

THE CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED
SACRAMENT

“Come, Follow Me..”
(Matthew 4:19)

“... Mary as Mother became the first ‘disciple’ of her Son,
the first to whom he seemed to say: ‘Follow me...’”
(Pope St. John Paul II)

Father John F. Jirak, J. C. L.
Pastor

Father Curtis Hecker
Parochial Vicar

MASSES Sat Vigil: 5:15pm | Sun: 6:30am + 9:00am + 11:00am |
Mon–Sat: 6:30am | Mon–Fri: 8:00am | Wednesday 5:30pm

RECONCILIATION Monday through Friday: 7:30am–7:50am |
Sat: 3:30pm–5:00pm

PARISH OFFICE 124 N Roosevelt + Wichita, KS 67208 | Hours: 8:30am–5:00pm
Phone: 316.682.4557 | Fax: 316.682.4558 | Sacramental Emergency: 316.361.6015

www.blessedsacramentwichita.com



ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S CORNER



December 18, 2016 - *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Praised be Jesus Christ!

As we begin the fourth and final week of Advent and make our immediate preparations for Christmas, we see Christmas decorations everywhere. By far the most recognizable of all Christmas decorations is the Christmas tree. When you stop to think about it, it is a very strange tradition to cut down a tree, drag it into your house, wrap it in lights and tinsel and various pieces of glass, and after a few weeks take it down just to repeat again the next year. Traditions like the Christmas tree are such a powerful tool for remembering and handing on the faith, yet there is also the danger of forgetting where the tradition comes from and losing the meaning behind it. So today I would like to just go over a brief history of the origin of the Christmas tree.

In the 7th and 8th centuries, the pagan religions of the European tribes were all very superstitious and worshiped a wide variety of gods. So when the Christian missionaries came to spread the Gospel, they encountered a lot of resistance, this was particularly true among the tribes of Bavaria. St. Boniface was one of the missionaries entrusted with the task of evangelizing the pagan German people and he knew that every winter the inhabitants of the village of Geismar gathered around a massive oak tree called the "Thunder Oak" which was dedicated to the god Thor, in order to offer a human sacrifice. The pagans believed that this tree was sacred and impervious to attack from any other gods because Thor would protect it.

St. Boniface wanted to destroy the tree to prove that his God was stronger, so one Christmas Eve he approached the pagan gathering and said, "Here is the Thunder Oak; and here the cross of Christ shall break the hammer of the false god Thor." Despite the fear of being killed by the Germans, Boniface grabbed an axe and chopped down the Thunder Oak of mighty Thor in front of the whole village. The Germans could not believe their eyes. Then, Boniface began to preach to the people and used a little fir tree that was behind the now felled oak tree as a tool of evangelization. Pointing to it he said:

"This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace... It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness."

Awed by the boldness of Boniface's actions and preaching, the people of the town were baptized. In the centuries that followed, the Catholic tradition of using an evergreen tree to celebrate the birth of Jesus spread throughout Germany, and German immigrants in the eighteenth century brought the custom to the New World. There are many other stories and legends surrounding the origin of the Christmas tree, but the history of St. Boniface is well-documented. So this Christmas, remember that the Christmas tree is more than just a glittery decoration, but rather a great reminder of the Power of Jesus Christ.

In Christ through Mary,
Fr. Curtis

TREASURE

The Practice of Stewardship

*Each parish member is asked to give a generous share of their **time** to develop their faith so as to better share it with others; a generous share of their **talents** to assist in the building up of the Kingdom of God; and a generous share of their **treasure** to support the many good works and services which are carried out in the parish, diocesan, and universal Church.*

NEW PARISHIONERS

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

We invite you to join our parish family!

Please stop by the parish office any time Monday-Friday between 8:30am and 5pm and fill out a parishioner registration card. At this time you will also receive a new parishioner packet and a tour of the church campus.

