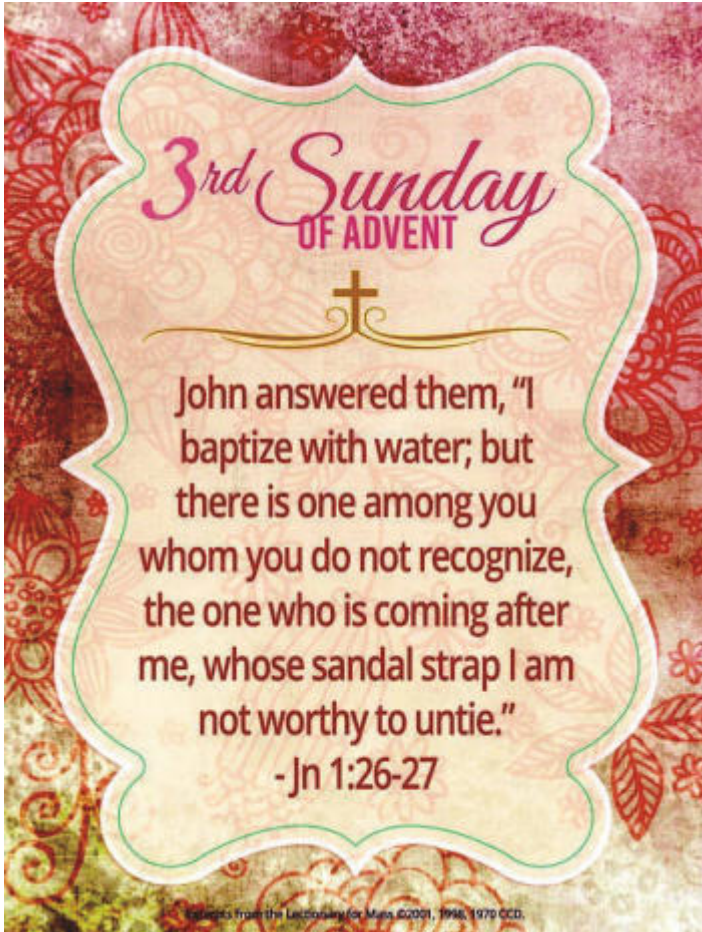


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION— ST. JOSEPH PARISH

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

— John 1:6-7

Immaculate Conception

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Saint Joseph

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PASTOR

Fr. Glenn Snow, O.Carm.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

Deacon Dean Gilbert
Deacon Patrick Hood
Bro. David McGinnis, O.Carm.

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Immaculate Conception – St. Joseph Parish welcomes you!

Thank you for coming today! Whether you are just visiting or have recently moved to our area, we are happy that you joined us! Newcomers are invited to register at the Parish Office during regular business hours, Monday–Friday, 8:00 am to Noon; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Parish Office: 747 Osage 682-3953
 Carmelite Priory: 300 N. Broadway 682-0809
 Parish Email: icsjparish@icsj.org
 Xavier Elementary School 682-3135
 Parish Secretary—Jani Christoffersen
 Bookkeeper—Kathy Roemer
 Music Coordinator—Theresa Vitt
 Director of Religious Education—Br. David McGinnis, O.Carm.
 RCIA Director—Deacon Dean Gilbert
 Parish Youth Director—Angela Wiley
 Parish Website- <http://www.icsj.org>

Sunday Masses

Sat. Vigil 4:00 pm St. Joseph
 5:30 pm Immaculate Conception
 Sunday 8:00 am St. Joseph
 10:30 am Immaculate Conception

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:30 am Mass—Immaculate Conception
 Tuesday 8:30 am Mass—St. Joseph
 Wednesday 8:30 am Mass—Immaculate Conception
 Thursday 8:30 am Mass—St. Joseph
 Friday 8:30 am Mass—Immaculate Conception
 Saturday 8:30 am Mass—St. Joseph

Confessions 1:00-1:30 PM every Saturday at Immaculate Conception Church.

Baptisms Please call the Parish Office for the time and place of class.

Weddings Before setting a wedding date, contact Fr. Glenn at least 6 months in advance.

Bulletin Notices Must be submitted in writing to the Parish Office by Tuesday at 11:30 am.

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS: 1:00-1:30 PM

Saturday Confessions are at Immaculate Conception Church. Enter through the main front doors and wait in the church foyer for your turn. A confession usher will give you directions. Confessions are heard in the Mary Chapel. Please wear a mask and follow the social distance guidelines.

