



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2026

Matthew 13:44-52

Parish Office:

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

Office: (913) 371-0627

Hours: Mon-Thu 8:30am-5pm Fri 8:30am- 4

Web: stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.com

Email: 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, JV, VF, Pastor

Ms. Wendy Stimac, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Tony Locatelli, Music Director

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 4 pm

(at Holy Family In July)

Sunday at 9 am

Thursday at 8 am

Parish Ministries:

Finance Council

Parish Council

Altar Society

St. John's Club

Richard Sambol

Don Taylor

Kelly Moutray

Ken Yarnevich

913-371-9690

(913) 281-4448

Prayer Line

Keeping In Touch

I have arrived here in Canada safe and sound. The past week has been great. Mom is doing good and we have had some day trips to take care of some things that needed to be taken care of. My brother was here for several days and we had a great visit. I also got to visit with my aunt (mother's sister) for a little bit. It is a great joy to be around family. I was also able to attend and concelebrate the funeral of a dear family friend. At the funeral I was able to see and visit with many people I have not seen in many years. Lots of memories and laughs! The time goes quickly ... before you know it I will be back! Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.



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



In Memoriam

Mary Jean
Podrebarac

April 16, 1931- July 19, 2026

Mary Jean McKinney Podrebarac of Prairie Village, Kansas, was called by our heavenly Father on July 19, 2026. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at **St. Ann Catholic Church**, Prairie Village on *August 1, 2026 at 11:00 am with visitation at 10:00 am*. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the following charities: Sister Servants of Mary (800 North 18th Street, KCK 66102), St Ann Catholic Church (7231 Mission Road, PVK 66208) or St John the Baptist Catholic Church (708 N. 4th Street, KCK. 66101).



In Memoriam

Mirko Vardijan Jr.

August 31, 1954- July 19, 2026

Mirko Vardijan Jr., age 71, of Shawnee, KS, passed away on July 23, 2026 after a brief but vicious fight with cancer. Born on 8-31-1954 in Zakanje, Croatia. Mirko is survived by his loving wife, Ruzica Vardijan; his daughter Sandra Reid and her husband, Mike Reid; his daughter Ana Schierbaum and her husband, D.L. Schierbaum; his cherished grandchildren, Dominic, Gavin and Ryan; and his siblings, Ivan Vardijan, Frank Vardijan and Georgia Lemanske. He was preceded in death by his parents, Maria and Mirko Vardijan, Sr. and nephew Ivan Michael Vardijan. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church** on *Wednesday July 29, 2026 at 10:00 am with visitation at 9:00 am*. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Hospice House in Olathe, KS.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 26-

9am- Mare Turkalj & Lily Rendulic
Tim & Judy Seegar
Zvonko Krstulic, Ana Bert & Her Family
Slavo & Maria Ivicak (1/15/26 Dijamantni Pir)

Thursday, July 30-

8am- Ana Zeljeznjak, Ana Cavlovic, Joe Cavlovic

Saturday, August 1-

4pm- *Mass at St. John the Baptist*
People of the Parishes

Sunday, August 2-

9am- Mike Skrljac
Miho & Magda Kucenic
George & Katie Kucenic
Josip & Magda Kucenic

LITURGICAL MINISTRY -JULY & AUG

July 26, 2026-

Lectors: V. Tomasic, W. Stimac
Eucharistic Ministers: M. Tomasic
Blessed Cup: G. Garcia, M. Garcia
Servers: A. Garcia, M. Garcia
Sacristans: M. Garcia, G. Garcia

August 1-2, 2026-

Lectors: L. Worner ; M. Viskovic, V. Tomasic
Eucharistic Ministers: R. Worner ; C. Schneider
Blessed Cup: none ; M. Tomasic, B. Horvat
Servers: none ; M. Garcia
Sacristans: T. Jaksetic, C. Delich ;
S. Sandelich, M. Alvey

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Sun. 07/19/26

Envelopes:	5183.50
Loose:	72.00
Building Fund:	5518.00
Candles:	84.50
Poor Box:	5.00
Donations:	200.00

Visit Our Sunday

Visitor online giving at
[https://osvhub.com/
stjohnthebaptists/giving/
funds](https://osvhub.com/stjohnthebaptists/giving/funds)



Prayer Requests

Pope Leo XIV, World Peace, Lynda Thompson, Sarah Skradski-Coleman, John Christ Sr., Milka Subasic, Dianna Stimac, Millie Sambol, James Lipovac, Special Intention, In Thanksgiving, for all those who suffer from homelessness, addictions, cancer, mental health issues, for those who are serving time in prison, for all the holy souls in purgatory, and anyone else in need of our prayers.