Can't make it into the office?
Register online or by phone: 316-682-4557

EUCHARIST

WEEK AT A GLANCE

12/18	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Is 7:10-14</i> <i>Rom 1:1-7</i> <i>Mt 1:18-24</i> Parish Holy Hour with Vespers (Church) 4:00pm CYO Meeting (Bishops Hall) 7:00pm
12/20	Rosary after Mass (Church) 8:30am St. Vincent de Paul Meeting (School Library) 6:30pm Advent Penance Service (Church) 7:00pm
12/21	Mom's Group (St. Joseph's Hall) 9:30am **Please note, no 5:30pm Mass** Advent Formation Series (CYO Room) 6:30pm
12/23	Friday Breakfast Group (Bishops Hall) 7:00am
12/24	Regnum Christi (Bishop Byrne Room) 7:00am Christmas Eve Mass (Church) 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass (Church) 6:00pm
12/25	Christmas Day <i>Is 52:7-10</i> <i>Heb 1:1-6</i> <i>Jn 1:1-18</i> Christmas Midnight Mass (Church) 12:00am **Please note, no 11am Mass**

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 17 5:15pm Int/Wayne Smith
Sunday, December 18 6:30am ✠ Mary Lou Lauer 9:00am ✠ Susan Rangel 11:00am People of the Parish
Monday, December 19 6:30am Int/Viginia & David Burrus Family 8:00am ✠ Leo Sander
Tuesday, December 20 6:30am Int/Dondlinger Family 8:00am ✠ Slade Adams
Wednesday, December 21 <i>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church</i> 6:30am ✠ Helen C. Kennalley 8:00am ✠ Mark Heath
Thursday, December 22 6:30am Int/Lt. Col. Wayne Bodine 8:00am ✠ Mary Seiwert
Friday, December 23 6:30am Int/Karen Strecker 8:00am ✠ Georgia Bradfield
Saturday, December 24 6:30am ✠ Jane French 4:00pm ✠ Les Rogers 6:00pm All Remembered by the Christmas Flower Memorial
Sunday, December 25 12:00am Int/John Hammans 6:30am People of the Parish 9:00am Int/Robert Aylward

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born of Mary, Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and bear a son as a sign to the king, Ahaz. The fulfillment of the scriptural prophesy of the virgin birth helped the people of Jesus' time recognize that he was sent by God. Through the angel's message to Joseph, we come to understand the depth of God's love in sending his Son to us. Throughout Advent the readings from Isaiah encouraged us to exult in the glory of God's coming. **May our celebration of Christmas open our hearts to the love and mercy generously given by our Heavenly Father.**

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2016

Mass Time & Date	12/24, 4pm	12/24, 6pm	12/25, 12am	12/25, 6:30am	12/25, 9am
EMHC's	Matt Truman, Joe Weber, Tom & Sally McGrath	R. Burnett, T. Marks, K. & P. Harter	J. & C. Hammans, Debora Fisher	Glenn Case	Mike and Angie Holladay, Phil Carrillo
Lectors	Cathy Stenz Joanne Ehrlich	Karl Hesse Jim Marks	Amy Baxt Sara Farley	Dennis Danders	Steve Freach Steve Stark
Ushers	K. & D. Arkin, M. Catanese, T. Jones, M. Oldfather, L. Meyerhoff, G. Becker John & JD Mash	K. Arkin, E. Yost, J. & K. Bauer, J. & T. Zluticky, B. & M. Schindler	R. & C. May Kevin Arkin	Chris Shank Dan Brooks	D. Brinkman, L. Carmichael, M. Carney, D. Kuhn, E. Yost, M. Alexander R. Dondlinger
Offertory Gifts	Freddy & Amy Rishell Family	Patrick & Mollie Wetta Family	Kyle & Rachel Martin Family	Gary & Debbie Real Family	Kelby & Christine Umkehr Family
Cantors	Youth Choir	Adult Choir	M. Cain, L. Murphy, T. Woodward		Ted Woodward

STEWARDSHIP IS THE GRATEFUL RESPONSE OF A CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE WHO

PILLAR OF HOSPITALITY

In observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day, the Children's Liturgy of the Word will not meet on December 25th or January 1st.

