



# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

*I baptized you in water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. "*

2nd Sunday of Advent    December 10, 2023    Mark 1: 1-8

## Parish Office:

708 N. 4th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101

Office: (913) 371-0627

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm

Web: [stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.com](http://stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.com)

Email: [ourcroatianparish@gmail.com](mailto:ourcroatianparish@gmail.com)

Facebook: St. John the Baptist Croatian Parish

Instagram: OurCroatianParish

## Sacraments:

Confession at 3 pm before Saturday Mass or call for appointment

## Parish Staff:

Fr. Joseph M. Arsenault, SSA, Pastor

Mrs. Wendy Christ, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Tony Locatelli, Music Director

## Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 4 pm

(at St. John the Baptist in December)

Sunday at 9 am

Thursday at 8 am

## Parish Ministries:

Finance Council    Richard Sambol

Parish Council    Don Taylor

Altar Society    Kelly Moutray

St. John's Club    Ken Yarnevich

913-371-9690

Prayer Line    (913) 281-4448

## The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness  
of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside  
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem

were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River  
as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair,  
with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his  
sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## Keeping In Touch

Time is moving quickly – here we are at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent! This past week and in the week to come we have celebrations in honor of Our Lady that are important for us. In one sense any celebration in honor of Our Lady is important, however, these two celebrations have a significance for us. On December 8 we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is not only a Holy Day of Obligation (meaning that we are bound to attend Mass that day and if we don't it is sinful) but it is also the patronal feast for the United States. In this feast we recall that Mary was conceived without sin preparing her for becoming the Mother of God! The second is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. While this day is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is an important day for us because it is under this title of Our Lady that she is declared patroness of the Americas and Protectress of Unborn Children. In this title we recall how Our Lady appeared in Mexico. As we honor Our Lady under these two titles, let us draw closer to her as she always leads us to her Son Jesus.

Blessings in Christ and St. Augustine,  
Fr. Joseph M. Arsenault, SSA, JV, Pastor



## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe DECEMBER 12

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Heart of my Mother,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
I unite to thy purity, thy sanctity,  
thy zeal and thy love,  
all my thoughts, words, acts  
and sufferings this day,  
that there may be nothing in me  
that does not become  
through thee,  
a pleasure to Jesus,  
a gain to souls  
and an act of reparation  
for the offenses against  
thy Heart.

[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, December 10- Second Sunday of Advent

9am- Novica Nikolic  
Draga Tokic  
Helen Conard  
Barbara Knipp



### Thursday, December 14- St. John of the Cross

8am- George Gray Jr.  
Debra A. Seeger  
Verne Heshner  
George, Jim, & Frank Brajkovic



### Saturday December 16-

4pm- **Vigil Mass at St. John the Baptist**  
St. John & Holy Family parishioners

### Sunday, December 17- Third Sunday of Advent

9am- Bill Modrcin Sr.  
Novica Nikolic  
Vera Mikic  
Deceased of Krisman family



## LITURGICAL MINISTRY - DECEMBER

### December 9-10 2023-

**Lectors:** M. Garcia ; M. Viskovic, S. Taylor  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** G. Garcia ; A. Kucenic  
**Servers:** A. Garcia ; M. Viskovic  
**Sacristans:** K. Grisnik, E. Grisnik ; B. Horvat

### December 16-17, 2023-

**Lectors:** J. Alvey ; C. Schneider, M. Viskovic  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** B. Horvat ; M. Tomasic  
**Servers:** none ; A. Garcia  
**Sacristans:** J. Lally, C. Kolich ; S. Sandelich, G. Garcia

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

	Sat. 12/02/23	Sun. 12/03/23
Envelopes:	2280.00	2901.00
Loose:	164.00	42.00
Building Fund:	275.00	645.00
Candles:	53.50	108.50
Poor Box:		24.00
Christmas Offering:	10.00	45.00
Christmas Flower:	158.00	295.00
Immaculate Conception:		35.00
Catholic Charities:		20.00
Solemnity of Mary:		20.00
Food Kitchen:		50.00
In Memory of:		665.00
(Janice Baric)		



QR Code for Online  
Giving to  
St. John the Baptist



## Prayer Requests

Pope Francis I, James Lipovac, Dianna Stimac, Irene Delich, Ana Piskuric, George Fracul, Karen Novak, Chris Braun, Special Intention, In Thanksgiving, for all those who suffer from homelessness, addictions, cancer, mental health issues, for those who are serving time in prison, and anyone else in need of our prayers.

