

## Art that inspires

A Catholic school in Washington, D.C., that has offered hospitality to pilgrims from this diocese is honoring Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton throughout this school year.  
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# The CATHOLIC MISSOURIAN

November 26, 2021 • Vol. 65 No. 11

Newspaper of the Diocese of Jefferson City

## Bishop, prison residents worship “God of 10,000 chances”



A resident of the Algoa Correctional Center in Jefferson City proclaims a reading during a Nov. 6 Mass offered by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and Father Michael Penn in the prison chapel.  
— Photo by Jay Nies

By Jay Nies

The Church outside the walls and the Church within are one and the same.

There are no distinctions.

“These are wonderful men,” Father Michael Penn told Bishop W. Shawn McKnight. “They are men of prayer. They’re certainly men of the Church. And we’re glad to come together to pray, and we’re glad to have you as our bishop.”

Bishop McKnight was visiting the chapel of the Algoa Correctional Center (ACC), a minimum-security prison in Jefferson City.

“I consider it a grace to be able to spend some time with you and celebrate Mass, and to remind you of your connection to the Church,” the bishop told 10 Catholic residents who were gathered before him.

Fr. Penn, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taos and sacramental minister for the Catholics at ACC, concelebrated the Mass with the bishop.

Deacons Kenny Wildhaber and Larry Hildebrand assisted at the altar.

Bishop McKnight lauded Fr. Penn, the deacons, lay volunteers Barbara Groner, Lois Thomas and Diane Wildhaber and all who visit the prison regularly.

“They help extend the presence of the Church here with you,” the bishop told the residents. “But in a very real way, YOU are the presence of the Church here, as well.”

Many of ACC’s 1,600 residents are within sight of their release date, so the chapel is much like the Upper Room just before Pentecost.

“The men are growing in their faith and will continue doing so after they

See PRISON, page 19

## “Prepare Ye” small group faith sharing resource is just what weary souls need for Advent 2021

By Jay Nies

Now is the time to make time to prepare the heart and mind for Christmas.

“If we don’t plan ahead and commit to finding meaningful ways through all of the busyness of the season to ‘ponder these things and treasure them in our heart,’ the meaning of Advent will be lost,” cautioned LeAnn Korsmeyer, the Jefferson City diocese’s director of parish and charitable services.

Designed specifically for this diocese, Dominican Sister Janet Schaeffler created a four-part weekly program to be taken up by small, faith sharing groups this Advent. It also has adaptations so that families and individuals can use it in their homes.

Titled “Prepare Ye,” it is a resource in English and Spanish for praying, reflecting, discussing and putting into action the reading for each Sunday of Advent.

It includes a special section of activities for families with

younger children.

Advent is the Church’s four-week season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. It begins on Sunday, Nov. 28.

“Prepare Ye” is available in booklet form from the diocesan Chancery offices as well as online at [diojeffcity.org](http://diojeffcity.org).

“Small group faith sharing is how we build-up lasting communities of faith in our parishes,” said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

She noted that “Prepare Ye” draws upon important elements of the diocese’s pastoral plan, “A Steward’s Journey,” including collaboration, co-responsibility and welcoming.

She said the inevitable noise and distractions of the season, amplified by polarization, uncertainty and the COVID pandemic, will make this Advent a particularly ideal time for people to stop, gather, pray and set their minds and hearts on something greater.

See “PREPARE YE,” page 21

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The Diocese of Jefferson City is seeking an individual to create quality communication assets for the diocese, in print, audio/visual and digital format. This individual will be responsible for updating the diocesan website and serve as support for parish websites. We are specifically seeking an individual who has a desire to use technology to make the Catholic Church more accessible and relevant. Experience with Adobe Creative Suite, WordPress and audio/video editing software is required.

Qualified candidates should send their resume to [HRDir@diojeffcity.org](mailto:HRDir@diojeffcity.org). Final candidates will be required to submit a portfolio of creative work.

**Campus Ministry & Adult Faith Formation Positions**

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, Mo., serving the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) and two other colleges, is accepting applications for the **Assistant Director of Campus Ministry**. The Assistant Director reports directly to the Director of Campus Ministry and serves with a team of priests, two other professional campus ministry staff, FOCUS missionaries and student interns. This position has a primary emphasis on ministries related to new student outreach, retreats, spirituality, service and communications. An excellent candidate will live the Catholic faith in his/her daily life; balance a Catholic theological background with pastoral skills; and have strong communication, organization and planning skills.

St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish is also accepting applications for a full-time **Director of Adult Faith Formation** to serve a diverse parish community on the campus of the University of Missouri. This position reports directly to the Pastor and serves with a team of faith formation ministers including RCIA Director, Middle School/High School Youth Minister and Director of Grade School Religious Education, as well as with college campus ministry. This position is responsible for the faith formation of adults in the Catholic tradition.

For full job descriptions, visit [www.comonewman.org/job-openings](http://www.comonewman.org/job-openings).



College Ministry at  
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## 40 Days for Life closing rally

**DATE: December 4**  
**TIME: 6 pm**

Amanna Durbin, founder and president of Ray of Hope Pregnancy Center in Macon and Shelbina, will be the featured speaker at Columbia 40 Days for Life's rescheduled closing rally in Holt Summit.

It will be on Saturday, Dec. 4, in Veit Hall at St. Andrew Church, 400 St. Andrews Drive near Center Street.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. A fried chicken dinner prepared by Knights of Columbus St. Andrew Council 8400 in Holts Summit will be served at 7 p.m.

The program will follow. A free-will offering will be taken up to help cover the cost.

To help with an accurate meal count, please call Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130 to make a reservation.

## Prayer vigils at State Capitol

**DATE: Nov. 30, Dec. 1**  
**TIME: 8 - 5 pm**

40 Days for Life will hold a prayer vigil at the Missouri State Capitol on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The prayer intention is for a successful outcome to the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case pending be-

fore the U.S. Supreme Court. Contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130 or [kathythebo@hotmail.com](mailto:kathythebo@hotmail.com) for information.

## Guadalupe in Sedalia

**DATE: December 12**  
**TIME: 11 am - 3 pm**

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Sedalia will host a Spanish-language celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12, in St. Patrick Chapel, 415 E. Fourth St.

"Las Mañanitas," the serenading of the Blessed Mother, will begin at 11 a.m., followed by Mass at 11:45 a.m.

A play telling the story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held in the downstairs hall after Mass, followed by lunch and traditional dancing.

## Laurie Festival of Lights celebration at shrine

**DATE: December 17**  
**TIME: 5:30 - 8 pm**

The National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church, 176 Marian Dr, off of Highway 5 in Laurie, will have a special night of caroling and music with a warming fire, gift shop and refreshments on Friday, Dec. 17, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

It will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the annual Festival of Lights at the shrine.

"This festival focuses on the true meaning of Christmas, with the Holy Family at the forefront of our displays," organizers stated. The lights are on continuously until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus on Jan. 9.

There is no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. [mothersshrine.com](http://mothersshrine.com)

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"A diocesan paper serves as a bond of unity by publishing diocesan happenings and promulgating official regulations and decrees. It also plays a teaching role by reporting notable events of a religious and secular nature, and interpreting them in the light of Christian principles."  
— Bishop Joseph M. Marling C.P.P.S., July 7, 1957

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight  
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## Pope Francis's Prayer to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph, you who guarded the bond with Mary and Jesus, help us to care for the relationships in our lives. May no one experience that sense of abandonment that comes from loneliness. Let each of us be reconciled with our own history, with those who have gone before, and recognize even in the mistakes made a way through which Providence has made its way, and evil did not have the last word. Show yourself to be a friend to those who struggle the most, and as you supported Mary and Jesus in difficult times, support us too on our journey. Amen.



## Pray for deceased priests

Dec. 9 — Fr. Thomas L. Waickman, St. Joseph, Louisiana; and Mary Queen of Peace, Clarksville (2010)

# Fr. Tolton prayer garden, plaques in Quincy, Ill. blessed, dedicated

By Jay Nies

An impressive statue of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton often went unnoticed, tending to blend in with the front of St. Peter School in Quincy, Illinois.

A parishioner challenged Monsignor Leo Enlow, pastor of St. Peter Parish, to move the statue to a more prominent, contemplative place on the church property.

It is now the center of a landscaped prayer garden, along with a bench from the old St. Peter Church, where Fr. Tolton worshipped God and served at the altar with his St. Peter School classmates.

Fr. Tolton (1854-97), formerly enslaved in Missouri, became the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

Adorning a nearby retaining wall around St. Peter Church are nine recently completed stone plaques depicting impor-

tant moments in the life of Fr. Tolton, who is under formal consideration for being declared a saint.

Among the inscribed illustrations are his baptism in St. Peter Church in Brush Creek, Missouri, in what is now part

**More photos from the dedication and of the new plaques will be posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, *cathmo.com*. Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

of the Jefferson City diocese, and his family's daring escape from enslavement in Missouri to freedom in Illinois.

"This is a tribute to Augustus Tolton as it describes his life, his trials, his sufferings — a detail of his history as he endured so much with faith, hope and a lot of love," Msgr. Enlow said of the plaques, designed by parish-

ioner Tim Haubrich.

The pastor blessed the garden and historical plaques after Mass the morning of Nov. 10, the 110th anniversary of the death of Fr. Tolton's mother, Martha Jane Chisley Tolton, who protected her son, prayed with him and helped him persevere.

Msgr. Enlow spoke of Fr. Tolton's heroic virtue and determination to answer his priestly calling in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

"He had so much to overcome in his life being a black American," Msgr. Enlow noted. "He was rejected, treated as less than a human being because of the color of his skin, and yet persevered in doing God's will in his life."

Fr. Tolton's father died while serving in the Union Army in the Civil War.

"Thankfully," the pastor stated, "with God's grace, Fr. Tolton and his mother and siblings made the crossing of the Mississippi River at Hannibal and took up residence in Quincy. Fortunately, he found a home here at St. Peter, where he attended school, served Mass and received his sacraments.

"With a sense of pride in his accomplishments, we can learn from his life, knowing that with God's grace, all things are possible," Msgr. Enlow stated.

The recently relocated statue, donated in memory of the mother of longtime pastor Father Roy Bauer, now deceased, stood outside the entrance to St. Peter School for nearly three decades.

In blessing its new location, Msgr. Enlow prayed that God would allow the statue to "remind us of Fr. Tolton's love and devotion to You."

Msgr. Enlow called upon God to make the garden a place of prayer and beautify, "and help us always be reminded of the growth of a faith You planted in a young man who served You so willingly."

Mindful of what is depicted on the last of the stone plaques — Fr. Tolton joining the Communion of Saints in heaven — Msgr. Enlow prayed for God to help the Church formally recognize Fr. Tolton as a saint,



**Monsignor Leo Enlow, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Quincy, Illinois, blesses the new Fr. Tolton Garden on the parish property, with students of St. Peter School watching.** — Photo from St. Peter Parish

"swiftly and soon."

This year, St. Peter parishioners also contributed to beautifying Fr. Tolton's resting place in St. Peter Cemetery and making it more inviting to pilgrims.

"We have planted flowers, done some landscaping, and then this summer we were able to put in a concrete drive," Msgr. Enlow noted.

He expressed deep gratitude

to all the people who made these projects possible.

"Between the Tolton grave and the Tolton Memorial wall and the landscaping in front of the Tolton statue, we truly are ready for the venerable to become a saint!" the pastor stated.

"As we celebrate Augustus being one with us here on earth, we pray that he is now one with the multitude of saints in heaven," he said.