Altar Angels

For the week of December 14 to December 19
 SJ - Mary Uphaus and Mary Ann Harsch
 IC - Ann Lord and Sharon Marsch

Believe. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12

4:00 pm †Clayton Spears (40th Anniversary) (SJ)
 5:30 pm †Kathryn Haverkamp (IC)

Sunday, December 13

8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the Leo & Frances Wacker Family (SJ)
 10:30 am Our Parishioners (IC)

Monday, December 14

8:30 am †Kenneth Kleypas (IC)

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 am †Orvus Marie Burvenich (SJ)

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 am †Richard Schneider (IC)

Thursday, December 17

8:30 am †Lisa Dorsel (SJ)

Friday, December 18

8:30 am †William Kirby (IC)

Saturday, December 19

8:30 am †Eugene Kramer (SJ)
 4:00 pm †Maria Spears Bodde (20th Anniversary) (SJ)
 5:30 pm Our Parishioners (IC)

Sunday, December 20

8:00 am †Catherine & †Aloysius Becker (SJ)
 10:30 am †Trudy Ponder (11th Anniversary) (IC)

Offertory Collection

December 6, 2020

Offertory **\$11,150.00**

Maintenance **\$671.00**

Thank you for your gifts to God and Church!

Planned Giving Brief

Congress enacted two tax provisions to encourage charitable donations before the end of 2020. These include: 1) **Increase in tax deduction for cash gifts:** For donors that itemize their tax return, before the new legislation, the annual income limit was capped at 60% for cash gifts. The new legislation allows for charitable donations up to 100% of a donor's annual income. 2) **New deduction:** If you do not itemize when filing your tax return, to reduce your tax liability, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction of up to \$300 for charitable donations. Visit the Archdiocesan planned giving website, CatholicPlannedGiving.com to learn more ways to maximize your financial resources to benefit your family, charitable giving, and make a grateful response to God for the abundant gifts in your life. As always, contact an attorney or tax advisor to learn what is best for your life.

Requesting Our Prayers

Support Our Troops With Your Prayers!

PFC Samuel Corona	PVT Ronny Jarred
PFC Grace C. LeClerc	PFC Thomas W. LeClerc
LTJG Stuart McDaniel	MAJ Emily Pollard
A1C William H. Sample	SGT Michael Wall
PO Matthew D. Young	



We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of parishioner **Ronald F. Ernzen**, who passed away on December 3, 2020. His Mass of Christian Burial was held on December 9, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Church with Fr. Glenn Snow, O.Carm.

presiding. May Ron find eternal happiness in the loving arms of the Lord.



Baptism Preparation

If you plan to have your baby baptized, the next Baptism Preparation Class, with Deacon Patrick Hood as instructor, is scheduled for this Thursday, December 17.

The class begins at 7:00 PM and is located in St. Joseph's Kinzler Hall. Please call the Parish Office at 682-3953 to register for the class or if you have any questions.

Prison Ministry

The Sister of Charity Prison Ministry is looking for calendars for the 2021 calendar year that you may receive from other organizations that you do not want or need. You can call Janet Seber at 758-6551, who is collecting them for the Prison Ministry. Thank you!

Elijah's Supper

In the Miracles Abound Advent 2020 pamphlet, the Thursday December 3 prayer emphasizes that one of the purposes of living is to be there for the needs of others. How appropriate is it that Thursday's Elijah's Supper responds to that prayer. Our December 3 meal count was 215, the lowest this year. Perhaps the "stay at home" suggestions with regard to the Covid-19 influenced many. However, when added to the 897 meals delivered on Thanksgiving, our parish was pretty busy in a seven day period. Our total meal count for 2020 was 2,869 with a total of 36,866 free meals provided since we began this ministry in February 2013. None of this was possible without the generosity of our parishioners so you should be proud of your accomplishments. As co-chair of this ministry, I am proud I belong to our parish. What lies ahead remains to be seen but know our efforts to reach out to the less fortunate is a mission we have not taken lightly. Thanks to all who support this ministry. May all of you enjoy a wonderful holiday season. **Mitzie Fretchen**

From the Desk of Br. David

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VACATION

Our Sunday morning Religious Education program will have a three-week Christmas break. Students will be on vacation starting next Sunday, December 20, and continue off for December 27 and January 3. Classes will resume on January 10.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our 8th grade Confirmation students, their families and teachers for the leaf raking they performed at both church sites this fall.

DOOR GREETER/USHERS NEEDED

I am still looking for some additional door greeter/ushers for the 11:00 PM Mass on December 24, and the 10:30 AM Mass on Christmas day. If you would like to help, contact Br. David at 682-3953.

COVID VOLUNTEERS

When we started our ministry of Door Greeters and Ushers to follow our new COVID protocols last April, I had not visioned the need would continue as long as it has. I know some of our faithful volunteers would like a break. Consider helping us in this important ministry. Contact Br. David at 682-3953.