## Upcoming Events

### Coffee and Donut Sunday

The event will be hosted by the Parish Council in the church basement after the 9am Mass on **Sunday December 10th**. Please come and join the parish for fellowship and updates from other parishioners. **Trash Bags will be available to buy during coffee and donuts!** Yellow bags are 39 gal 25/roll, White bags are 15 gal 65/roll, and the Blue bags are 55 gal 16/roll, cost per roll is \$12.00. Make checks payable to St. John the Baptist Church. Exact money if paying with cash please.



### Food Kitchen

Food Kitchen date is for **Monday December 11th**. Desserts may be dropped off in the church basement the weekend before or the day of at the **Willa Gill Center** (645 Nebraska Ave) after 8:30. **There is a desperate need for desserts and volunteers** to help serve from 11-12:30. Financial donations can also be made. Checks can be made to St. John the Baptist Church with a designation for the food kitchen.

### Church Cleaning

Christmas Church cleaning will be on **December 14th at 9:00am**.

### Christmas Wreaths & Christmas Trees!

It's time to put up the Christmas trees & the wreaths in the church. If you would like to volunteer please come to the church on **Thursday December 14th at 6:00pm**. See you then!



### Best Choice labels

Best Choice labels continue to be collected. A box is in the vestibule for you to drop off!



### USHERS NEEDED!

If you would like to usher at any of our week-end Masses, please call the church office at 913 -371-0627

Please submit any bulletin news and events by Wednesday afternoon to the Parish office by phone or email to [ourcroatianparish@gmail.com](mailto:ourcroatianparish@gmail.com)



## LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS

### HEALING RETREAT FOR ADULT CHILDREN

*of divorced, separated or never-married parents*

**JANUARY 12-14, 2024  
KANSAS CITY, KS**

*at Savior Pastoral Center*

\$150 (Commuting)  
\$250 (Single room)  
\$220 (Double room)

Limited scholarships available for residents of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.



**HEALING**

The Life-Giving Wounds retreat gave me space to grieve and be understood in this wound. It also gave me tools that integrate humanity and spirituality to lead me to forgiveness and healing. ~ Kevin

**SPACE**

This retreat was a beautiful, intentional space to be seen and heard, without judgment, in all my messiness. ~ Maggie

**INSIGHT**

So many "ah-ha!" moments, especially in unpacking this wound with the sacraments. ~ Anonymous

**FREEDOM**

Learning about this basic, fundamental loss that was known but never understood gave me freedom from unhealthy patterns of behavior I didn't even know I was doing. ~ Anonymous

**SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER TODAY!**



This peer-led weekend includes insightful talks, optional small group and one-on-one discussion, Eucharistic adoration, Mass and the opportunity for Reconciliation.

Life-draining wounds can become a **LIFE-GIVING MISSION.**

[archkck.org/LGW](http://archkck.org/LGW)

[bdupont@archkck.org](mailto:bdupont@archkck.org)

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

### Cursillo Epiphany Celebration


Save-the-Date


**Date:** Thursday,  
Jan. 11th, 2024 @ 6:30pm

**Location:** St. Andrew's Parish Hall

**Details:** Please join us to Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany by joining your fellow Cursillistas, sharing your favorite dish, and your latest Apostolic Action!


*We look forward to seeing you!*





## Cursillo

An Encounter ~ Come and See for Yourself



www.cursillo.net  
Kansas City - St. Joseph Missouri Diocese

"Any divorce attorney will tell you that there are more divorce filings in January, than any other month. Hundreds of children in our diocese have no idea that this Christmas will be the last holiday that their family will ever spend together. Many times, a parent has started the divorce process prior to holidays, and waits patiently to serve their spouse after the holidays "for the kids". We all know someone like that." Now taking reservations for **Retrouvaille's Marriage Enrichment Weekend in Kansas City!**

*January 26-28th*

Register today at [www.retrokc.com](http://www.retrokc.com)

**Registration closes Jan 25, 2024**

Retrouvaille is a lifeline for marriages.....a program to help couples heal and renew their hurting marriages. The Retrouvaille Program is for Married Couples Facing Difficult Challenges in their Relationship. A Marriage program that helps couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. A Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin, where couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend. Primarily a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. Presenters are not trained marriage counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love.