## Bishop McKnight's Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

**Nov 30** Mass, Moberly Correctional Center, 4:30 pm, Moberly

**DECEMBER**

**Dec 1** Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri Board Meeting, noon, Catholic Charities Center, Jefferson City; Confirmation Ceremony, St. Brendan Parish, 7 pm, Mexico

**Dec 4** Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, 10 am, Virtual

**Dec 5** Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Investiture Mass, St. Stanislaus Parish, 3 pm, Wardsville

**Dec 6** Missouri Catholic Conference Board Meeting, 2 pm, Virtual

**Dec 7-9** Visit faculty and diocesan seminarians at The Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, OH

**Dec 8** Mass of Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and institution of Lectors and Acolytes, The Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, OH

**Dec 11** Mass, Jefferson City Correctional Center, 8 am, Jefferson City; Cohort 2 Stewardship Meeting, 10:30 am, Chancery

**Dec 12** Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 2 pm, Columbia

**Dec 14** Very Reverend Deans' Meeting, 11 am; College of Consultors Meeting, 12:30 pm; Presbyteral Council Meeting, 1 pm, Chancery; Presentation to SSM Health Executive Leadership, 7 pm, Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, St. Louis

**Bishop McKnight's December prayer intention for our Local Church**

For our children and youth: that the example of parents and other adults of the parish may foster a sense of openness to the Holy Spirit in their lives.



**Intención del mes de diciembre del Obispo McKnight por nuestra Iglesia Local**

Para nuestros niños y jóvenes: que el ejemplo de los padres de familia y otros adultos de la parroquia pueda fomentar un sentido de apertura al Espíritu Santo en sus vidas.

Please be so kind as to make this a part of your group and private prayer.

Planning for death is as natural for the Christian as planning for life. Having a will is good stewardship and planning of your assets. Remember to always take care of your family, and consider taking care of your parish family long after you are gone.

Have you already remembered your parish or school in your estate plans? Please let us know!



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# Clear Creek Catholics pray the Rosary for veterans, the nation

By Jay Nies

People in the pews held fast to their rosary beads while pleading for the Blessed Mother's assistance in heaven.

So, too, had countless military veterans in trenches, foxholes, transport vessels and aircraft before heading into battle.

"I can only imagine the comfort the Rosary has provided for so many military men and women when they were away from home, how scared they must have been, when all they had was their rosary and prayers to bring them home safely," said Paula Dillner, secretary of the St. John Cemetery Association.

She spoke briefly at the association's Veterans Day Rosary prayer service on Nov. 11 in the St. John the Baptist Chapel in Clear Creek.

About 40 people, including families with children, joined in honoring and praying for "our veterans, our country and community."

"It's important to honor our veterans because they fought for our country, and we wouldn't be standing here if they didn't fight for us,"



**LEFT:** Participants in a Veterans' Day Rosary prayer service process the U.S. flag and banners representing veterans groups and branches of the military down the aisle of the St. John the Baptist Chapel in Clear Creek Nov. 11. **RIGHT:** Parishioners Jaclyn Inskeep and Joan Gerke lead the praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary during the service.

— Photos by Jay Nies

stated Addi Vollrath, a fourth-grader at St. Joseph School in Pilot Grove.

"It's important because a lot of people forget about veterans," said fellow St. Joseph fourth-grader Jackson Inskeep. "It's very important to remember them because they fought for our country and helped us get freedom."

People from the parish processed the U.S. flag, along with banners representing veterans' organizations and the

branches of the military, into the chapel and placed them at the edge of the sanctuary.

Parishioner Jerry Hazlett, who fought in the Vietnam War, spoke of the origin and importance of Veterans' Day.

He said it is "a day that was established to honor all Americans who have served our country in war and in peace."

"They are both dead and alive, although this day is largely intended to thank all of our living veterans for their sacrifices made to a grateful nation," he said.

Veterans Day is the anniversary of the 1918 armistice that ended the bloodshed of World War I. It later came to be known as a day to honor all people who have served in the U.S. military.

"Nov. 11 is now a day of remembrance, with parades, services, ceremonies and most of all to honor all of those who have served our country in any capacity," said Mr. Hazlett. "This is during peace or war, in combat or support roles, all who have served honorably."

Mrs. Dillner thanked Mr. Hazlett for his words and for his service.

"A lot of Vietnam veterans didn't get welcomed home very well," she told him. "So welcome home! Welcome to Clear Creek!"

Parishioners Jaclyn Inskeep and Joan Gerke led the praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, devoting a decade apiece to the execu-



tive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government, state governors, and county and municipal officeholders.

With each of the "Hail Mary" prayers, they pled the Blood of Jesus and His saving power over one of the 50 U.S. states and all of the souls living there.

Parishioners Jenny Lorenz-Redkin and Yvonne Kammerich led and accompanied the singing of "America the Beautiful" and other hymns.

The service closed with the processing of the colors.

Lifelong Clear Creek resident and parishioner Butch Twenter said he was impressed with the turnout and moved by the prayers.

Having served in the Army and been stationed in Ethiopia in 1970-72, he asked for continued prayers for veterans and the nation they served.

"I think a lot of the younger folks don't realize how many freedoms they have and how those freedoms came to be," he said.

He believes young people are being bombarded with the media and other influences that are undermining their moral foundations.

He credited his own mother's prayers for helping to keep him safe during his overseas deployment. He noted that two of his wife's uncles had been exposed to the chemical

defoliant Agent Orange in the Vietnam War.

"They both passed away from cancer because of it," he said. "They didn't give their lives in combat. But actually, they kind of did in a way because they came home with this disease and nobody knew what to do for it."

Jackson Inskeep suggested praying that all the current service members "will make it home" and that those who have served will stay healthy and at peace.

Mrs. Dillner said the St. John Cemetery Association, which also sponsors a Memorial Day Prayer Service, hopes to make the Veterans Day service an annual event.

The Memorial Day observances have been a local tradition since 2011.

"We have a local veteran speak, prayers and a remembrance of those buried at St. John's since we last gathered," said Ms. Dillner. "We have families share a memory and release a balloon in remembrance of their loved ones."

The association's monthly Rosary services in the church or in the cemetery usually draw about 30 participants.

When the weather is nice, people set up lawn chairs on the concrete walkway in the cemetery around the newly installed statue of the Blessed Mother, which was dedicated this past June.

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## African American couple has felt Columbia change into a welcoming community

By Jay Nies

Longtime St. Thomas More Newman Center parishioners Larry and Marjorie Diggs know what it feels like to be welcomed.

And not to be.

"I've been Catholic all my life, through all my childhood and adulthood," said Mrs. Diggs, age 91. "And when I first came to Columbia, it was ... kind of shocking."

She and Mr. Diggs went to Mass at all three Catholic churches and had the same experience.

"None of the people would hold my hand during the Lord's Prayer or at other times during the Mass," said Mrs. Diggs.

After discussing their shared experience of feeling like outsiders, they decided to try worshipping at other churches in the city.

Both lifelong Catholics visited congregations where they did feel welcome, "but it just wasn't the same," said Mrs. Diggs.

One Sunday, they were aboard a cruise ship when the announcements came for the various religious services.

"We haven't been to Catholic church for so long," Mrs. Diggs told her husband. "None of these people know us. Why don't we go to Mass here?"

Mr. Diggs agreed, and they made their way to the appropriate deck.

"As soon as I walked through the door, it was as if I could hear the Lord Himself saying, 'Welcome home, Marjorie!'" she recalled.

That day, they resolved to return to Mass and the Sacraments when they got back to Columbia, whether they felt welcome or not.

"We're not going for other people," Mrs. Diggs remembers thinking. "We're going for God and we're going for us."

She decided to call ahead.

"I called the parish office at Our Lady of Lourdes, and a nun answered the phone," she recalled. "I told her what we had been through in the past."

The sister said the timing must have been a God thing, because she usually would have been away at lunch at that time.

She told Mrs. Diggs: "I'm

in the office now, and I want you to come over here and talk to me, because I am so sorry that we as Catholics have let you down so badly."

The sister and a friend who was active at St. Thomas More Newman Center sat down for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Diggs.

"They talked us into coming back to the Church, and things were so much better after that," said Mrs. Diggs.

The couple got involved in parish activities, serving as greeters at Mass and as parish council representatives.

"It was more than just coming to Mass for them," fellow St. Thomas More Newman Center parishioner Dr. Avila Nilon noted. "They wanted to be an active part of the community."

That's something the Diggses recommend to anyone who joins a parish.

### Peace and war

Mrs. Diggs was born in Peoria, Illinois, but spent most of her growing-up in Chicago.

"In a large city like that, there's a lot segregation in the fact," she noted. "It's not something they make you do, it's just something you do."

With over 2 million people spread out over 234 square miles, the Chicago she remembers there being many mostly Black neighborhoods with schools and churches.

"You didn't care that they were mostly Black or mostly white," she recalled. "You just went to the one you went to, and that's what you did."

Mr. Diggs grew up on a farm in Mississippi and wound up serving in the South Pacific in an elite group known as the Montford Point Marines during World War II.

He told military historian and writer Jeremy P. Åmick in 2019 about undergoing grueling training by drill sergeants who wanted him and his fellow African American inductees to give up on being Marines.

"That only made us more determined to succeed," he stated.

His unit fought valiantly in the Battle of Peleliu in 1944, helping to bring victory and then keep the island secure



Larry and Marjorie Diggs, members of St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish in Columbia, acknowledge the special recognition they received during the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society's 2018 luncheon at the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia.

— Photo by Jay Nies

through the end of the war.

Mr. Diggs and 400 of his fellow Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, D.C., in 2012.

It was a 180-degree turn from how he was received in basic training 70 years previously.

"They didn't want us in the Marine Corps," he told Mr. Åmick. "They weren't ready for us and they did their best to make sure that we didn't succeed. We just performed the best that we could and were determined to prove them wrong."

In 2015, Mr. Diggs was invited to travel to Washington to light one of the candles for the 240th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

He maintains a display of his World War II and Marine regalia, calling it "Larry's Wall."

### Promoting a legacy

Mr. and Mrs. Diggs met while working for the U.S. Postal Service in Chicago.

"We came to know each other well and started going out," Mrs. Diggs recalled. "And finally ended up getting married."

They bought a home on 40 acres in rural Boone County after retiring in 1980 and finished raising their family there.

"My husband knew all about farming, but I didn't know anything about it," said Mrs. Diggs.

the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States in 1886.

He was serving as pastor of a mostly Black and poor parish in Chicago when he died of heat stroke in 1897. He is under formal consideration for being declared a saint.

Fr. Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, opened in 2011, is named in his honor.

"I didn't know about Fr. Tolton until they started getting ready to build the school," Dr. Nilon pointed out.

The Diggses encouraged Dr. Nilon and fellow parishioner Michele Sisson-White to establish the Fr. Tolton Legacy Society at the Newman Center and organize an annual Mass and celebration each April.

The event helps generate awareness and devotion to Fr. Tolton. Proceeds help provide scholarships for students at the high school.

The society honored Mr. and Mrs. Diggs during its first luncheon in 2016.

See DIGGS, page 22



## Refresh Your Space

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## Plan To Transform Impoverished Guatemalan Diocese Begins With Effort To Feed the Hungry

When ministry leaders with Cross Catholic Outreach set out to transform the impoverished communities of Santa Rosa, they knew addressing the urgent need for food would have to be their priority.

“You can rarely succeed with long-term mission work if you ignore basic human needs. Desperately hungry people are understandably focused on survival, and their first goal is always to make sure their children are fed. Only when that need is addressed can they focus on programs to break the cycle of poverty and build a

better future,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, one of the largest and most successful Catholic charities serving the poor in Latin America.

Within Guatemala, one of the countries Cross Catholic Outreach serves, the ministry is currently working with Father Raúl Monterroso in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima. There, extreme hunger and the medical hardships it creates have been impacting thousands of Guatemalans without drawing much attention from the world at large, even though most of the victims are babies and young children. Fortunately, through Cross Catholic Outreach — and the support of compassionate Catholics in the U.S. — local Catholic leaders now believe that relief from chronic hunger is possible.

“Malnutrition has a terrible impact on poor children, and this crisis is particularly deadly in Guatemala’s remote, rural regions. There, families live too far from hospitals and clinics capable of helping them. A serious lack of resources and inadequate food production create the perfect conditions for malnutrition to thrive,” Cavnar said. “Poor mothers are forced to choose which of their children to feed on a given day, and they watch in despair as their sons and daughters weaken, grow gaunt and lose the will to live.”

Cavnar went on to explain the major difference between hunger and malnutrition.