Invitation to Pray for Young Men on Retreat

The annual Quo Vadis discernment retreat is next weekend, December 18-20, at Savior Pastoral Center. This retreat is for single men high school juniors and older, who have been invited to immerse themselves in liturgies, prayer, and time with Archdiocesan seminarians who are discerning their own call from the Lord. There will be a panel of priests and seminarians to share their discernment stories and experiences, and time with Archbishop Naumann. Fr. Dan Morris, Vocation Director, is expecting 50 attendees. He is inviting parishioners to pray for the young men attending, and for those presenting during the retreat. You are encouraged to set aside time in the adoration chapel or at home to pray during the weekend. However, there are three important times Fr. Morris would appreciate your prayers: Friday, Dec. 18, 7–7:45 pm; Saturday, Dec. 19, 9–9:45 am and Sunday, Dec. 20, 9–10 am. Thanks to all who will be using the power of prayer to support vocations to the priesthood in our Archdiocese.



Xavier School Positions

Xavier Catholic School is looking for substitute teachers and part-time teachers in extended care. If you are interested in working with talented children and staff at our Xavier K-8 campus or at our extended care program, please contact the school office at 913-682-3135.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many years ago, I was flying from Chicago to Tucson and, as usual, I got to the airport hours before my flight so that instead of feeling rushed, I could buy a \$40 ham sandwich and sit there reading and relaxing before the flight. As I browsed the bookstore offerings, I noticed that there were, by my count, 14 self-help books on their best-selling shelves. Fourteen.

There was a time, and perhaps it's still going on, that our culture was obsessed with self-help. "I'm going to improve myself" was the mantra. From books to exercise programs to gurus to experts to TV programs... the recurring theme was "I'm going to make myself better." There is something admirable in that. Seeing the places where I need to improve my behavior, my attitude, my habits, my mind, even my soul, and then doing something to make those things happen, well, that's admirable. There is also, however, something of a limit to that. Because we can only go so far in improving ourselves. Indeed, in the final analysis, we cannot redeem ourselves, we cannot save ourselves. Our redemption is a gift from God, and not simply the result of our own efforts. The original context and meaning of the phrase "Pick yourself up by your bootstraps" was a pointed reminder that it is, in fact, impossible to pick ourselves up by our own bootstraps. But we've kind of warped that phrase to match our conceit that we can accomplish such a feat by ourselves.

Looking at the readings today, especially the story of John the Baptist, I try to put myself back into that time as an observer of what was happening. I see the throngs of people flooding out into the desert to listen to John the Baptist and to be plunged into the River Jordan by him. Great crowds of people wanting to wash themselves clean from their sins. John was on the best-seller list at the airport in those days, the first-century version of the same thing we experience... wanting to make themselves better. Good for them! But the same thing that is true for us was true for them. You can't self-help your way out of the human condition. For that we need God. And that was the message of John. "One is coming who is greater than I." John was pointing not to himself, but to God. God is the one who redeems. God is the one who saves.

In the Chicago airport that same day, I caught sight of a former professor of mine. He and his wife had befriended me and literally saved my life ten years before, when I was going through a dark time in college. He and I sat down and talked for two hours, right there in the airport. What he had given me was not earned, it was not self-help. It was a gift. That was the best flight I ever missed.

May God bless you during this Advent season!
--Fr. Glenn



This Week in our Parish



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

4:00 pm Vigil Mass (SJ) **Live Streamed**
5:30 pm Vigil Mass (IC)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00 am Sunday Mass (SJ)
9:30 am Religious Education Classes (SJ)
10:30 am Sunday Mass (IC)
1:00 pm Penance Service (IC)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00 pm Parish Rosary (SJ)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9 am-10 pm Eucharistic Adoration (IC)
10:00 am Finance Council Meeting, Kinzler Hall (SJ)
3:15 pm Rosary for Prodigals & Vocations (IC)
7:00 pm RCIA, Kinzler Hall (SJ)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:25 pm Rosary for Prodigals & Vocations,
Cook Room (SJ)
7:00 pm Baptism Preparation Class, Kinzler Hall (SJ)

Support Our Local Advertisers

Our advertisers need your help during these difficult time! Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times.

Parish Sick List

Please call the Parish Office at (913)682-3953 to remove names from our prayer list of individuals who are now well. Thank you to those who keep us updated on their loved one's progress.

Immaculate Conception—St. Joseph Parish Advent Penance Service



Sunday, December 13, 1:00 PM
Immaculate Conception Church



Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord



Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 PM	St. Joseph Church
5:00 PM	Immaculate Conception Church
7:00 PM	St. Joseph Church
11:00 PM	Immaculate Conception Church

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

10:30 AM St. Joseph Church

Mass reservations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day opened on Wednesday December 9, and closes at noon on December 23. We will NOT be able to accommodate any walk-ins on the day of Mass itself. There will be four Christmas Eve Masses and one Christmas Day Mass. Due to the Parish Office being closed for the Christmas Holiday on December 24 and 25 and December 31 and January 1, you may also make your reservation for the weekend of December 26- 27, and January 2-3 starting the Monday prior.

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