



**Mark 13:33-37**  
*No one knows the  
day or the hour*

## St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

### Season of Advent

1st Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023 Mark 13: 33-37

#### 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



### Keeping In Touch

It is hard to believe but here we are at the 1st Sunday of Advent. Time is flying! The next four weeks of Advent will go quickly. In the midst of my busy schedule, I plan to make the time to really reflect on the coming of the Lord and preparing for that. One of the ways in which we prepare ourselves is to go to confession and be reconciled with God. This coming week we will be celebrating the 1st reconciliation of the children from Resurrection School. Please pray for our children who will be celebrating this sacrament for the first time, that they will come to know and experience God's mercy, forgiveness and love. One of the things that I always tell the children and adults too is NEVER be afraid to go to God in the sacrament of reconciliation because He is there waiting for you with great love and He already knows what you did and didn't do. He loves you and wants to be reconciled with you! During this season of Advent take a moment to examine your life against God's commands and meet Him in the sacrament of reconciliation where He is waiting for you!

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



***Ladies please join us for our  
Altar Society Members Brunch***

**Sunday December 3rd at 10:00am  
Strawberry Hill Museum-Tomasic Hall**



**St John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Fiscal Year - July 1, 2022 through June 30,  
2022**

**Statement of Activity**

**Income**

Envelopes	192,076.55
Loose	12,693.29
Special Parish Collections	38,033.00
Other Donations	28,740.01
Extra Parochial Collections	-40.50
Masses	3,443.00
Gift & Bequests	
237,934.77	
Poor Box	1,213.47
Votives & Flowers	8,540.92
Gifts - Funerals	
10,215.00	
Interest & Dividend Income	2,718.40
Rental Income	15,695.50
Leaven	1,059.00
Social/Festival Income	169,419.29
Parish Organization/ Ministry Receipts	14,504.17
Reimbursements	1,927.10
Other Income -	
Grant for Sidewalks/Curbs	38,810.32
Endowment Fund Income/ Contributions/Market Value	12,642.31

**Total Income** \$ 789,625.60

**Expenses**

Pastor	16,754.03
Additional Clergy	2,616.62
Salaries	70,515.20
Employee Benefits	19,810.93
Cleaning	1,225.00
Grounds	6,594.76
Contract Services - Church, Building, Equipment	11,750.38
Building - Maintenance, Repairs, Supplies	42,583.73
Utilities, Telephone, Cable	62,611.19
Insurance	24,509.00
Household Expenses, Food	1,356.31
Office Supplies & Postage	5,489.68
Accounting Fees	3,475.00
Miscellaneous Operating Expense & Reimbursements	4,351.59
Site Improvements	77,924.50
Altar Supplies, Flowers, Candles, Liturgical Publication	7,306.46
Choir Supplies & Liturgical Publications	2,770.08
Social/Festival Expenses	40,220.55
Parish Organization Activities & Parish Assistance	10,938.72
Archdiocesan Assessments 2	5,479.68
School Subsidy - Resurrection & Bishop Ward	104,757.55

**Total Expenses \$** **543,040.96**

**Net Income** **\$ 246,584.64**



**2023 Croatian Festival Results!**

**A BIG "THANK YOU" FOR YET  
ANOTHER SUCESSFUL FESTIVAL**

Sponsor	\$45,910.00
50/50	\$11,325.00
Money Raffle Tickets	\$2,328.00
Festival Night*	23,259.21
*Booths, Boutique, Jewelry, Kids, Food, Beer	
Net proceeds	\$82,822.21

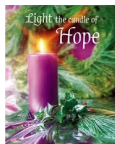
**THANK  
YOU**



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

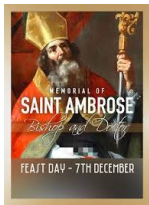
### **Sunday, December 3- First Sunday of Advent**