“Most Americans think of hunger as a temporary thing — a pain that will eventually be relieved — and,



Fr. Raúl greets Jeffrey and his family in El Sauce, a community in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima where malnutrition threatens the health of children.



praise God, that’s often the case. A child in the U.S. may go hungry at times, but that hunger isn’t usually a life-threatening issue,” he said. “Guatemalan children showing signs of malnutrition have typically endured hunger for weeks or months on end, and at that point, they begin to manifest signs of mental and physical damage that may become irreversible.”

Stunted growth is one of the most common physical problems Cavnar has seen, and the harm it does to a child’s body is lasting.

Thankfully, Church leaders in Guatemala have been working with Cross Catholic Outreach on an ambitious plan to distribute food where it is needed most. [See related story on opposite page.]

“Santa Rosa’s Catholic leaders are eager to feed the vulnerable in their diocese, but they need our help the support of— and they depend of the support of compassionate American Catholics. Contributions will allow Cross Catholic Outreach to ship large quantities of donated food to

the diocese for distribution through feeding programs, schools and other diocesan outreaches.

“The more who contribute to this mission of mercy, the more we can accomplish. So we are asking for people to be generous in their response,” Cavnar said. “I’m confident we’ll have a major impact on hunger in Santa Rosa if American Catholics get involved.”

**Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreaches to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure inserted in this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01846, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.**

## Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreaches in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the

homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful responses to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.”

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this mission. He writes, “What a joy it is to

be part of the Lord’s redemptive work and to manifest his mercy on earth by caring for our neighbors in need.”

In addition to praising the ministry’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows Cross Catholic Outreach to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration

with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and shelter to the homeless, and through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*.”

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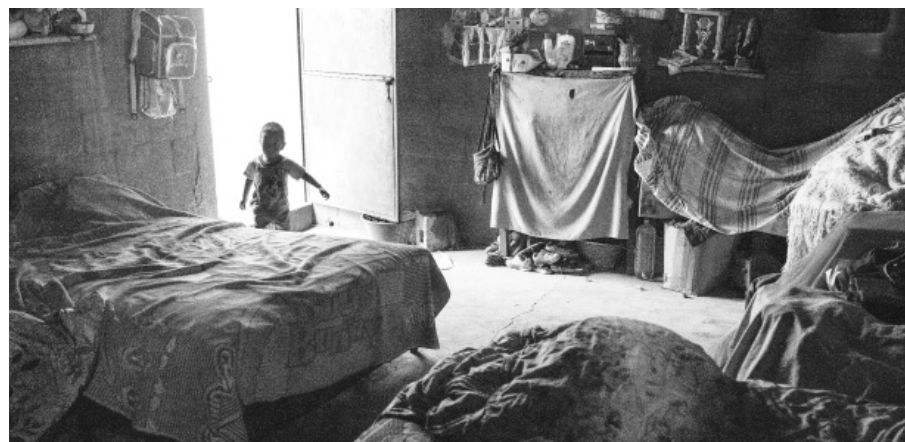
# Catholic Ministry Leader Laments ‘This Suffering Must End’ After Visiting Hungry Poor in Guatemala

In the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, Guatemala, most poor families rely on farming for survival, and because their remote villages are isolated, many are dependent on the success of their local harvest. This becomes a dangerous gamble in years when nature does not cooperate.

“When harvests are poor, household incomes can also dry up, leading to a critical shortage of food,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a respected Catholic charity working in the region. “In no time, children become hungry, start missing more meals, and the signs of malnutrition start to appear. That’s a situation we should be trying to avoid at all costs.” [See related story on opposite page.]

and educational opportunities, many of the country’s remote indigenous people have begun feeling hopeless. Some have resigned themselves to eating one small meal of tortillas each day, and they are in anguish seeing their children languishing on the brink of starvation as a result.

Thankfully, in the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima, Father Raúl Monterroso is working with Cross Catholic Outreach to end extreme hunger through an ambitious plan that will also set local families on the path to long-term health through improved nutrition. In partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach, large shipments of food will be secured and distributed to those who need help most.



When Cavnar encountered this crisis on a visit to the Diocese of Santa Rosa de Lima in Guatemala, it immediately reminded him of a passage in Chapter 16 of the Gospel of Luke, he said.

“There, in Luke, Jesus tells a parable about a poor man living on the doorstep of a man with plenty. The poor man’s needs are ignored, though he longs for something simple — just the scraps from the rich man’s table. When both die, the affluent man is rebuked for turning away from a situation he could easily have helped solve. Simply put, he ignores a neighbor in need. I believe we are faced with a modern-day example of that parable today in Guatemala, a country so close to our own.”

Statistics certainly back up Cavnar’s view. Guatemala — less than a three-hour flight from Houston or Miami — has the highest levels of extreme hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the fourth-highest level in the world. With their limited access to employment

“My team is committed to providing the food these desperate families need, and I’m confident Catholics throughout the U.S. will join our cause by helping to sponsor those shipments,” Cavnar said. “This suffering must end.”

Cross Catholic Outreach’s plan is simple but very cost-effective because it relies on obtaining and delivering nutritionally formulated meal packets known as Vitafood. This fortified rice product is specifically designed to improve the health of malnourished children, and it can easily be packed in large shipping containers and cost-effectively sent to Catholic schools, orphanages and other partners in the diocese with feeding programs serving the poorest of the poor. A single container of Vitafood can make a big impact, according to Cavnar.

“Vitafood is extremely flexible. It is rice- or lentil-based, and it comes in several different varieties. It can be prepared straight from the package or flavored with additional ingredients



**ABOVE:** Families stand in line hoping to receive food for their children. **AT LEFT:** The poverty in Santa Rosa is extreme — characterized by single-room shanty houses — but local priest Fr. Raúl envisions a brighter future for families in need, thanks to his diocese’s relationship with Cross Catholic Outreach and its U.S. benefactors.

to suit local tastes,” he explained. “No matter how it is prepared, its nutritional value remains the same, providing the optimal balance of vitamins, minerals, protein, fiber, fat and carbohydrates that a child’s hungry body needs. What’s more, because these Vitafood meals are donated to us, we only need to cover shipping costs to deliver the food to our partner in Guatemala. That means every dollar donated to this project can put 18 nutritious meals in the hands of a family in need.”

Cavnar’s current goal, he said, is

to secure the support of American Catholics to fund the effort.

“The diocese is eager for the help, and we have the logistics settled. All we need now is the support of compassionate Catholics willing to help a neighbor in need,” Cavnar said. “And once we have fully addressed the hunger issues in Santa Rosa, more can be done to ensure the long-term prosperity of these people. We have big plans for Santa Rosa, and I believe the world will be stunned by the transformation of this area when our work is done.”

## How To Help

To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01846, PO Box 97168, Washington, DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify an aid project, 100% of the donation will be restricted to be used for that specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.



## QUESTION CORNER

## Dementia and the Eucharist / What is the nativity fast?

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



**Q. My husband converted to Catholicism before we were married 34 years ago. He was not big on going to confession. Now he has dementia. He comes to Mass with me on Sundays, after being away for quite some time. I'm not sure that he could go to confession anymore because of his mental status. Does that mean that he can never receive the Eucharist again? And how will he be able to receive the last rites? (southern Indiana)**

A. Here's what I think you should do. Ask your parish priest (or another priest whom you know) to visit your husband. Explain to the priest — ahead of time — that your husband is dealing with dementia and may well not be able to confess his sins.

When he sees your husband, if the priest agrees with your assessment, then the priest can give him absolution simply by asking if he is sorry for any sins. After that, of course, your husband is free to take the Eucharist. I'm assuming that he recognizes that this is "special food" that somehow connects him with God — and I would be very generous in making that determination.

And as for the "last rites" (I prefer to call it the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, because it can and should be administered when anyone is seriously ill, not just at death's door), that one is even easier.

The Anointing of the Sick can be administered to any Catholic who asks for it, not just someone in the state of grace. And if the person is willing but unable to confess serious sins by number and kind, the priest can absolve him anyway.

**Q. I'm looking for some direction on an old Catholic tradition — the nativity fast. Although I'm a lifelong Catholic, educated in Catholic schools, I had never heard of this until I watched a documentary about how Catholics celebrated Christmas during the Renaissance. I'd love to learn how I can participate in this fast and why the tradition went away. As a Catholic millennial, I am looking for ways to be more introspective this Christmas and focus on the birth of Jesus, as it is easy to get distracted by all the festivities that come with this season. (Newport News, Virginia)**

A. The nativity fast is still practiced today by the Eastern Orthodox Church and by Eastern-rite Catholics. It lasts for 40 days — from Nov. 15 through Dec. 24 — and offers Christians the opportunity to prepare for the feast of Christmas by disciplining their bodies.

By abstaining from certain food and drink — particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil and wine — as well as by focusing more on prayer and almsgiving, the nativity fast seeks to make one more conscious of his or her dependence on God.

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) is a strict fast day, called Paramongy (literally, "preparation") on which no solid food is eaten until the first star of the evening is seen in the sky. In general, those participating in the nativity fast are encouraged to spend more time in reflective thought and in reading the Scriptures.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

## Papal Audience

November 24, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on St. Joseph, we now consider his important role in salvation history. The genealogies in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke present Jesus as the "Son of Joseph" (Luke 3:23), and affirm that, while not His biological father, Joseph nevertheless exercises a true fatherhood in his regard. Matthew shows that Joseph, though an apparently marginal figure, is in fact central to the unfolding of salvation history and the fulfillment of God's promises. This reminds us that we too are called to play our own part, however small, in spreading the saving message of the Gospel. Luke portrays Joseph as the protector of Jesus and Mary. He likewise carries on this role as Protector of the Universal Church, the continuation of the Body of Christ in history. The genealogy of Joseph also reminds our often fractured world of the importance of the human ties that precede and follow us. As we seek to strengthen those ties, and protect our vulnerable brothers and sisters through fraternal works of charity, let us trust in Joseph's prayers and imitate his humble and loyal role in God's plan of salvation.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, especially the groups from England and the United States of America. In particular, I greet the priests from various dioceses of England and Wales who are celebrating their 60th anniversary of ordination. Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of the Lord. May God bless you!



## Advent reconciliation services

Advent is a good time for an examination of conscience and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Here is a partial list of Advent communal reconciliation services in the Jefferson City diocese. Most services will include a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Extra priests from neighboring parishes are typically present to help out. Additional services will be added to the online version of this article at [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com) and to the diocesan calendar at [diojeffcity.org/events](http://diojeffcity.org/events) as they are publicised.

**Boonville** — 7 pm, Thursday, Dec. 16, Ss. Peter & Paul Church

**Brookfield** — 5 pm, Sunday, Dec. 12, Immaculate Conception Church

**California** — 7 pm, Thursday, Dec. 9, Annunciation Church

**Edina** — 7 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 7, St. Joseph Church

**Hannibal** — 7 pm, Thursday, Dec. 2, Holy Family Church

**Hermitage** — 6:30 pm, Monday, Dec. 6, St. Bernadette Church

**Kirksville** — 2 pm, Sunday, Dec. 5, Newman Center

**Laurie** — 2 pm, Sunday, Dec. 5, St. Patrick Church

**Macon** — 7 pm, Sunday, Dec. 5, Immaculate Conception Church

**Marceline** — 6 pm, Thursday, Dec. 16, St. Bonaventure Church

**Monroe City** — 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 21, Holy Rosary Church

**Palmyra** — 7 pm, Thursday, Dec. 9, St. Joseph Church

**Pilot Grove** — 5 pm, Sunday, Dec. 5, St. Joseph Church

**St. Clement** — 6:30 pm, Thursday, Dec. 16, St. Clement Church

**Sedalia** — 4 pm, Sunday, Dec. 19, St. Patrick Chapel

**Shelbina** — 7 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 1, St. Mary Church

**Tipton** — 7 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 15, St. Andrew Church

**Warsaw** — 6:30 pm, Thursday, Dec. 9, St. Ann Church



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Diocese of Jefferson City



## Cultivating patience in a fast-paced world

By Father Eugene Hemrick  
Catholic News Service



Have you ever listened to the sound of horns on the streets? Some may be gentle, trying to move traffic ahead, while others may warn a car or person of danger. And then there are the loud, continuous horns of nervous, impatient drivers.