PARISH PICTURE DIRECTORY

BE INCLUDED!! We want all of our families in our new picture directory!

Sign-up online for your family's spot **today**. A link is available on our website under the pillar of hospitality OR you can call the parish office and we can assist you in signing up for a spot, 316-682-4557.

Bring canned food with you and get \$5 off coupon!
Military and Senior Citizen coupons also available.

Pictures take place in the Bishop Gerber Room.

HOSPITALITY HELP NEEDED

We are in need of help with the sign-in table for our parish pictures. If you are available for a shift, we have needs for the rest of our appointment days/times. Those days are as follows with times varying.

Sunday, Dec 18 through Tuesday, Dec 20
Tuesday, Dec 27: 2-9 pm
Thursday, Dec 29: 2-9 pm
Thursday, Jan 12 through Monday, Jan 16

For any questions or to sign-up to volunteer, please contact Angie Centeno at 316 512 5301.

CHRISTMAS CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

The Knights of Columbus Christmas card sale is still going on! The display is now set up in the parish office, stop by Monday-Friday between 8:30-5pm!

SEEKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Please contact the parish office at 316-682-4557 if you are interested in helping with this once in a lifetime occasion!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

JOIN US for Financial Peace University, starting Sunday, January 8 at 10am in the school library. Sign up on our website (link available under the pillar of service) or call 316-682-4557. For questions about the course, contact Matt Truman at matruman@live.com.

PILLAR OF PRAYER

PERPETUAL ADORATION

PARISHIONERS: Any hour is available to you, however, please consider these hours with special needs:

SUNDAY: JOHN HAMMANS, 684-8384

VERY URGENT 2 PARTNERS: 3-4PM

PARTNER: 2-3AM; 3-4AM; 4-5AM; 5-6AM; 7-8AM; 1-2PM; 7-8PM; 11PM-12AM

MONDAY: LORNA BURGESS, 620-218-4926

PARTNER: 12-1AM; 1-2AM; 2-3AM; 3-4AM; 4-5AM; 7-8AM; 8-9AM; 9-10AM; 10-11AM; 11AM-12PM; 12-1PM

TUESDAY: AMY RISELL, 390-1700

URGENT: 1-2AM; 10-11AM; 12-1PM

PARTNER: 2-3PM; 11PM-12AM

WEDNESDAY: MARY SUE WRIGHT, 285.2765

PARTNER: 4-5AM; 1-2PM

THURSDAY: ROSE KUHLMAN, 684.2893

PARTNER: 4-5AM; 8-9AM; 9-10AM; 1-2PM

FRIDAY: PEGGY SUNIGA, 686.4920

VERY URGENT 2 PARTNERS: 3-4AM; 11PM-12AM

URGENT: 2-3AM; 5-6PM; 7-8PM; 10-11PM

SATURDAY: PAT HARTER, 683.6610

VERY URGENT 2 PARTNERS: 3-4AM; 10-11AM; 2-3PM; 10-11PM

PARTNER: 2-3AM; 12-1PM; 1-2PM; 3-4PM; 5-6PM; 9-10PM

IN MEMORIAM (present-Oct 2015)

Leo Sander, Vivian Brock, Drew Christensen, Cheri Blankinship-Wagle, Susie McHugh, Mary Gregory, Theresa Sloat-Elliott, Slade Adams, Melissa Peltzer, Marie Marx, Florence Ostrosky, Peggy Schoenhofer, Elaine Peters, Dave Burrus, Paul Rothermel, Msgr. John Gilsenan, Mary Harris, Janet Eckberg, Marlys Tokerud, Mary Kay Vestring, Tom Cornell, William McGuigan, Eric Dickson, Dee Kopper, Jackie Schenk, John Vanderpool, Howard Earl Clark Sr., Michael Cremin, Robert Burton, Tim Howell, Michael Meinecke, Gary Keltner, Kent Smith, Florence Spatz, Melvin Brummer, Gary Carson, Beulah Grilliot, Fr. Robert Burger, Marilyn Hein, Carolyn Daugherty, Brad Lupton, Evan Bowar Sr.