***This will be the last Christmas that some children will ever spend with both Mom and Dad.***

***It doesn't have to be that way.***

**[www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org)**

# KANSAS MASS & MARCH FOR LIFE

## TOPEKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

### JANUARY 24, 2024

*Come Holy Spirit, set our hearts aflame to defend life!*



**9:00 AM**  
Praise & Worship music, inspirational speakers and pro-life ministry tables to visit. For information and to register visit: [archkck.org/ignite](http://archkck.org/ignite)



**10:30 AM**  
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with the Kansas Bishops and Priests



**12:00 PM**  
March from TPAC to the Capitol. Rally on the Capitol steps coordinated by Kansans for Life








All events are free.  
Registration requested for IGNITE



*This will be the last Christmas that some children will ever spend with both Mom and Dad.*

*It doesn't have to be that way.*

**[www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org)**

## Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative

Items will be collected from **November 19th thru December 31st**. Onesies, diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, and baby lotion will be collected to create gift bags for expecting mothers. Proceeds go to the **Catholic Charities**. Items can be placed in the vestibule in the back of the church.

## Food Drive

Food Collection (non-perishable) Items will be collected from **November 19th thru December 31st**. Items can be placed in the vestibule at the back of church or dropped off in the church basement. Proceeds go to **Catholic Charities**. Please check the expiration dates.

## Join us for a Wine and Wisdom

Event on **Tuesday, December 12th** at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, 221 North Sycamore Street Nortonville, KS 66060. The event will begin at 5:30 PM with a social and wine tasting, followed by a presentation at 6:00 PM. Bill Eckert will speak on "Tax Reducing Strategies for Pre- and Post-Retirees." Register at: [www.cfnek.org/events/wine-and-wisdom](http://www.cfnek.org/events/wine-and-wisdom)

## The Living in Love Weekend Retreat is back!

"Get the gift she won't want to return this year! Gift her a marriage retreat!" Rediscover your marriage's joy and experience the wonder of being more in love when you join us for this incredible retreat presented by our friends at EverMore in Love. Whether you need to reconnect or you are looking to take your marriage from good to great, our in-person Weekend Immersion is for you. Plan your getaway together today! Register at <https://archkck.org/family/marriage/livinginlove/> What's the weekend all about? Questions? Contact **Brad DuPont**:

[bdupont@archkck.org](mailto:bdupont@archkck.org)

Get her a gift she  
won't want to return.

Gift her a marriage retreat!

February 17 in Topeka:



February 24-25 in Shawnee:



EVER-MORE  
IN LOVE

## Encounter City-Wide Healing Services

Are you in need of prayer for physical healing - chronic conditions, broken bones, pain, cancer? Encounter School of Ministry is hosting two upcoming healing services. We have an expectation and faith for Jesus to work physical healing miracles on these nights. The night will consist of a time of worship, gospel presentation on healing, corporate prayer for healing, and individual prayer for healing. We encourage anyone in need of physical healing to come as well as anyone wanting to encounter manifestations of God's presence. This is an open event - no cost or registration. Jesus still heals today and desires to demonstrate the truth of the Gospel through healing.

**December 22nd** - Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Sabetha KS from 7 pm-10 pm

**January 12th** - Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Overland Park KS from 7 pm-10 pm



**St. John of the Cross**

Feast Day: December 14



**Pray for Us**

@cathapostlectr

"[In Advent...] We rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey: the Church, with her vocation and mission, and all humanity, peoples, civilizations, cultures, all on a journey across the paths of time."

Pope Francis

## Božićna Pšenica/Christmas Wheat

In Croatia and in other Eastern European nations, wheat is planted on *December 13, St. Lucy's Feast Day*. This ancient tradition dates back to the time when agriculture was Croatia's main industry and serves as a symbol of fertility, new life, and renewal. Also, while testing the viability of the seed, the sprouted wheat is a predictor of sorts: if the wheat grows dense, tall, and lush, the next year will be fruitful and successful. In some parts of Croatia, people observe the growing wheat each day until Christmas. It is believed that the weather of each month in the upcoming year will mirror the weather on each of the days in the period from Sveta Lucija, St. Lucy's Day, to Christmas.



Plant wheat in a small dish, bowl, or small pot of soil and keep it lightly watered. By Christmas the sprouted wheat will be tall enough to be decorated with the *hrvatska trobojnica* (Croatian tricolor) around the wheat. The tricolor is a ribbon with red, white, and blue stripes. Place it near the Nativity where it will remind all that Christ, the Bread of Life, was born in Bethlehem, whose name means "House of Bread." The wheat recalls the Eucharist which is made from wheat and brings to mind Christ's parables about wheat.

The Croatian custom of growing St. Lucy's or Christmas wheat, *Božićna Pšenica*, was revived by deceased parishioner Matthew B. Thomas and has become tradition at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. It continues as such and is carried on in his honor by his loving siblings Ivana Morris and George Thomas. Seed packets are available at each church exit; take a packet or two and keep the tradition growing.