Car horns are lifesavers. I own a Toyota Prius. When it runs on battery pow-

er, it is incredibly quiet. I often must use my horn when people crossing the street do not hear me coming.

There have been times when I was warned by another driver that I was too close to his or her automobile.

Horns are also used to alert someone their car is waiting for them.

When all the benefits of a horn are added up, they come down to it being an invaluable safety device.

However, nervous, impatient drivers blasting their horns can also suggest a disturbing growing trend: hyperimpatience and intolerance.

Patience implores us, "Do not let

anything break your spirit." Impatience, on the other hand, is a breakdown in that spirit alerting us that our ability to patiently wait is waning or that we are a chronically on-edge person.

What might be contributing to hypernervous impatience? One thing for sure is speed. Not only are cars faster, but we live at a faster pace than any generation before us. Take for example the ever-increasing speed of our computers, air travel and overnight package deliveries. When delays happen, up goes the blood pressure.

What might be a way to counter this?

In the spiritual world, there is the practice of focusing prayer. In the morning when we wake, a short one sentence invocation is recited like, "Lord keep me calm and in control of my emotions." At noon and in the evening, the same invocation is repeated.

Focusing prayer is exactly what it sounds like: prayer to center us on a particular behavior. It acts as a constant reminder to address a particular behavior needing attention.

The speed at which we live today tends to make us run when we should be walking. If not controlled, it can run us into the ground.

## This Advent, focus on presence not presents

By Katie Prejean McGrady  
Catholic News Service



I ordered our matching Christmas pajamas in early October. Worried about supply chain issues and shipping delays, I picked the Nordic blue print we liked best and

bought them 11 weeks early. And then I found Jesse Tree ornaments I liked, so I ordered those too.

Advent candles came soon after, three boxes on sale on Amazon, so it just made sense to get them now and set them aside. A new set of Christmas candy canes for the pathway came next, then an inflatable Clark Griswold my husband still doesn't know will be sitting in the front yard come Dec. 1.

"Am I ready?" I thought to myself. The gifts are hidden and all the "fixings" are ready to celebrate Advent and Christmas. Menus are prepared. Decorations are at the ready. Nativity sets have a spot on a shelf or mantle. Now we just wait. But is it enough? Are we ready?

I'm willing to admit that my assumption of readiness based purely on having a lot of "stuff" for Advent and Christmas is entirely wrong. And I'm happy to admit that my belief that I'm ready because of having all this stuff has been fueled by this weird belief that we have to do "all the things" to make Advent and Christmas special.

But it isn't the "stuff" that makes us ready or better prepared to "wait in joyful hope" for the arrival of Baby Jesus. And it isn't the perfect set of Jesse Tree ornaments or pristinely wrapped presents that make the four weeks of Advent and Christmas morning good and fruitful.

Far too often, I've fallen into the trap of thinking it is the stuff that makes us ready, makes the holidays and our cel-

ebration of them somehow better.

I've convinced myself that "liturgical living" has to include products and programs and that what we do as a family has to measure up to some proverbial "Catholic living checklist" created by people watching us from afar.

Social media hasn't helped this. Scrolling past pictures of perfectly decorated homes and pristinely photographed desserts makes me jealous and competitive. A consumeristic culture convincing us to buy more has only accelerated this misguided approach to Advent and Christmas.

Not fully understanding the gift and meaning of Advent, and why the Church has us slowly build to the birth of Christ, has only hurt any healthy approach to the holidays.

If we can get back to the realization that Advent is fruitful because we have four weeks set aside to focus on hope in God's promises, peace in God's plan, joy in God's providence, and love of the Lord and others, then maybe we'll see it as gift of four weeks to slowly prepare for Jesus instead of a competition of liturgical living activities to complete.

If we can remember that it's the arrival of the newborn King, Emmanuel, that makes Christmas good, then maybe we'll realize all the other "stuff" (even stuff I've frantically purchased and set aside) are just extras, maybe helping make those days better, but certainly not things required or necessary for the seasons we're approaching to matter.

Rather than fall prey to the belief that we have to do a dozen family devotionals and handcraft our Advent candles from beeswax kits because we will craft our way through the season (darn it!), maybe this Advent season can be one of intentional slowing down, and doing more with less.

Maybe this Christmas can be one focused less on presents under the tree and more on the presence of loved ones finally gathered together. Maybe we avoid running the "liturgical living rat

race" by recognizing that we're not in competition with anyone else and the way they prepare for and live the holidays is not the way we have to do it.

I rushed to buy all the "stuff" (and bought it early) because I weirdly be-

lieved it would help me be more ready for a liturgical season that seeks to end our rushing and wants to change our misguided perceptions of readiness.

See MCGRADY, page 23

### REFLECTION

## Honor and glory and blessing

By Mark Saucier

I parked my car across the street. Getting out, I looked at our yard and saw the full autumn palette of golds and oranges and reds diffused among the trees.

But there was one that, at the very moment of my gaze, reached the peak of glory. Its leaves were blazing like a fire and on this cool, blustery day, it seemed as if you could almost warm yourself in its shade.

It was the burning bush of Moses, raised to a towering height, and I fully expected the voice of God to come from its crown.

I, too, probably should have removed my shoes, respecting the sacred ground from which this splendor flowed. Instead, I snapped a picture to remember it and went in the house.

That afternoon we had a couple of our granddaughters. They're a high-energy pair, and everyone is happier when they are fully occupied.

Usually, we would go to the park, but the windy chill was a little much for the papery princess dress and waffled sandals that are Elizabeth's obligatory attire these days.

So, we took them to a children's indoor play area at the mall. There they would have the space to climb and crawl to their hearts' content.

As we were watching the girls, another child came up to us and just stood there, staring. She was maybe 3, in a peasant tunic dress and jeans. Her almond eyes were fixed on us, her tongue hanging out of her mouth.

He father quickly came over, apologized, and gently invited his daughter to play — not a "don't do that" but a "let's do this."

As she left, she tuned to wave and mumbled something that must have been "bye."

She wandered over again, but each time Dad would coax her back to play. At times he would hold her hand, and at others, retreat a step and urge her to jump or slide.

He always spoke softly, with a tender smile.

Every person with Down syndrome is unique, and I have no idea of the challenge facing this one, but her father will make sure she knows that she is precious, wanted and loved.

On this Saturday, I found that beauty is all around us, deserving our attention.

And that it is a rare day without at least one moment of mystery and revelation.

And, while the brilliance of autumn leaves can be explained without God, and suffering occurs without sin, God is present in both.

# Volunteers help preserve history at hidden J.C. parish cemetery

By Jay Nies

Stones bearing names once lost to history are being brought to light.

Volunteers have been probing a scenic precipice above the Missouri River in search of buried headstones marking the resting places of some of St. Peter Parish's founding members.

"You have a lot of the early Catholic families that settled

in Jefferson City," said Nancy Thompson, an avid genealogist and organizer of a group that has been restoring old cemeteries in central Missouri. "I knew if we didn't dig those stones up and set them, some of those names would be lost forever."

The five-and-a-half-acre tract now known as St. Peter Cemetery #1 clings inconspicuously to the river bluff near West Main Street at Brooks Street, adjacent to the east side of the Heisinger Bluffs senior-living complex.

The first recorded burial in the tract was in 1854. The last was in 1885.

The much larger and more conspicuous "St. Peter Cemetery #2," located on West Main Street between Heisinger Bluffs and St. Joseph Bluffs, opened in 1885.

After that, nature and benign neglect gradually overtook the older cemetery as immediate family members died or moved away.

It "has lately been studded with shade-trees and shrubbery, rendering it a beautiful though weird city of the dead," Marcelus John Otto, who was a sophomore at Immaculate Conception High School, wrote in a 1939 essay for the Knights of Columbus.



**LEFT:** A group of volunteers who restore old cemeteries uncovers a headstone foundation they discovered while probing the ground of St. Peter Cemetery #1 in Jefferson City, with burials dating from the 1850s to the 1880s. **RIGHT:** The group pauses for a photo next to headstone fragments and an outdoor altar built with portions of old headstones in the 1940s.

— Photos by Jay Nies

"I noticed that some graves have gone down over the embankment, the tombstones only a foot or two from the edge," wrote Mr. Otto. "This probably was caused by the blasting of rock on the adjoining property."

"Hundreds pass it daily without stopping to reflect on the sacredness of that forlorn spot," fellow I.C. sophomore Mary Ann Forck asserted in her 1939 essay. "One scarcely wonders at their indifference because an abruptly-cut bluff, tall weeds, and low dilapidated fences indicate that the ground is only another of the city's ill-kept lots.

"And yet," she continued, "there on that desolate area are interred more than one hundred and forty-four of the pioneer Catholic citizens of Jefferson City. ... Reason have we, then, to revere the ground whereon are buried the bodies of pioneer Catholics — those faithful men and women, who have blazed the trail for a strong faith and a burning Christianity in our own Jefferson City."

### Family ties

A bumper sticker on Mrs. Thompson's car reads, "I brake for cemeteries."

"I spend all my waking moments uncovering history on

people in the cemeteries so I can share the information online," she said.

She served on the Jefferson City Cemetery Resource Board for five years and spent a great deal of her free time restoring portions of the Woodland-Old City Cemetery on East McCarty Street and successfully nominating the cemetery for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It's the oldest cemetery in town," she noted. "That's how I got started."

She posts the information she finds while exploring and restoring old cemeteries on an interactive website called *findagrave.com*.

"I can share the information with other genealogists who are looking to find where their family members are buried," she said.

She hopes other genealogists and cemetery documenters will one day help her fill in gaps in her own family history.

Three years ago, Mrs. Thompson joined forces with Darrell Strobe and Darrell Schubert, who had been working to restore rural cemeteries in and around Cole County since the 1990s.

One of their notable collaborations was the restoration of the Rice-Sone Cemetery on Glovers Ford Road near the Capital City. The people at rest there include the widow of a Revolutionary War veteran and her three daughters.

"So there are 54 or 56 burials in there and only five tombstones still standing," she recalled. "We had to cut down a bunch of big, big trees and clear out brush. The fence had to be repaired to discourage cattle."



Mr. Schubert and Mr. Strobe had fashioned special tools for probing the ground in search of buried headstones.

"They're a stainless steel rod with a T-bar on top," she said. "You can put your weight into it and poke into the ground and find tombstones by the sound you hear when you hit one."

They carefully dug up the headstones they found, cleaned them, glued together any broken pieces, found the original bases or poured new ones, and stood the headstones back up on their bases.

Linda Dunbar, who was at that time regent of the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter, got involved with that project and wound up joining the group of cemetery-restorers.

Soon thereafter, Roger Hager joined the group, as did Denise Wingate, who wanted to spend more time with her dad, Mr. Schubert.

"They all do the heavy lifting," Mrs. Thompson insisted. "I'm 83, so besides research, I draw the lighter duties such as cleaning tombstones and applying infill to repaired markers."

The group has restored several small, rural cemeteries.

In many cases, families created cemeteries on the back corner of their farm. If that family eventually moves off the land, the cemetery will sometimes fall into disrepair and is lost."

Last summer, the group probed and restored a cemetery on the property of the former Central Missouri Correctional Center (commonly known as Church Farm) on Highway 179 in Jefferson City.

The group found this project to be rewarding. The cemetery

was in very bad condition. Almost all of the large tombstones were broken and fallen down. Some had obviously been pushed over the bluff.

They worked off burial records compiled by Thenia Bolton McHenry who had surveyed all of the cemeteries of Cole County in the 1930s as a project for the Works Progress Administration.

"That was really helpful," said Mrs. Thompson. "She had recorded the people who were buried there in the 1930s. That gave us something to work off of."

This spring, the group probed and restored the Arnold Cemetery near Brazito.

They also identified the previously undocumented Farmer Family burial ground near Brazito.


### Back for more

Mrs. Thompson located a Feb. 1, 1980, letter from Father John W. Buchanan, now deceased, indicating that St. Peter Cemetery was originally located at McCarty and Bolivar Streets. City officials persuaded the parish to move the remains of the people who were buried there to the current site of St. Peter Cemetery #1 in 1851.

Mrs. Thompson and Becky Mitchell in 2012 documented all the headstones they could find in St. Peter Cemetery #1 and posted photos of them on *findagrave.com*.