**9am-** Loretta & Albert Gorsky  
Dorothy Bednar  
Michael & Kathy Tomas  
Family Suljak & Family Livojevic



### **Thursday, December 7- St. Ambrose**

**8am-** George Gray Jr.  
Eugene Sostarich  
Anne Ozbolt



### **Saturday December 9-**

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

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

**9am-** Novica Nikolic  
Draga Tokic  
Helen Conrad  
Barbara Knipp



## LITURGICAL MINISTRY - DECEMBER

### **December 2-3 2023-**

**Lectors:** B. Horvat ; G. Garcia, M. Viskovic  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** S. Morrow ; M. Garcia  
**Servers:** A. Morrow ; A. Garcia  
**Sacristans:** M. Foster, J. Foster ; P. Hill, P. Mikesic

### **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

*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)*

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Sun, 11/26/23

Envelopes:	1335.00
Loose:	84.00
Building Fund:	560.00
Candles:	63.50
Poor Box:	5.00
Christmas Flower Offering:	250.00
Donation:	500.00



QR Code for Online  
Giving to  
St. John the Baptist



## Prayer Requests

Pope Francis I, Judi Tucci, Dianna Stimac, Irene Delich, George Fracul, Karen Novak, Ana Piskuric, 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**-due to AS Christmas Brunch- 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.

### **St. Bernadette's Circle Christmas Party**

Members of the circle are invited to come to the Christmas party on **Tuesday December 5th at 6 pm** at the Hereford House. Not a member, but want to become a member? Call the office for more information 913-371-0627 ask for Wendy.

### **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.

### **Monthly Senior Luncheon Christmas Party**

Senior meeting and lunch will be served. Bring a friend and come join us for fellowship, with bingo and prizes on **Wednesday December 13th starting at noon** in the Tomasic Hall in the Museum.

### **Church Cleaning**

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

# Welcome, Advent. Prepare the Way

Today begins the Advent season which prepares us for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. The name derives from the Latin verb “ven,” meaning to come. Certainly, the days will be filled with shopping, baking, wrapping presents, cooking and spending time with family and friends. But let us always remember the true meaning of the season. One Catholic tradition is the nightly lighting of an Advent wreath at the evening meal.

## The History

The Advent wreath dates back to the 16th Century but the modern version was evolved 300 years later. Johann Hinrich Wichern, a German Lutheran, created a wreath to help children understand the passage of time. Using an old cart wheel decorated with evergreens, he placed white candles for each Sunday with red ones in between. As the children lit a new candle, they could easily see how close they were to celebrating the birth of Christ. The materials were like what was easily available, but the wreath does represent Catholic symbolism. The circle shape is thought to show Christ’s eternal presence. Evergreens symbolize life in the Catholic faith. Candles mean “amen” and the flame shows Christ as the Light of the World.

## The Wreath

An Advent wreath has many looks. It may still resemble Wichern’s, but typically uses three purple candles plus a rose or pink one. Some have a fifth white candles. (Source: stmagdalen.org.) Purple candles represent prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifice – all to remind us of how we should prepare during the weeks before Christmas. The pink candle, lit on the third or Gaudate Sunday, means to rejoice. The optional white candle is the Christ candle for purity.

## Lighting The Candles

On the first night of Advent, you will bless the Advent wreath. This is followed by a prayer which changes weekly. Candles are lit in the following order: For the first week of Advent, light one purple candle. During second week of Advent, light two purple candles. U When you reach the third week of Advent (traditionally called Gaudete Sunday), light two purple candles and one rose (pink) candle. During the fourth week, light all four candles. If you use a white candle in the center, it is lit on Christmas Eve.