### Interpreted Holy Day Masses (2023-2024)

#### St. Paul Catholic Church in Olathe

Immaculate Conception – Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Christmas – Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary – Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM

#### St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee

Immaculate Conception – Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

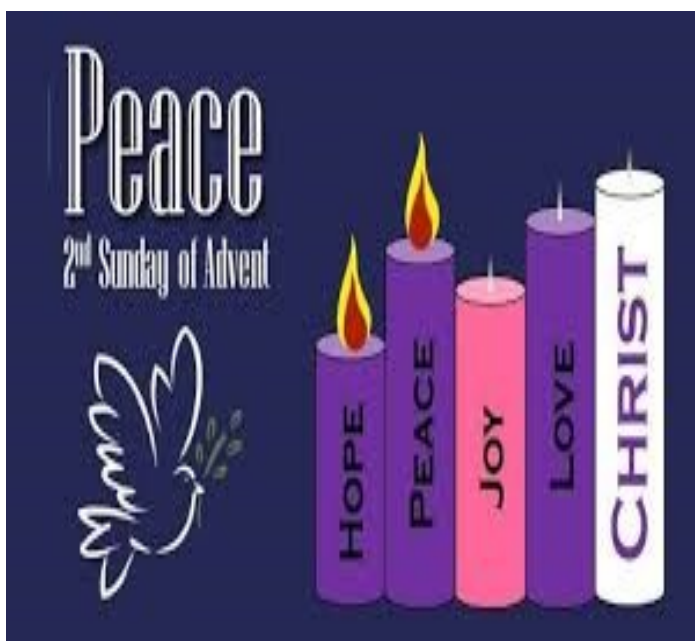
Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

#### Most Pure Heart of Mary in Topeka

Immaculate Conception – Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM

Solemnity of Mary – Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM



OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

IN THE PAST YEAR, NEARLY  
**60,341**  
of the most vulnerable in our communities received help, hope and hospitality through one of our more than 30 programs throughout the 21 counties of our Archdiocese.

*Thank You*

MORE THAN  
**\$8.6 MILLION**  
worth of food, including **421,042 lbs of food donated** by parishes and schools, was distributed through our eight food pantries to families and individuals unable to afford the rising cost of groceries.

**\$1.3 MILLION**  
in Direct Financial Assistance kept the utilities on and rent paid for families facing homelessness, eviction or disconnection.

Learn how your donation helps families:  
**[catholiccharitiesks.org/impact](https://catholiccharitiesks.org/impact)**  
 @CCNEK @catholiccharitiesks

If anyone is interested in serving as a **Sacristan in 2024** for our Saturday or Sunday Masses, please contact the church office. The time commitment is one hour before Mass preparing the church and altar and about 20 minutes after Mass. Training and written instructions will be provided.

## ST. DAMASUS I, POPE

*Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that we may constantly  
exalt the merits of your  
Martyrs, whom Pope  
Saint Damasus so  
venerated and loved.  
Through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, one  
God, forever and ever.*

**Feast Day:**  
**December 11**

EWTN.com

## CHRIST THE KING PRO LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

**ADORATION 7PM-8AM**

- Intercession
- Reparation
- Communion



**FRIDAY BEFORE THIRD SATURDAY  
OF EACH MONTH**

**CONTACT@CTKKCK.ORG 913.287.8823**

**3024 N. 53RD KANSAS CITY, KS**

*All Saints Parish Presents:*

*"We'll Welcome Him!"*

An Organ-Piano-Vocal Recital with Choral Songs  
Vincent Moran-Music Director  
All Saints Parish Choir  
Christina Cooper-Mezzo-Soprano  
Elena Beatriz Cooper-Soprano



Featuring music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, George  
Frederic Handel, Sally Deford, Vince Guaraldi, Leonard  
Ahlstrom and Eddie Carswell, Matt Redman, Chris  
Tomlin, Ed Cash and more!

**Wednesday, December 20th at 7 p.m.**  
**All Saints Parish**  
**811 Vermont Avenue**  
**Kansas City, Kansas 66101**

**-Free Admission-**

**\*Donations will be accepted\***

*(All donations will go toward our All Saints Choir Music Ministry)*

## ST. JOHN of the CROSS

*"Live in the world as  
if only God and your  
soul were in it. Then,  
your heart will never  
be made captive by  
earthly things."*

**Feast Day:**  
**December 14**

EWTN.com



**TASTE OF KCK**  
**January 27, 2024**

An evening of food,  
culture, and  
community benefiting  
the students of  
Resurrection Catholic  
School.