They discovered that several old tombstones had been incorporated into an outdoor altar local Knights of Columbus built in the cemetery around 1940.

See CEMETERY, page 22

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# U.S. bishops spotlight programs on Eucharist, young people, moms in need at meeting in Baltimore

Catholic News Service

## Baltimore

The U.S. bishops spotlighted two major initiatives focused on the central role of the Eucharist Nov. 17, the second of two days of public sessions of their fall general assembly.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved a 26-page statement, “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” with 222 “yes” votes, and also OK’d plans for a three-year National Eucharistic Revival that will culminate with the National Eucharistic Congress 2024 in Indianapolis.

On other matters, they were invited to take a multicultural journey with young Catholics to Chicago next June; were urged to implement a framework for marriage and family ministry that they had approved at their spring assembly in June; agreed to begin review of the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” earlier than planned; and heard how the pandemic may have slowed but not stopped a pro-life initiative called “Walking With Moms in Need.”

They approved guidelines governing the USCCB’s financial investments that include wider limits on where money would be invested. The guidelines advance a policy of engagement on corporate practices that impact human dignity.

The prelates, meeting in person for a national gathering for the first time since 2019, also approved guidelines for the exposition of the Eucharist and Benediction, affirmed sainthood causes for three U.S. laypeople, approved revisions of statutes for the catechumenate and voted for revised English- and Spanish-language editions of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The bishops assigned a feast date to St. Teresa of Kolkata — Sept. 5, the death date in 1997 for the founder of the Missionaries of Charity. It will be an optional memorial on the U.S. liturgical calendar.

## Eucharistic healing, revival

The bishops’ vote on the Eucharist statement came a day after their discussion of the document — a discussion that was markedly different than their debate in June about what it could potentially contain, namely a call for President Joe Biden and Catholic politicians who support abortion to be denied Holy Communion.

But the final document had nothing like that and is addressed to all Catholics in the United States.

It “endeavors to explain the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the bishops’ doctrine committee, in a short presentation on the statement Nov. 16. It “addresses the fundamental doctrine about the Eucharist that the church needs to retrieve and revive.”

The full text of the document can be found at:

[usccb.org/resources/mystery-eucharist-life-church](https://usccb.org/resources/mystery-eucharist-life-church)

Even bigger than the statement is the plan for the three-year eucharistic revival, ending with the National Eucharistic Congress 2024 in Indianapolis. The bishops approved it 201-17, with five abstentions.

The revival will officially start on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, June 16, 2022, with a diocesan focus that will include eucharistic processions and other events of adoration and prayer around the country.

In 2023, the emphasis will be on parishes and resources aimed at increasing Catholics’ understanding of what the Eucharist really means.

As chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, Auxiliary Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of St. Paul and Minneapolis, who was recently named bishop of Crookston, Minnesota, gave the bishops details about this planned revival just before they voted on it.

The revival could be a time of healing for the entire Church, he said, as well as a movement of evangelization and a reawakening of understanding of the sacrament of

the Eucharist for Catholics across the country.

## A time to listen

Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez invited fellow bishops to a national gathering in Chicago in June to participate with young Catholics in a dialogue about issues of culture, racism and inclusion through the prism of faith.

“Perhaps it was the Holy Spirit’s way of telling us bishops that we really needed to take time to listen to young people, those who minister to them and, especially, those who are in the peripheries, feeling unimportant and unloved, and often alienated from the Church,” Archbishop Pérez said Nov. 17. He is chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.

He detailed the opportunity the coronavirus pandemic has provided in facilitating virtual gatherings between young Catholics and bishops over the past year and a half. More than 60 bishops have joined virtual gatherings as part of a process called “Journeying Together,” he said.

The gatherings have taken place online in the midst of a pandemic, under “social unrest, racial reckoning, and the polarization affecting U.S. society,” he said.

The process created “an opportunity for bishops, young adults, youth ministers and campus ministers, and leaders of various other ministries with young people, to engage in respectful, yet honest dialogue in matters of faith, culture, racism, inclusion and the issues that affect them as young people,” he explained.

## “The Joy of Love”

The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on La-



Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore preaches the homily during Mass Nov. 15, 2021, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. — USCCB photo

ity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth called on his fellow bishops to work “in every way possible” to implement the national pastoral framework for marriage and family ministry that they approved in June.

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco said that addressing marriage and family life is vital in a time when families are under increasing threats from “sweeping ideological currents that destroy and undermine our sexual identity as man and woman and God-given vocations as father and mother, son or daughter.”

Bolstering marriage and family ministry is an appropriate undertaking to start during the “*Amoris Laetitia* Family

Year,” declared by Pope Francis, the archbishop said.

Titled “Called to the Joy of Love: A Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry,” the document can serve as a practical guidebook to serve couples and families because it offers an adaptable set of principles and strategies for pastoral care, he said.

## Walking with Moms in Need

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, told his fellow bishops that the Secretariat for

Pro-Life Activities’ “Walking with Moms in Need” (WWMIN) initiative may have been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic, but it has by no means stopped helping expectant mothers from any walk of life.

It was launched March 25, 2020, just as the pandemic began to take hold.

This initiative “has the capacity to take what is often seen as a partisan divide and transform it into pastoral unity, bridging the divide between Catholics who describe themselves using the labels of ‘pro-life’ or ‘social justice,’” he said. “The vision of WWMIN is that a pregnant or parenting

See BISHOPS, page 18



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# Catholic school in D.C. honors Fr. Tolton with new painting

Missouri pilgrims rested in St. Anthony of Padua School's hall before past pro-life marches

By Jay Nies

A new portrait of Servant of God Father Augustus Tolton brightens up a Washington, D.C., church hall, along with the minds of the young people who see it there.

St. Anthony of Padua School art teacher Francis Washington painted the luminescent image of the 19th-century Missouri native, who went from being a slave to the Roman Catholic Church's first recognizably Black priest in the United States.

"What stands out most for me is that he was faithful to his Priesthood," said Dominican Sister Mary Olivia Shirley, who teaches fourth grade at the school. "He wanted nothing other than to serve the Church as an *alter christus*."

That is to say, he shared in Jesus's High Priesthood through the reception of Holy Orders, the offering of the Mass for the people, and the placing of their physical and spiritual wellbeing above his own.

**"Augustus it is"**  
St. Anthony Church and School are located within sight of the U.S. Capitol and six blocks from the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America.

Most of the children in the school are African American, as are about 80 percent of the people who live in the surrounding Brookland neighborhood.

Their archbishop, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, is the Church's first African American cardinal.

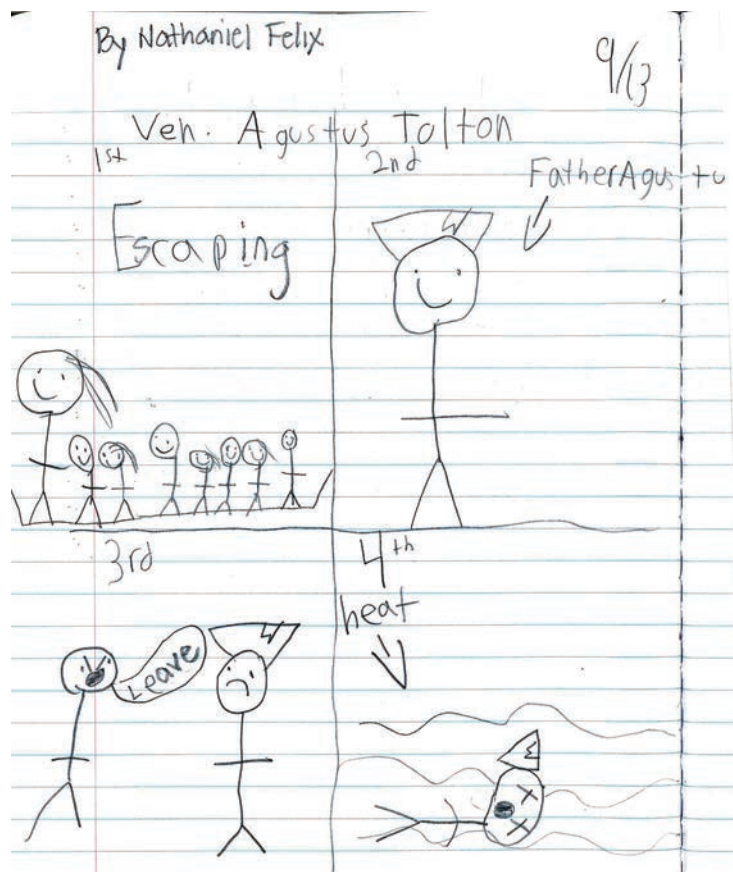
The school takes its Catholic identity seriously.

"Every school year, we pick a saint and some of his or his words to be our theme for our new year," said Principal Michael Thomasian.

Mr. Washington then creates a portrait of that year's ethereal honoree, to be placed in the church hall.



**LEFT:** Francis Washington, art teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School in Washington, D.C., created this image of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton and illustration of one of his sayings. **RIGHT:** Fourth-grade teacher Dominican Sister Mary Olivia Shirley admires the image in the school auditorium on the first day of this academic year. — Photo from the St. Anthony Catholic School Facebook page



One of Dominican Sister Mary Olivia Shirley's students at St. Anthony of Padua School in Washington, D.C., drew these four moments from Fr. Tolton's life — his escape with his family from slavery; his priestly ordination; his departure from his first priestly assignment; and his untimely death from heatstroke.

The hall is familiar to many people from all over the Jefferson City diocese who for nine years received lodging there the night before the annual March for Life.

"It's a large, beautiful room with a high ceiling and woodwork that's in great shape," said Mr. Thomasian. "But it's boring."

To remedy that, the beige walls between the windows are gradually becoming the school's "hall of saints."

"Last year was Mother Teresa," the principal stated. "Another year was St. Augustine, then St. Oscar Romero. We've had St. Josephine Bakhita. You should see her painting. It's amazing!"

Faculty members nominate saints for consideration each year and then vote on whom to honor.

Sr. Mary Olivia nominated Fr. Tolton to be last year's "saint of the year," even though he hasn't been declared a saint.

"We can't do that," Mr. Thomasian politely stated. "We have to pick a saint."

She nominated Fr. Tolton again this year, insisting that the children need to learn more about "this wonderful priest" and his steadfast commitment to doing God's will despite earthly obstacles.

"Fr. Tolton's life gives heroic witness to the Gospel," she stated. "I am so happy

that, by unanimous vote, the St. Anthony faculty voted for him to be the school's patron saint for the year."

"So Augustus it is!" Mr. Thomasian declared.

### One for the books

Mr. Washington, himself a 1971 St. Anthony School graduate, paints each honoree.

Sr. Mary Olivia was amazed when she saw this year's creation.

"It's magnificent, as always!" she said. "He is a gifted artist and always studies the saints whom he paints for the school each year. His paintings beautifully reflect his prayerful meeting with the Communion of Saints."

"His Venerable Augustus Tolton masterpiece is incredible," Mr. Thomasian added. "We look forward to adding it to our Hall of Saints."

Each teacher at St. Anthony also incorporates a message from or about the honored "saint" into a greeting posted outside his or her classroom door.

Sr. Mary Olivia is a member of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia Congregation of Nashville, Tennessee — of which Fulton native Sister Magdalena Dudenhoeffer is also a member.

Sr. Mary Olivia first learned about Fr. Tolton on a retreat given by Archbishop Peter J. Sartain, now retired, of Seattle a few years ago at the congregation's motherhouse in Nashville.

Immediately drawn to Fr. Tolton's faithful witness, she checked out a copy of his biography by Dominican Sister Caroline Hemesath, *From Slave to Priest: The Inspirational Story of Father Augustine Tolton (1854-1897)*.

Pilgrims from the Jefferson City diocese presented a copy of that same book to the St. Anthony School library while visiting the school in 2017.