PRAYER REQUESTS

SICK Scott Burrus, Donna Cotter, Beverly Paxton, Tom Honton, Rita Guthridge, Betty Rott, Paulette Cain, Julia Scott-Wagle, Scott Walker, Barbara Bennett, Melinda Hughes, Carolyn Maze, Mary Lou Cooke, Sharon Stephens, Valarie Setna, Ann Patton, Robert Aylward, Suzi Montgomery, Barbara Saggi, Susan Beuerlein, Rita Youngers, Glen Skolich, Joseph Jenkins, Donna Blair-Jones, Emily Dumler, Frances Keffer, Carmen Carter-Saiz, Joan Somes, Laszlo Gasper, Mary Edgington, Katie Stout, Madeline Guiliano, Peggy McKenzie, Betty Allred, Joyce Eastburn, Stan O'Brien, Carla McKee, Pauline Rittlinger, Daniel Gallagher, Betty Smith, Lauren Patton, Kay Patrick, Jim Clare, Joanne Salazar, Duff Whisenant, Gary Kilian, Jeanette Bowker, Pat Cord, Andrew Lowry, Mary Sweet, Preston Deschaine, Gene & Mary Lou Schutz, Jeanne Gordon, John & Polly Snow, Debbie Mitchell

MILITARY Cpt. John Hunninghake, MD, June Baldessari, Paul Vanderpool, Landon Salazar, Jeremy Hastings, Lawrence Schutz, Mike Gann, Charles Robertson, Anthony Baldessari, Bobby Illidge, Clint Hitt, Tanner & Marissa Hesse, Mark Bartak, Shane Saiz, Luke Vanderpool, Alex Knowles, Julie Wilson, Marie Baldessari, Jeff Mrazik, Nicholas S. Turner, Katelyn Bauer

VOCATIONS April Hoffman & Paul Stadler

PILLAR OF FORMATION

ADVENT ANGEL FAMILY TRADITION

Don't forget to advent angel for the last time!!

FORMATION MESSAGE

Jesus wants to include all of us in His work of salvation. He puts us to work. He wants all of us to labor in His Father's vineyard in one way or another. Jesus relies on others to spread His Gospel.

That God wants to include us in His work of salvation is a great gift and glorious privilege. Truly, there's no more important work to be done. While everyone is called to lend a hand in the great work of salvation, not everyone has the same role. Whoever we are, God has appointed us to a special task in His great work.

-Michael Gaitley, Consoling the Heart of Jesus

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER EVENTS

NEW YEARS MARIAN RETREAT: OUR LADY OF SORROWS Saturday, Dec. 31; 7 p.m.-midnight. Celebrate New Year's Eve by ringing in the New Year with Our Lady. Program includes conference, adoration, Mass and an indoor procession. \$20 (Overnight accommodations are available for a small donation).

SERIES: FIGHTING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE (4 Tuesdays) Beginning Jan. 10; 6:30-9:30 p.m. Our culture puts out many things that fight against our Sacrament of marriage today. This program helps couples figure out how to navigate their marriage journey successfully and instead fight for their marriage. Cost is \$130 which includes a couples kit with all the materials and workbooks needed for the class. Babysitting will be available, but you must call the Center in advance.

Please call the SLC for any questions regarding this series or any of their other programs: 316-744-0167.
slcwichita.org

STEWARDSHIP PACKETS

Can't find your packet?

--Stewardship packets are at any church entrance or can be picked up at the parish office OR
--Forms can be completed online at
www.blessedsacramentwichita.com

Not sure what to check? Don't know where to help?

Please feel free to call the parish office if you are interested in knowing which ministries may need a little more TLC or just need help discerning where you may fit. 316-682-4557.

PILLAR OF SERVICE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thanks to everyone who is participating in the annual "Giving Tree" project, where Parishioners have the opportunity to buy a Christmas gift for people in our community who otherwise probably won't be remembered, or who have very little!

Many people in Wichita rely on food pantries for support, so we encourage you to consider dropping off a little extra food this year in one of the God's Food Pantry collection boxes in the church entryways. 500-600 needy people go through the line during each bi-monthly food distribution, so the need is great.

