trained on the device and in CPR. **You do not need to be trained;** however, to save a life. If there happens to be an urgent need, anyone can administer aid using the AED which is very self intuitive. We are all grateful that we haven't needed it and hope that trend continues. However, if someone goes into sudden cardiac arrest the best line of defense is to:

1. Recognize that someone needs help
2. Immediately call 911
3. Begin CPR/chest compressions

Follow the directions on the AED Device

Remember, seconds count when someone goes into sudden cardiac arrest!



YOGA AT VIS

TAI CHI AND YOGA AT VISITATION PARISH

The following classes are offered for the community at Visitation Parish:

Gentle Hatha, Mondays 8:30 am - In this class we blend breath and movement with an emphasis on alignment. Students build endurance and strength while improving flexibility. We focus on the poses that build the foundation of our yoga practice, learn basic stretches, breathing techniques, and proper alignment in a relaxed setting. This class is great for beginners and those who want to move at a gentle pace or work on the foundation poses.



Vinyasa, Wednesdays 8:30 am - Vinyasa emphasizes flowing movement, incorporating Sun Salutations, breathing techniques and more complex poses. Students improve stamina, strength and flexibility. Variations will be offered. All levels of experience are welcome.

Tai Chi, Fridays 8:30 am - Tai Chi is for all levels. The focus is on balance, muscle strengthening, and flexibility through slow and gentle movements.

Upcoming Class Schedule:

Wednesday, December 27 - 8:30 am: Vinyasa

Wednesday, January 3 - 8:30 am: Vinyasa

Friday, January 5 - 8:30 am: Tai Chi - FIRST CLASS!

Linda also offers individual yoga sessions and private group sessions (work, friends, book club, community organizations, special events...)

Fee: \$10 each, please pay Linda Heinen via Venmo, cash or check.

Venmo: @Linda-Heinen-4

If you have any questions for Linda contact her at linda.r.heinen@gmail.com or 816-591-0233 (texts are welcome!)

Linda Heinen, 200RYS Yoga Instructor, CPR/AED Certification, 2.5 years experience in Tai Chi

SISTER PARISH

BOOK FOR SISTER PARISH

Visitation parishioner and author, Bob Steinert, has written a book for the children of our sister parish, Santa Maria Madre de Los Pobres in El Salvador. The book, *La Chica de La Chacra*, with illustrations by fellow parishioner Tina Blanck, expresses our love for the children and families of the La Chacra community served by the parish.



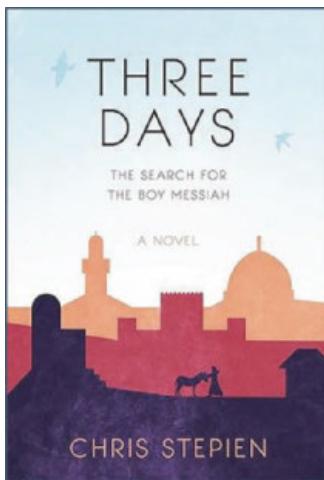
You can order the book for \$14.95 on Amazon or on the website www.rdsauthor.com. For every book ordered, a book will be donated to the children of our sister parish. In addition, ALL profits from the sale of this book will go to help the children of the La Chacra community and our sister parish.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2024

The next medical delegation to El Salvador has been set! If you are a doctor, nurse or a physical therapist, please consider participating in this important service opportunity. Call Jan Fakoury for more details at 816-807-0388.

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), 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 816-812-2500 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 816-392-0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

FAITH FORMATION



PARISH BOOK

The Faith Formation Team is happy to announce our first parish book for 2024, "Three Days: the Search for the Boy Messiah" by Chris Stepien.

Publisher's description: *In the Bible we are told Jesus was lost in the temple for three days when he traveled to Jerusalem for Passover with Mary and Joseph. Why did he stay behind? What did he do? Who did he meet? Where did he sleep? Was he ever in danger? This Biblical novel is a compelling tale about 12-year-old Jesus, based on the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. This book will grip your imagination—as you explore the Temple and experience the drama of ancient Hebrew traditions with the boy Messiah.*

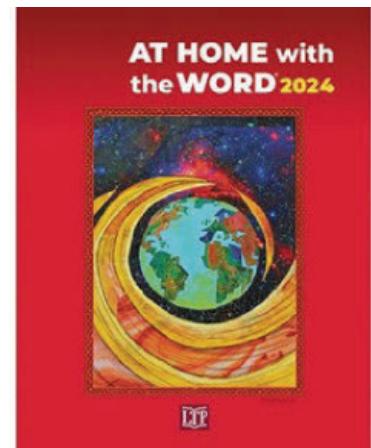
Pick up your household's free copy in the narthex while they last.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD

On Sale Now! "At Home with the Word"

Break open the readings at weekend Mass with accessible, scriptural backgrounds and spiritual insights for each Sunday and Holy Day throughout the year. Also included in this resource is a church calendar, prayers to say before and after reading from the Bible, and an introduction to the Gospel of Mark – our gospel for this Year B in the church cycle.

Purchase it for only \$5.00 in the parish office M-F 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (a \$15 value)



EPIPHANY CONCERT

VISITATION MUSIC MINISTRY

EPIPHANY CONCERT

Sunday, January 7 4:00 pm

Please join our choir, handbell choir & instrumentalists for an afternoon of song featuring the music of the Christmas season.

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Visitation of the BVM Church, Kansas City, MO

B 4C 02-4032

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 pm - Carols begin at 2:30 pm - Choir, Handbells, Brass, Woodwinds, Strings & Percussion

6:00 pm - Carols begin at 5:30 pm - Chamber Choir, Trumpet & Violin

10:00 pm - Carols begin at 9:30 pm - Choir, Handbells, Brass, Woodwinds, Strings & Percussion

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am - Carols begin at 9:30 am - Chamber Choir, Trumpet & Violin