### "Powerful words"

Cardinal Francis George OMI, now deceased, of Chicago opened a sainthood

# Messenger

A quarterly publication by the Missouri Catholic Conference

MISSOURI  
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CONFERENCE 

November 2021

## Our Common Home

As Catholics, we are called to care for God's creation. To do so, we must first appreciate the natural beauty of our world, and then recognize that this beauty is vulnerable to climate changes. What is at stake for our environment and our world as global leaders meet to discuss efforts to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions to reach the goals set in 2015 in Paris? Find answers to this question and learn more about where our home state of Missouri currently gets its energy inside this MCC Messenger.

### The Glasgow Climate Summit (COP26): What's at stake and what was accomplished?

The world's leaders recently met in Glasgow, Scotland to address climate change and to reassess the climate agreement reached in 2015 in Paris that resulted in the now-familiar "Paris Accord." In the 2015 "accord," 196 of the world's nations agreed for the first time to work together to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to limit global temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels and aimed to limit increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius before the end of the century. Each country also agreed to present national plans setting out how they will work to reduce their emissions, plans known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The countries promised to return every five years with updated plans reflecting their highest possible emission reduction ambitions. Glasgow was the first meeting held since the Paris agreement was reached; a 2020 meeting was rescheduled due to the COVID pandemic. Glasgow was the 26th "conference of the parties," and bore the name COP26.

Climate scientists have been warning for decades that the earth is warming due to the emission and accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, created primarily by the burning of fossil fuels. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) this fall released its 6th assessment report, stating that "it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land," and that "the rate of warming is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years." The IPCC report stated that "global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and 2 degrees Celsius [above pre-industrial levels] will be exceeded during the 21st Century unless deep reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades."

Organizers of COP 26 stated before the Glasgow meeting that this year's conference "needs to be decisive," and that countries "need to join forces urgently" to address this issue. They proposed four goals for this year's conference: secure global net-zero emissions by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach; adapt to protect communities and natural habitats; mobilize finance; and work together to deliver actual results.

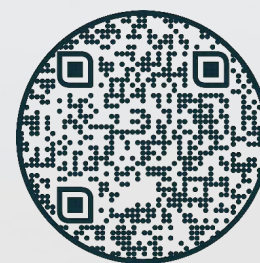
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Professor Benjamin de Foy, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Banpu Chair of Sustainability in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at St. Louis University talks the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit: What is at Stake?"

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continued from page one...

### Securing global net-zero emissions by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach

The emission reduction plans submitted by the countries after the Paris Accord were not aggressive enough to achieve the goal of limiting emissions to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. In fact, the original plans submitted would result in global temperature increases of well above 3 degrees by the end of the century. Climate scientists have warned that emissions need to be cut in half over the next decade, and the world must reach net-zero emissions by mid-century, to achieve the 1.5 Celsius goal.

According to organizers of the event, especially important to reaching this goal is rapidly phasing out coal-fired power plants and committing to not opening or financing new ones. In addition, protecting forests (which act as carbon sponges) and making the switch to zero emission cars, vans, and trucks are both critical to reaching this goal. In recent months, the G7 countries that account for approximately half of the global economy (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US) have each submitted new NDC targets for 2030 that put them on the path to net-zero emissions by 2050, which is encouraging news. These targets, however, need to be reached for the plans to be effective in reducing emissions. Moreover, even if the G7 countries make good on their pledges, their emission reductions would only represent a fraction of the reductions needed.

### Adapting to protect communities and natural habitats

The effects of climate change are impacting people now. More intense storm systems, heatwaves, wildfires, and floods are having devastating impacts on people throughout the world, including in the U.S. Those with fewer resources to respond suffer the greatest impact from these events because they don't have the means to respond and recover. Needed changes include restoring natural buffers and habitats and investing in mitigation strategies to help lessen the impact of climate change. COP26 organizers called upon nations to communicate best practices and strategies to help every nation adapt and respond to these events.

### Mobilize Finance

Going into the Glasgow summit, COP26 organizers challenged the leaders of the world to recognize that to achieve emission reduction goals, the global economy needs to shift. This shift will require companies, banks, financial firms, and nations to move investments from fossil fuels to clean energy alternatives, and to provide funding to developing nations to help them weather these changes and adopt the technology necessary to effect change. "[E]very financial decision needs to take climate change into account," COP26 organizers proclaimed before the event, because financial support for these changes is going to be essential if the goals of the Paris Accord are going to be realized.

### Work together to deliver

Another focus for organizers of COP26 was brokering further agreements that would drive ambition from the leaders of the world to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius alive. But governments cannot do this work alone; business and civil society must work together with government agencies to transform the way we power our businesses and homes, grow our food, develop infrastructure, and move ourselves and our goods from place to place. This is a great challenge, but it is also an opportunity to invest in our future and the future of our children.

### What was accomplished?

COP26 ended with 200 nations agreeing to a new climate "pact" that on its face keeps 1.5 degrees Celsius alive and finalizes elements of the Paris agreement. Many delegates were disappointed, however, that the pact did not go as far as organizers had envisioned. The pact includes agreements

to reduce the use of fossil fuels, increase the financial commitments wealthy nations offer to developing nations to help them adapt, and finalizes the rules for establishing carbon markets and offset programs. The pact also includes commitments to halt deforestation and for each country to submit renewed emissions cutting pledges (NDCs) by 2022 rather than by 2025.

In the final minutes of negotiations, India insisted that language in a draft pact calling for the phasing out of coal and fossil fuel subsidies be changed to "phasing down coal," raising objections from many of the delegates present. The language change was agreed to, however, to get the pact signed and end the conference on a positive note. Acting COP26 President Alok Sharma stated at the close of the event that "we have kept 1.5 Celsius alive. But, its pulse is weak and it will only survive if we keep our promises and translate commitments into rapid action." Since we have already reached 1.1 degree Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming above pre-industrial levels, it remains to be seen whether these commitments will be fulfilled in time to avoid warming above 1.5 degrees.

### Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew, and Archbishop Welby issue "A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation"

In anticipation of COP26, Pope Francis issued a joint statement along with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople (spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church), and Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury (senior bishop of the Church of England) on September 1st calling for action on climate change. The spiritual leaders called upon everyone "whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour [sic] to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behavior and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us."

They offer challenging words when it comes to our collective past care for creation, stating that we have "maximized our own interests at the expense of future generations. . . many of us behav[ing] in ways which demonstrate little concern for other people or the limits of the planet." As a result, they state, "[t]oday, we are paying the price. The extreme weather and natural disasters of recent months reveal afresh to us with great force and at great human cost that climate change is not only a future challenge, but an immediate and urgent matter of survival."

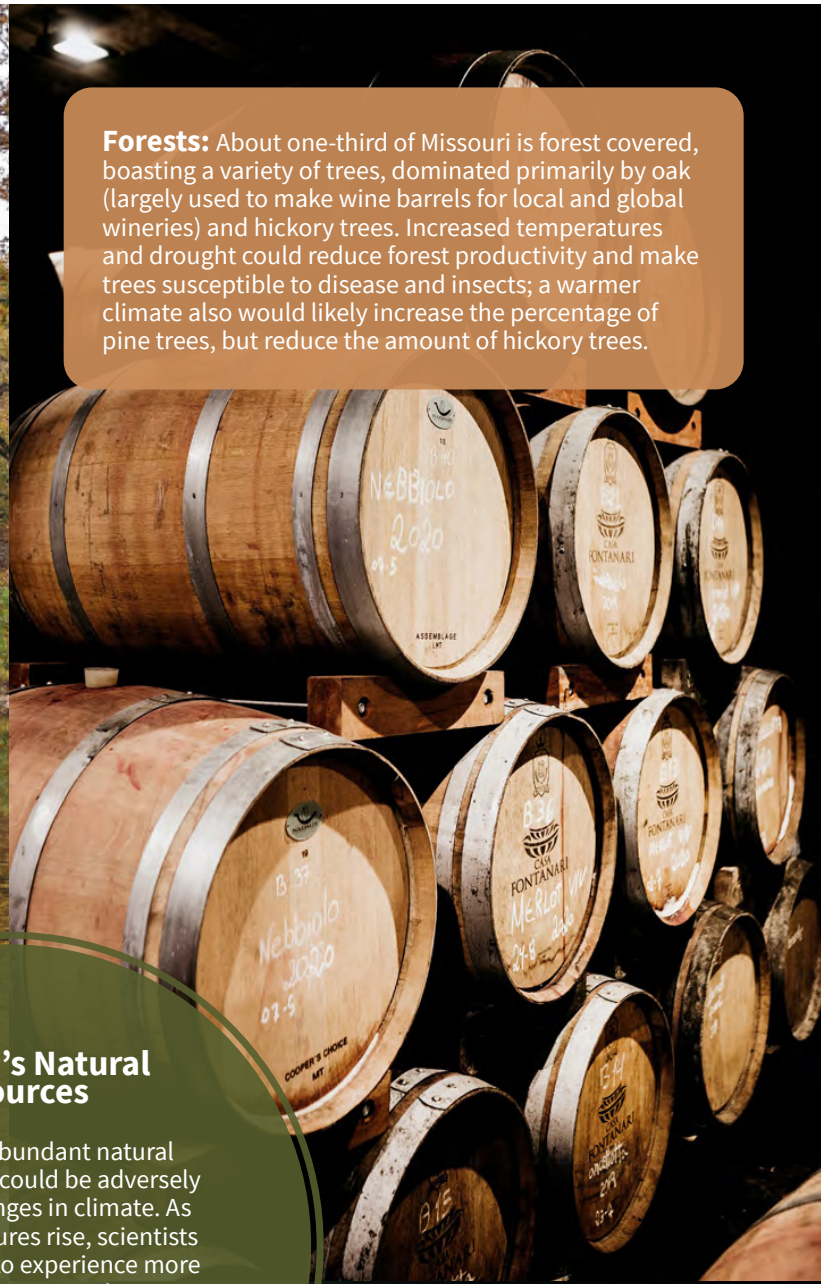
"This is the first time that the three of us feel compelled to address together the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on persistent poverty, and the importance of global cooperation. Together, on behalf of our communities, we appeal to the heart and mind of every Christian, every believer, and every person of good will. We pray for our leaders who will gather in Glasgow to decide the future of our planet and its people. Again, we recall scripture: 'choose life, so that you and your children may live.' (Dt. 30:19). Choosing life means making sacrifices and exercising self-restraint."

"All of us – whoever and wherever we are – can play a part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and environmental degradation. Caring for God's creation is a spiritual commission requiring a response of commitment. This is a crucial moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend upon it."





**Rivers and Streams:** Missouri is home to the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and many other tributaries, streams, and springs. These watersheds provide transportation for goods, water for irrigation, and opportunities for recreation. In the last decade, Missouri has experienced both drought with reduced navigation channels (2012-13) and damaging flooding (2011, 2015).



**Forests:** About one-third of Missouri is forest covered, boasting a variety of trees, dominated primarily by oak (largely used to make wine barrels for local and global wineries) and hickory trees. Increased temperatures and drought could reduce forest productivity and make trees susceptible to disease and insects; a warmer climate also would likely increase the percentage of pine trees, but reduce the amount of hickory trees.

**Missouri's Natural Resources**

Missouri has abundant natural resources which could be adversely affected by changes in climate. As global temperatures rise, scientists expect Missouri to experience more days with temperatures above 95 degrees, as well as more intense storm systems associated with increased humidity and larger rainfall, leading to heat waves in certain seasons and flooding in others.