Donations to the annual Thanksgiving collection for St. Vincent de Paul are still coming in and we have received almost \$20,000; thank you! If you didn't have a chance to contribute, it's never too late. Your donation goes directly help those in need in our Parish and community.

This Christmas, twenty deserving families will enjoy a delicious, home cooked meal with their family, sponsored by the Blessed Sacrament Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Many thanks to the Blessed Sacrament Altar Society for a very generous gift to significantly help offset the cost of this project.

The food of the month for the weekend kids' food program is breakfast food (breakfast bars, small cereal boxes, Carnation types of breakfast drinks, pop-tarts, individual packets of oatmeal, etc.) Donations can be dropped off in the Parish office entryway. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the kids who receive them!

HELP AT THE LORD'S DINER

New Year's Day is our parish's next turn to volunteer at the Lord's Diner. It is difficult to get enough coverage on a holiday such as this.

Please consider helping to serve some of our city's neediest on that holiday. If you would like to help with either the afternoon shift, preparing food, or the evening shift, serving the meal, please email Margaret Dawe at thelordsdiner@blessedsacrament.com.

SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Support our school by Registering your shopper's card (must be done annually starting in January):

1. Visit : <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>
2. Sign in to your account or create an account if you do not yet have one
3. Click "Enroll Now"
4. Type "Blessed Sacrament" in the search box or search using Blessed Sacrament's Community Rewards Number: 10037

The Church of the Blessed Sacrament

PARISH STAFF

Office Manager: Rachel Hittner
Parish Life Coordinator: C.Y. Suellentrop
Stewardship Coordinator: Renee Riter
Bookkeeper: Dana Howland
Liturgy Coordinator: Ben Dunlap
Music Director: Rachel Dugan
Athletic Director: Pat Harter

SCHOOL

Principal: Dan Dester
Vice Principal: Pam Loyle
Office Manager: Michelle Hittner
Building Maintenance: Mark Alexander
125 N Quentin • **Hours:** 7:30am–4:00pm
Phone: 316.684.3752 • **Fax:** 316.687.1082

SACRAMENTS

Anointing

Call the Parish Office, 682.4557

Baptism

Classes required for parents. Call the Parish Office, 682.4557

Eucharist to Homebound

Every Sunday and on 1st Saturdays.

Call the Parish Office, 682.4557

Holy Matrimony

Begin preparation at least six months prior.

Call the Parish Office, 682.4557

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Please see article on page 4.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Every first Friday from 2:35 to 3:05pm during the months of September through May.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Offered at the 6:30am Mass followed by the rosary on the first Saturday of each month.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request or wish to join the prayer chain, during business hours call the Parish Office, 682.4557, after hours until 9:00pm, call Marla Dahlgren, 681.1933.

ROSARY

Prayed aloud for vocations 30 minutes before the Saturday Vigil Mass and all Sunday Masses.

PARISH RECORDS

Newcomers

Welcome to our parish family! We want to meet you! Please call the Parish Office, 682.4557, to register.

Current Parishioners

Change in name, address, phone number or planning to move? Kindly notify the Parish Office to update your records.

COFFEE & DONUTS

Join us each Sunday for Coffee and Donuts in Bishops Hall immediately after the 6:30am and 9:00am Masses, and after the 11:00am Mass-but only on the First Sunday of the month.

PARISH LIBRARY

Open before and after Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses (except 6:30am).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Services include transportation, home visits, house cleaning, meals, respite care, financial assistance, etc. Please call the Parish Office, 682.4557. Calls and services are confidential.

THE LORD'S DINER

Our parish serves the Lord's Diner the first Sunday of each month. To volunteer, call the Parish Office, 682.4557.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our parish wants to stay up-to-date! If you have any exciting parish news or photos from parish/school events, email them to our social media administrator at randi222@gmail.com.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Submit announcements by noon on Mondays in writing to the Parish office or by email to rhittner@blessedsacramentwichita.com.

Announcements will be printed as space allows.