## HOPE

### Week 1

**Candle Name:** Prophet’s Candle

**Candle Symbolizes:** Hope

**Reminds Us:** Jesus is coming

**Verse:** Romans 15:12-13

**Prayer:** O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

### Week 4

**Candle Name:** Angel’s Candle

**Candle Symbolizes:** Peace

**Reminds us:** The message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

**Verse:** John 3:16-17

**Prayer:** O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

## PEACE

## FAITH

### Week 2

**Candle Name:** Bethlehem Candle

**Candle Symbolizes:** Faith

**Reminds Us:** Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem

**Verse:** Luke 3:4-6

**Prayer:** O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

### Week 3

**Candle Name:** Shepherd’s Candle

**Candle Symbolizes:** Joy

**Reminds Us:** The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus

**Verse:** Luke 2:7-15

**Prayer:** O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

## JOY

**Christ Candle**  
Light on Christmas Eve



**Verse:** John 1:29




## 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.



**St. John Damascene**  
Feast Day: December 4

 **Pray for Us**  
@cathapostlectr

The image is a promotional graphic for St. John Damascene. It features a religious icon of St. John Damascene, a bearded man with a halo, wearing a white and gold head covering and a dark robe, holding a scroll with Greek text. The background is gold. Below the icon, the text "St. John Damascene" and "Feast Day: December 4" is displayed. At the bottom, there is a logo for "Catholic Postle" and the text "Pray for Us" with the handle "@cathapostlectr".

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.

4 Advent intentions:  
Forgiveness, encounter,  
service and prayer



## Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

**Sat. Dec 9th at 9:00 a.m.**

In the Christmas story, hope enters the world through the birth of a child, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Join us as we sing Christmas carols to share this hope where it is needed the most – the abortion facility right here in our community.

**Saturday, December 9, 9:00 am**

At the Planned Parenthood in KCK  
6013 Leavenworth Rd in Kansas City, KS

For more information,  
contact **Tina Jinkens**,  
Planned Parenthood Exposed at  
785) 615-8373

## The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas is seeking to fill the position of Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

This position works with Office of Catholic Schools staff to support school leaders in ways that will enable them to be spiritual and effective leaders for teachers. The incumbent provides a variety of development initiatives to assist school principals and faculty and coordinates curriculum development throughout the Archdiocesan Catholic schools. This position is full-time, will average 40 hours per week, and will have a target start date of July 1, 2024. For more information and to apply online, please go to [archkck.org](http://archkck.org), scroll to the bottom of the page, and click "Employment Opportunities".

## **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.

**Camp Tekakwitha** is looking for faith-filled, caring, and hardworking staff members who love radiant sunsets, powerful worship, making lifelong friendships, and having outdoor adventures with young people. Living at the gorgeous Prairie Star Ranch is icing on the cake!

Here is the link to apply:

<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/2084534>



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

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

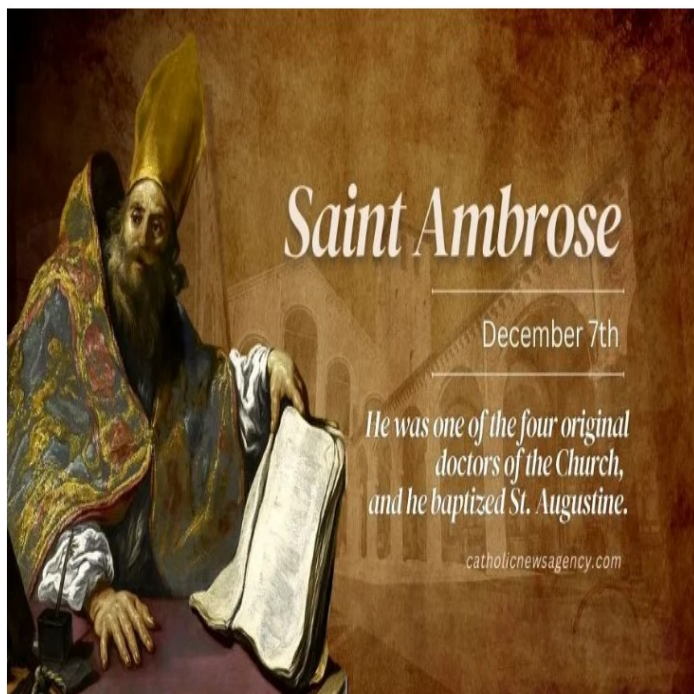


**Saint Ambrose**

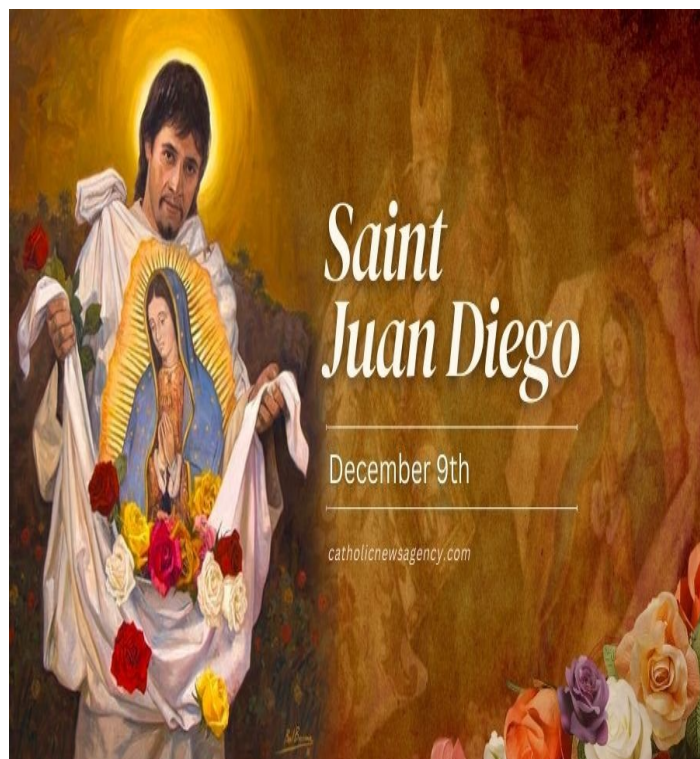
December 7th

He was one of the four original  
doctors of the Church,  
and he baptized St. Augustine.

[catholicnewsagency.com](http://catholicnewsagency.com)







### Best Choice labels

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



### Trash Bags for Sale

We now have trash bags for sale in the rectory. 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. Please stop by the church office during business hours of 8:30am-5pm to get yours! All proceeds will support our Parish. Thank You.



### USHERS NEEDED!

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



Help Catholic schools say yes to low-income students!

Make a gift to the CEF Scholarship Drive today.

Learn more and donate online at [CEFKS.org/ScholarshipDrive](http://CEFKS.org/ScholarshipDrive)



### Looking for a unique dining experience on the Hill?

One with atmosphere and tradition? Look no further than **The Club at St. John's** located at 414 Barnett KCKS 66101.

Fine dining at its best. Complete selection of comfort food, grilled or fried. Along with a wide assortment of cereal malt beverages, aka beers. Stop by during business hours or public events to try it for yourself. Open weeknights, Tuesday through Thursday for your dining pleasure. See ya soon!!!!



RURAL YM OUTREACH PRESENTS

# THE KINGDOM COMES

## ADVENT TOUR



**9-10 DEC**

**SATURDAY, DEC 9, 2023**  
STS. PETER & PAUL, SENECA

**SUNDAY, DEC 10, 2023**  
ELEANOR'S WHITE BARN, SCRANTON

**FEATURING THE JOSH BLAKESLEY BAND**

**7:00 PM**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

For more information:  
785-221-2644 ruralyouth@archkck.org www.archkck.org/rural/events

**SUNDAY  
10TH  
DECEMBER**

# 2ND ANNUAL CONCERT




**come join us again  
and this time  
bring a friend!**

Concert Begins @ 7:00pm  
335 W. 189th St. Scranton, KS

*All Are Welcome:*  
Any denomination  
Any age  
Anyone wanting a night of Christmas

# KICK OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS



**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
*any age, any denomination,  
anyone wanting an evening of Christmas Joy*

**DEC 9 SAT 7 PM** **LIVE MUSIC & ADVENT CELEBRATION**

STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH 411 PIONEER STREET SENECA

*Free Admission*

**JOSH BLAKESLEY BAND**  
FROM HOUSTON, TX

**catholic charities**  
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**  
@CCNEK @catholiccharitiesks