*“The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone.” – Pope Francis, Laudato Si, No. 95*

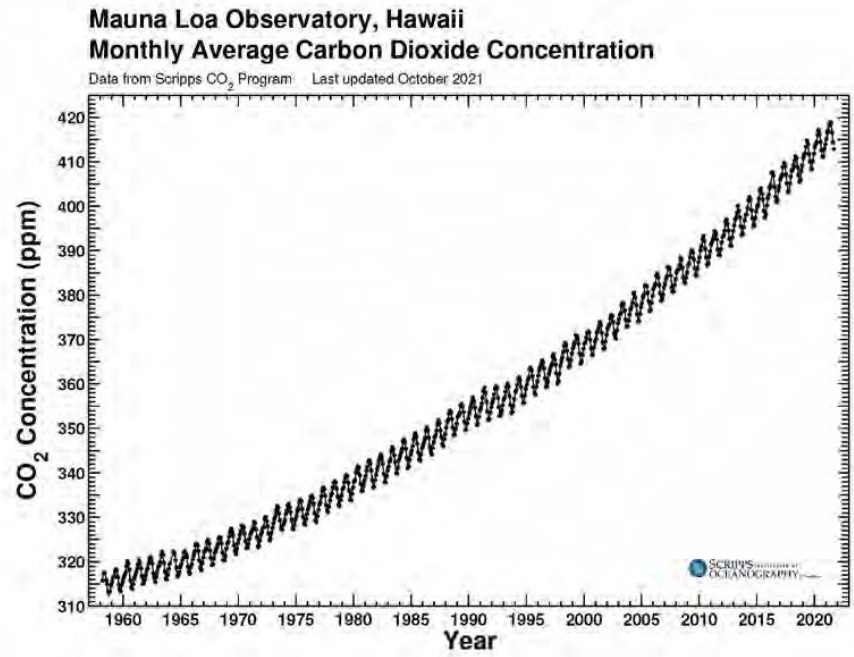
**Agriculture:** Farming and agriculture are staples of Missouri's economy and provide jobs and livelihoods for families and rural communities. Row crops like corn and soybeans require sufficient rainfall to thrive, but can also be adversely impacted by drought or, alternatively, too much rainfall. Hot weather can also negatively impact the growth and well-being of livestock like cows and other farm animals.

### The Keeling Curve

The Keeling Curve is a graph (shown right) that shows the average monthly amount of CO<sub>2</sub> measured in the atmosphere at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's observatory on Mauna Loa in Hawaii. Climate scientists look to the data from this observatory, located as it is in the center of the Pacific Ocean away from pollution centers, as a baseline measure of Northern hemisphere CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations year-to-year. Concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere above Mauna Loa have been increasing each year for the last 61 years these measurements have been taken, most recently reaching its highest monthly average ever at 414 ppm (parts per million).

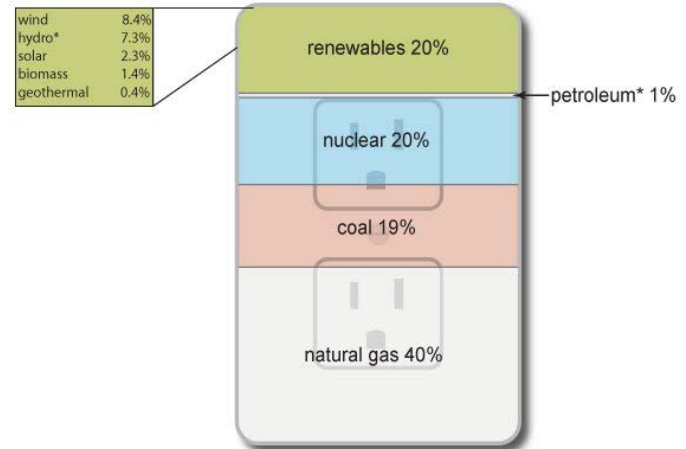
### Missouri's Power Grid Relies Heavily on Coal

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Missouri generates approximately 77% of its electricity from coal-fired plants (shown below), second only to Texas. As a nation, the U.S. generated 60% of the electricity consumed in 2020 by burning fossil fuels (natural gas, coal, and petroleum). The remaining 40% was produced by nuclear power and renewable energy sources. (See chart to right.) Ameren UE and Evergy, the energy companies serving the largest energy markets in St. Louis and Kansas City respectively, have both publicly committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Ameren, for example, operates four coal-fired power plants around the St. Louis area, each of which it plans to phase out between 2022 and 2042. Environmentalists argue that these closures need to happen sooner, as we are facing threatening climate changes now.



### Sources of U.S. electricity generation, 2020

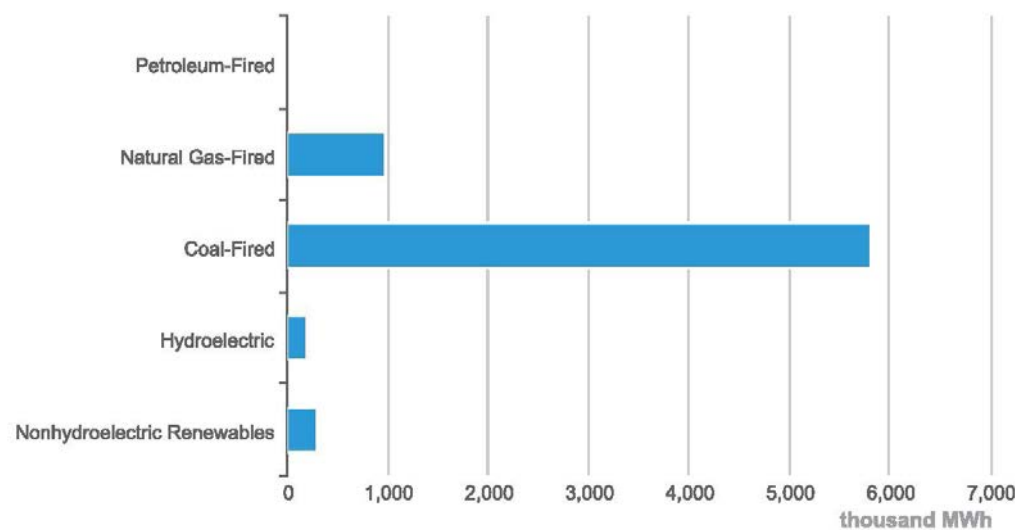
Total = 4.12 trillion kilowatthours



Note: Electricity generation from utility-scale generators. \* Hydro is conventional hydroelectric; petroleum includes petroleum liquids and petroleum coke, other gases, hydroelectric pumped storage, and other sources.  
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly*, February 2021, preliminary data



### Missouri Net Electricity Generation by Source, Jul. 2021



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly*

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*“There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy.” – Pope Francis, Laudato Si, No. 26*



# 'Overturn Roe Rally' in J.C.

**DATE:** December 1  
**TIME:** 12:30 - 1:30 pm

An "Overturn Roe Rally" will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 12:30 to 1:30

p.m. outside the Missouri Supreme Court Building, 207 W. High Street in Jefferson City.

Contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130 or *kathythebo@hotmail* for information.

# Bonnots Mill live Nativity

The Bonnots Mill Community Betterment Association in Bonnots Mill will hold its annual drive-thru Nativity re-enactment on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

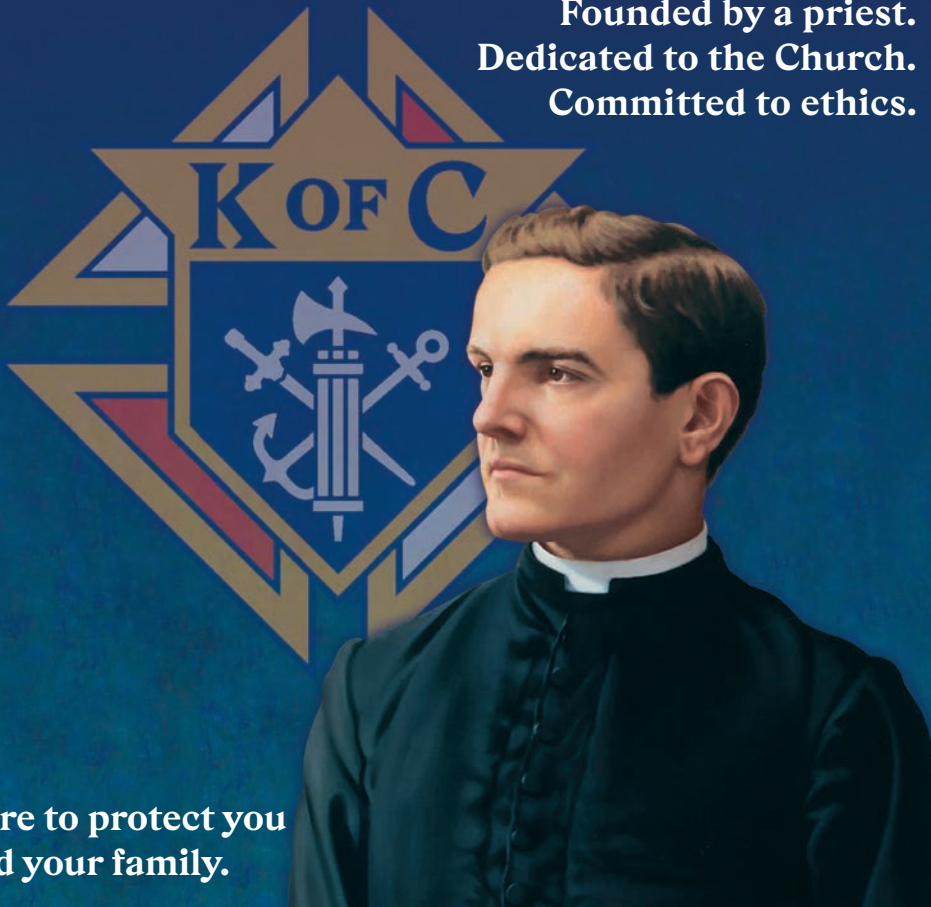


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## Knights of Columbus®

## Rest in peace, Dcn. Christopher Wickern of Warsaw, Cole Camp

Deacon Christopher M. Wickern, 66, who assisted the pastor of St. Ann Parish in Warsaw and the Mission of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cole Camp, died on Sunday, Nov. 21, at his home.

A Rosary for the repose of his soul will be prayed on Sunday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m. at St. Peter and Paul Church in Cole Camp.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m. at St. Ann Church in Warsaw, with Father Benjamin Nwosu presiding.

Burial with military honors will be in Union-Williams Cemetery, Cole Camp.

Deacon Wickern served the Jefferson City diocese as a permanent deacon since 2016.

He was born on March 15,

1955, in Atchison, Kansas, a son of Donald J. and Permelia S. (McNeish) Wickern.

He grew up in Topeka, Kansas, and when he was a freshman in high school, moved to Lakeview Heights near Lincoln, Mo. He graduated from Cole Camp High School in 1973. While in high school, he cut wood and worked turkeys for local farmers. After graduation, he served his country honorably in the United States Army where he started land surveying.

On April 5, 1974, at Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church near Cole Camp, he was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Patsy Smith. Together they traveled three continents and seven states while raising their three children,

Eric, Elizabeth and Kyle.

After his discharge from the U.S. Army, he became a professional land surveyor in Missouri and Arizona.

He enjoyed being involved with the surveying community and was a member and past president of the Missouri Society of Professional Land Surveyors (MSPLS).

He published several articles on surveying and riparian rights and also won numerous surveying



**Patsy Wickern and Deacon Christopher Wickern (1955-2021) celebrate their favorite time of year in this undated photo.**

awards.

After five years of diaconate formation, he was ordained as a deacon in 2016 and assigned to what is now known as St. Vincent de Paul Parish of Pettis County.

In 2019, he was reassigned to St. Ann Parish in Warsaw and the Mission of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cole Camp.

Deacon Wickern loved people, whether it be family, friends or strangers and he loved sharing his faith with

everyone.

Christmas was his favorite time of year and he loved everything about it.

Since 2010, he and his wife volunteered throughout the community of Sedalia at Christmastime as Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

He is survived by his wife, Patsy; a daughter, Elizabeth (Randy) Ackerman of Richmond; two sons, Eric (Jolon) Wickern of Jef-

erson City; and Kyle (Jillian) Wickern of Branson; a sister, Catherine Wickern of Kansas City; a brother, Patrick Wickern of Springfield; 10 grandchildren: Jordan, Heather, Kayla, Kristin, Duncan, Megan, Autumn, Dexter, TJ, and Willow; and three great-grandchildren: Akyra, Henry, and Mavis.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John Wickern.

## Pope reacts to Waukesha parade attack

Pope Francis expressed his condolences to the victims of a tragic attack at a Nov. 22 Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, that claimed the lives of five people and left dozens injured.

In a message sent by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, to Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee, the pope assured "his spiritual closeness to all affected by the tragic

incident that recently took place in Waukesha."