Upcoming Events

Altar Society Meeting

There will be an Altar Society meeting on **Sunday, July 26th** in the church basement immediately following the 9:00 Mass. We will discuss the Croatian Festival and the Altar Society's responsibilities for the festival and also our annual Fall Apple Strudel fundraiser. All Altar Society members and those interested in joining the Altar Society are invited to attend

Coffee and Donut Sunday

The event will be hosted by the **Parish Council** on **Sunday August 2nd**, 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*, 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 August 10th**. 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.



Thank You!!



The parishioners of
**St. John the Baptist
Croatian Catholic Church**
extend our heartfelt thanks to the

St. John's Catholic Men's Club

for their generous donations to the
St. John's Church Building Fund.



Thank you to everyone who attended,
donated, and made these gatherings
such a tremendous success.



May God bless the
- **St. John's Catholic Men's Club** -
and all who contributed
for your kindness, generosity,
and dedication to our
parish community.



Just a few sides Notes....

Altar Servers Needed

Would any of the children, who have made their First Communion, be interested in serving as Altar Servers for either Saturday or Sunday masses or both? Scheduling for each child will be once per month or at your request and since we only have Saturday masses every other month, there are only 6 Saturdays in the year in which they would be scheduled. Sunday scheduling can be up to 12 times for the year. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Garcia at mygarcia@wycokck.org or 913-645-6726. Training will be provided.



Best Choice labels

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



Trash Bags for Sale

We have trash bags for sale in the rectory. Yellow bags are 39 gal 25/roll, White bags are 15 gal 65/roll, 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.



13TH ANNUAL **FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026**
LEGENDS FIELD - KCK

PITCHING PRIESTS
Catholic Radio Network
I-435 SERIES

Brought to you by **CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK**

GATES OPEN
THIS YEAR AT **5:00 P.M.**

★ **MORE ACTIVITIES** ★

INCLUDING A BOYS AND GIRLS RUN, BOYS AND GIRLS BABY CRAWL,
HOT DOG RUN, BALLOON BUST AND MORE!

★ BOYS & GIRLS RUN ★

★ BOYS & GIRLS BABY CRAWL ★

★ HOT DOG RUN ★

★ BALLOON BUST AND MORE! ★

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
THE EVENT IS FREE! ★ DONATIONS ACCEPTED ONLINE OR AT THE GATE.

★ **NOTE A FEW CHANGES** ★
FOR THIS YEAR...

- ⚾ Gates open earlier at **5:00 p.m.**
- ⚾ Concessions available at **5:00 p.m.**
- ⚾ No one will be allowed inside the ballpark before **5:00 p.m.**
- ⚾ Clear bags are required to enter.
- ⚾ Each fan can bring in 1 unopened 16 oz. bottle of water.

- ⚾ Restroom facilities will be available once the gates open.
- ⚾ Get in early for kids events starting at **5:20 p.m.**
- ⚾ Donation boxes available inside the gates or you can donate online - all to benefit the seminarians.
- ⚾ First pitch will be at **6:30 p.m.** this year!
- ⚾ Lots of activities between innings!

Let's keep
on rolling!

Ladies and gentlemen
Thursday, August 13th,
is Sarma making day for
St John's festival dinner.

We gather after the 8:00am mass in the school library, behind the auditorium stage/kitchen area.

We suggest you bring your paring knives and aprons.

Questions to
Teresa Kovac
cell 913-401-9346

Sips for Scholarships
RESURRECTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CHEERS TO CHANGING LIVES!
SUPPORT FOR NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

August 1, 2026 | 5-8 PM
Boulevard Brewing Co.
2501 Southwest Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64108

Learn more at rcskck.org

A Note of Thanks

Only three more weeks until the 2026 Croatian Festival! We come to the end of the Meet the Team articles.

Please acknowledge Chris Schneider, who has chaired the festival team for 36 years. We appreciate his leadership and institutional knowledge.

Chris knows how the festival evolved and where each booth is located plus where it was in 2001. He remembers when it cost 10 cents at the apple strudel booth and discussions about how it rose to \$1.

He has been with the festival for rain and shine, cool weather and extreme heat, and when COVID-19 shut down the event.

Thanks Chris for the evolution from St. John's Ice Cream Social to the Croatian Festival - and embracing new ideas along the way!

In addition to the festival team, Hrvatski Obicaj is another group that absolutely brings success to our festival.

Although Hrvatski Obicaj is independent from St. John's, many of the members are parishioners and perform at the festival.

After Mass, they set up outside and perform the traditional music of Croatia. Music is at the heart of our ancestors and what a treat it is to open the festival with Hrvatski Obicaj.

As you know, there is a lot going on to make the festival a success. Tony Cindrich stays under the radar. Every year, he cleans up the Strawberry Hill Museum grounds so it will be ready for the festival dance.

We don't know how it began, but it was simply done and we appreciate that kind gesture.

Thank you to Wendy Stimac, our administrative assistant, and Cathy Schneider, for carefully logging all the forms (and money) you submit. That is how we keep track of everything!

And lastly, there's me - Kathy Lally Bareiss. I do a little bit of this and a little bit of that.

That's the team behind the festival. But we also have another important role - training others to take our place when we move on.

Join us as a volunteer. We help each other and we also learn from one another. We love new ideas and it will be important for the festival to continue changing as time goes on!



The Fishing Pond in KiddieLand from the 2018 Croatian Festival is a huge draw for our youngest festival-goers.

Festival Update

Thank you to all who have participated in our pre-festival activities!

As of July 22, we have received \$57,110 in sponsorships. Wow! We are getting so very close to our goal of \$60,000.

We appreciate your generosity!



In the 50/50 Raffles, we have 120 entries. That means those who entered have at least \$6,000 (and \$6,000 for the church) in winnings to claim between the Mini and Maxi raffle.

For the T-shirts (which are pretty awesome looking, we have 87 pre-orders.

T-shirts are now available in the rectory. You can pick up pre-orders or buy one during business hours. Sorry, but there will be no more special orders.

A new item this year is Beer Keg sponsors to help cover the beer costs. We have received, \$1,100 so far.

Watch those sales on 2-Liter pop - we need a total of 175.

Those wonderful kids gifts for the little one's treat booth keep coming in. Don't worry about sending too many - we keep any extra for the next year.



2026 Support St. John's Sponsorships

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
on Historic Strawberry Hill



Strawberry Cheesecake Delight

The Gorsky Family

Chocolate-Dipped Strawberries

The Worner Family

Strawberry Fields

Kathryn A. Lastelic Zunick

Anonymous

Strawberry Hill

Chris Horn & Family

Strawberry Patch

In Memory of Joseph & Catherine Podrebarac

In Memory of Joseph N. Modrcin

In Memory of Chris Braun & Bob Braun Sr.

In Memory of Helen Kolich Wells

In Memory of Nick Kucenic

Barbara Zurga & the St. Denis Family

Kathy Dumovich Kovac

Marie Kolich

Skradski & Sambol Families

Marty Yadrick

Mike & Karen Svetlic

Jerry Cindric

Strawberry Preserves

In Memory of Carol & Otto Kaifes
In Memory of Ike & Kata Modrcin
Courtney Mikesic & Dave Mikesic
In Memory of Joseph Rahija
Malnar & Urkevich Families
Michael & Maegan Thomas
Joe Jerome & Janet Kolich
Pam & Ted Rusovick
Catherine Delich
Mike & Linda Aleksaites
R. & A. Nastav Family
In Memory of Kristina & Joseph Horvat
Ron & Linda Verbeck
In Memory of Barbara Palcher
In Memory of George, Tate & Ainsley Brajkovic
Frank & Ljubica Kozar
The Frank & Josie Anzek Family
The Yarnevich Family
Edward Jones - Matt Winterhalter
The Eugene Sostarich Family
The Roper Family
Mary E. Hoytal
In Memory of George & Kate Yuratovich

Strawberry Seed

CJ & Mallory Krug	Anonymous
Bernadette Acinger West	Mary Gasparovic
Ann & Matt Modrcin	The Gurski Family
Daniel Cindrich	

Strawberry Pie

In Memory of Willie & Barbara Jaksetic
The Stimac, Koch & Hughes Families

Strawberry Plant

Charles & Mary Ann Trzok-Laundy

In Memory of Pete, Dorothy & Pat Novosel

John & Beckie Mikesic - Sarah & Briar Wilhelm

St. John the Baptist Altar Society

The Kovac & Krupich Families

Hal & Andrea Skradski Thomas

The Kladusan & Heshner Families

John & Veronica Gasparovich

St. John's Seniors

Loren & Kathy Lally Bareiss

Walter & Mary Rendulic

Paul Trankino



The Lally Family

Bob Janesko

Christine Allen

The Tomasic Family

Strawberry Shortcake

The Boan & Kovac Families

Ivana Morris & Dave Martin

Rick & Susan (Zunick) Robards

In Memory of Rita Rodina & Sam Stice

The Tim & Cindy Cavlovic Family

In Memory of John Ivan Podrebarac

In Memory of Mary Ann Schneider

John F. Mikesic Family

The (Stimac) Juresic Family

Mike & Annie Kucenic

Patti Kratofil Hill

Anita Gasparovic

Anonymous

2026 Croatian Festival



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
on Historic Strawberry Hill
July 24-25 Newsletter



*Join us! Saturday, August 15, 2026
Following 4 p.m. Mass, 708 N. Barnett, KCK*

Festival T-shirts

The festival T-shirts are now available in the rectory. You can pick up a pre-order or buy a shirt during business hours.



T-shirts will also be for sale at the Strawberry Boutique booth on festival night.

Another location will be near 67th and Pflumm, Shawnee.

For those who paid for postage (\$6 per shirt), T-shirts will be mailed next week.

You may continue to purchase shirts using the form or by online credit card. And, they will be available on festival night. The cost is \$25 per shirt. **Please note: special orders have concluded.**

Yummy Cookies Needed!

Traditionally, the families of St. John the Baptist have contributed desserts for the Festival's Croatian Dinners - so many elaborate and delicious cakes and pies.

And yes, we continue to ask your help in donating treats to end a fabulous sarma meal.

These days, with work, family and volunteer obligations, not everyone has the time to slave away in a hot August kitchen.

So, to make it easier, please supply cookies! You can still bake them, or stop by your favorite grocery store. Honestly, if God wanted me to bake, He would not have invented bakeries....

Put three cookies in a plastic bags - then deliver them to the auditorium. Times include Thursday, Friday and Saturdays mornings, or before 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday. We truly appreciate your baking (or shopping) skills.

Fast Facts

If you know, you know - however, some people don't, so kindly share!

Please bring cash to the festival (or use pre-orders....) Everyone knows this is a cashless society - except the festival.

While we accept credit cards for sarma dinners and the Strawberry Boutique, everything else is cash. Kids' games cost 50 cents per play and the apple strudel, povitica and salami booths are \$1.

Stop by the bank or the ATM for some cash so you can buy a beer, play a game, eat a hot dog



or grab a bottle or water. Bonus: you will save time by not waiting in line to pay.

Parking - St. John the Baptist was built in the time when everyone lived within the sound of the church bell. Parking just wasn't an issue.

Fast-forward to 2026 - the only parking is along the side streets surrounding the parish. Kansas University graciously allow festival-goers to park on its campus at 4th and Armstrong.

Need a parking hack? The best parking spaces go to those who attend 4 p.m. Mass.

St. John's Catholic Club is closed during the festival and *not available for gatherings*. No beverages will be served.

Restrooms are available in the auditorium and the church basement.