The pope "commends the souls of those who died to Almighty God's loving mercy and implores the divine gifts of healing and consolation upon the injured and bereaved. He joins you in asking the Lord to bestow upon everyone the spiritual strength which triumphs over violence and overcomes evil with good," said the Nov. 23 message.

## FR. TOLTON

From page 12

cause for Fr. Tolton in 2011.

Pope Francis in 2019 acknowledged Fr. Tolton's heroic virtues and bestowed on him the title "Venerable" — meaning that he lived at a heroic level a life of faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

An authenticated miracle attributed to God through Fr. Tolton's intercession will be needed in order for him to be declared Blessed, and yet another miracle for him to be declared a Saint.

"My students have really enjoyed learning about the canonization process," said Sr. Mary Olivia. "They have also been lifted up by his example of fortitude in the face of difficulty and strife."

In September, they drew their own four-panel illustrations of what they remember about Fr. Tolton's life.

Several depicted his priestly ordination in Rome, his eventual rejection by some of the

people in Quincy, Illinois, where he had grown up, and his death in Chicago of heat exhaustion.

"My great hope is that the students at St. Anthony will get to know Fr. Tolton better this year and be inspired to pray for his (sainthood) cause to move forward," said Sr. Mary Olivia. "He is a witness of faithful fortitude for our times."

Confident that Fr. Tolton can and will pray with and for people who ask him to do so, she suggested seeking his intercession for "peace, unity and charity."

She said people can help God answer that prayer by following Fr. Tolton's advice: "We should welcome all people into the Church, not send them away."

"These are very powerful words that are rooted in the message of Christ, King of the Universe, Who calls all children to the Kingdom of God," she said.

## BISHOPS

From page 11

mother in need can turn to any local Catholic parish and be connected with the life-affirming assistance and accompaniment that she needs."

The initiative's website is *WalkingWithMoms.com*.

### Listening, praying, discerning

In presentations at end of the Nov. 17 public session:

•Anna Gallagher, executive director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, told the bishops 3 million to 11 million people in the U.S. could soon benefit from some type of immigration reform.

•Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the USCCB's migration committee, asked his fellow prelates to advocate, pray and walk with immigrants in their respective dioceses.

•From Haiti to Afghanistan, the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has focused on responding to the impact of climate change, natural disasters such as earthquakes, hunger, meager farm production and developing education for children, reported Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, president of the CRS board of directors. He gave the presentation with Sean Callahan, CRS president and CEO.

•Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, told

the bishops the national network of Catholic Charities agencies had provided \$5.1 billion in assistance in the last year, much of it connected to the economic fallout caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

•The synodal process the Church is entering into is meant to show that "no one is unimportant in this time of listening," said Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas.

The bishop, a member of the USCCB's Committee on Doctrine and voted its chairman-elect during the assembly, said the process over the next seven months must involve the participation of the whole Church "listening together, praying together, discerning together."

### Walking with survivors

At sunrise Nov. 18 outside the hotel where the bishops held their assembly, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, Boston Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley and six other Catholic prelates joined survivors of sex abuse, some the victims of clergy, in an invitation-only walk to pray for an end to the "evil" of abuse and call for a day of prayer for survivors and an end to the abuse.

*Contributing to this story were Carol Zimmermann, Dennis Sadowski, Rhina Guidos and Mark Pattison.*

## PRISON

From page 1

leave here," Fr. Penn noted.

Crosier in hand, Bishop McKnight preached his homily on that Sunday's readings (1 Kings 17:10-16 and Mark 12:41-44), which told of two seemingly powerless women who trusted God fully and gave Him everything they had.

"In order to have LIFE, you have to GIVE!" the bishop stated. "At the deepest level, that means giving not just from your surplus, not even just from your want, but from your need — from your very self."

He spoke of how the poor widow in the Temple presented everything she possessed to God.

"Her generosity humbles us," said Bishop McKnight. "She's giving out of her NEEDS. She's actually putting in something she NEEDS, because she believes. She's a woman of God."

He noted that God had perfected such giving in the person of Jesus Christ.

"God Himself, Who is perfect, Who is almighty, Who has everything He needs, found a way to suffer and give of Himself for others," the bishop noted.

That is the central mystery of the Catholic faith.

"When we celebrate the Eucharist, we're celebrating the very fact and we're receiving the very gift of God's self to us, in His willingness to offer us His only Son, so that we might have LIFE!" the bishop stated.

Prison residents proclaimed the readings, led the singing, served at the altar and worshipped attentively and energetically.

Bishop McKnight said he considered it a gift from God to be able to step away from his administrative duties and spend time with the men at ACC.

"It's nice to get out and be among the people of God and to be a true shepherd," he said.

He noted that God is "a God of second chances."

"Or, in my case, a God of 10,000 chances!" he stated. "How many times I have fallen, and His grace is offered to lift me up, yet again."

Bishop McKnight plans to offer Mass at the Moberly Correctional Center on Nov. 30 and at the Jefferson City Cor-

rectional Center on Saturday, Dec. 11.

### "What makes you a man"

One of the men present the morning of the bishop's visit to Algoa had not been to Mass in 29 years.

"I'm glad I came," he told the men in the prayer circle after Mass.

Others referred to the visit as a once-in-a-lifetime occasion.

Some spoke of the joy they experience each week as members of the Catholic community in the prison.

George Habermehl grew up in a Catholic family that focused its own life on the life of the Church.

"Church was the most important thing in my family's life," he said. "It was the most important thing in my life."

"Up until I went away to college!" he said. "To say I fell away at that time was an understatement."

God finally succeeded in calling him back about three months ago.

"I woke up one morning and I'm not kidding you, it was a Saturday morning and I felt overcome with, 'I'm supposed to come over here,'" he recalled.

Saturday mornings are when Mass is celebrated there.

At first, he felt uncomfortable in the assembly after being away for so long.

"But I just knew I was supposed to be here," he said. "And once I got over here, all those old feelings and memories started coming back: grade school, being an altar boy, going to Mass every morning — it all just came back to me."

He received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and "it literally feels like the monkey's off my back," he said.

He's pleased to have a solid community of fellow Catholic residents and the volunteers who come into the prison for Mass, Bible study and weekly Legion of Mary prayer meetings.

"There's always roadblocks in life! In here. Out there. Everywhere," he said. "But I've got somebody to turn to now. This community is unbelievable!"

He's not sure yet what God wants him to do with the energy he's no longer using to



Residents of the Algoa Correctional Center in Jefferson City and volunteers sing a hymn during Mass offered by Bishop W. Shawn McKnight and Father Michael Penn on Nov. 6.

— Photo by Jay Nies

carry around the burdens that previously weighed him down.

"That's why I keep coming and I keep praying," he said. "I'm sure it will become clear what I'm supposed to do."

He realized long ago that most people don't want to hear someone talk about their relationship with God.

"So I just try to lead by example by how I treat people, how I treat the other inmates and the guards," he said, "how I take personal responsibility for my actions and the choices I've made."

If anyone does ask about what's been making him different, "I'll sit there and talk to them as long as they want to talk," he said.

Mr. Habermehl asked for prayers for God to help him and his fellow prison residents "get past our egos, our immediate wants and needs, and for more guys in here to be able to let their guard down and realize that what's important — it isn't how tough you are, how much money you have, how many women you have."

"What makes you a man is honesty, integrity, character — all those things you don't hear about very often in prison," he said.

He's looking forward to getting out and starting a new life.

In the meantime, he urges his fellow residents not to be afraid of looking weak because they're turning to God for help.

"Who's more important? God or what the other inmates think?" he asked. "It's so much better just to say, 'You know what, I'm gonna let go and I'm gonna let God lead me.'"

### Finding peace

Dylan "Paco" Pacheco had a difficult upbringing, with parents who didn't get along and were weighed down by addictions.

"But my dad showed me the Catholic Church when I was young, and that's when I experienced peace," Mr. Pacheco recalled. "And whenever they used to argue and fight when I was a kid, I'd run to the church, just to experience that peace and to ask God to take

this away from me."

His parents eventually split up, and he and his mother moved from Colorado to Columbia.

Upon winding up at Algoa, he looked for and found the peace he had experienced in church as a child.

"I came here to see if this would fulfill that need that I had within me, that relationship with God," he said. "And I get it here."

He's noticing that through praying, studying and learning with his fellow Catholics at Algoa, he's been able to be a better friend and exert a positive influence beyond the chapel walls.

He's convinced that God is counting on him to make better use of his time when he gets released.

"I want to do more, like volunteer," he said. "Visiting the elderly is one of my goals."

He said he's eager to become a member of a welcoming parish on the outside.

He asked for prayers for help avoiding drugs and other negative influences, and to be in the company of positive people who draw the best out of him.

"It seems like when you get out on the streets, it's so easy for those old negative influences to come back to you," he stated. "That's why it's good to be with people who have a solid relationship with God, who are doing good things and

See FREEDOM, page 27

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By Father Don Antweiler

**ACROSS**

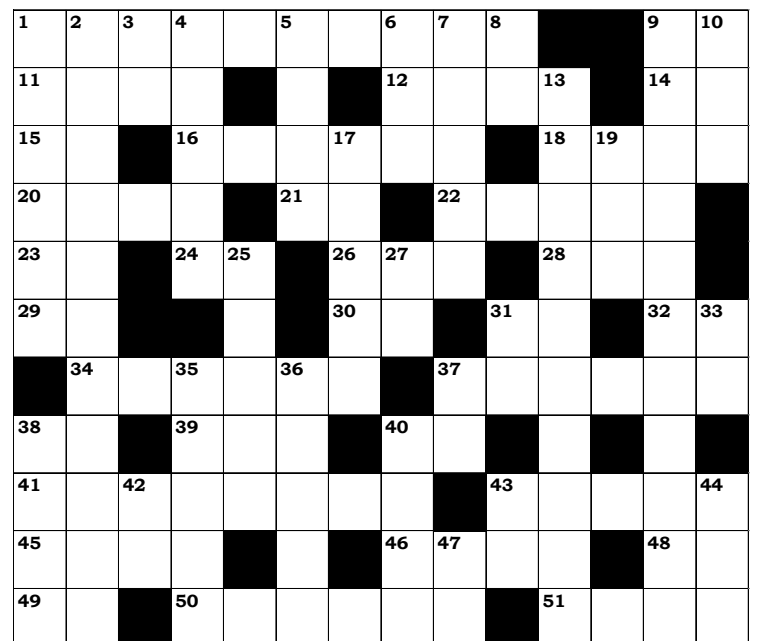
1. The head of Vatican City is the Pope. Routine administration is handled by a \_\_\_\_\_ of Cardinals headed by the Secretary of State for Vatican City/Holy See.
9. Abbr. for postscript, an addition to the body of a letter.
11. "Children, \_\_\_\_\_ your parents in everything..." (Colossians 3:20).
12. "You've got to go out on a \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes because that's where the fruit is," — Will Rogers.
14. Abbr. for the Latin words meaning "in other words."
15. ...give \_\_\_\_\_ this day our daily bread...
16. "Something is \_\_\_\_\_ in the state of Denmark," —famous line in Act 1, scene IV of Hamlet; Shakespeare.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ upon a time...
20. Sage; wisdom figure; fu-

- ture-teller.
21. Comparative suffix.
22. Camera company.
23. In football, short for injured reserve.
24. In nursing, short for head circumference.
26. Every B&B I've ever stayed at has \_\_\_\_\_ own unique charm.
28. Slangy yes.
29. As the Civil War started to heat up in Mo., Mark Twain went west to join his brother Orion, taking a job as a Virginia City newspaper reporter, in this western desert State (abbr.).
30. Actor Asner or TV newsman Bradley.
31. Abbr. for the popular social media platform Instagram.
32. They had to go to overtime (\_\_\_\_\_) to break the tie.
34. The official citizens of Vatican City number approximately 800, consisting of clergy, religious and the Swiss Guard (135). Approx. 1/3 of the clergy live \_\_\_\_\_ as diplomats in other countries, reflecting the Church's mission to the world.
37. \_\_\_\_\_ houses, inflatable play areas, are popular attractions at parish picnics and other events.
38. "I have seen many an American, attentive to (Hermann's) simple and

- natural beauty, become quite genial, esp. if we had just tasted the wine in the stately wine cellars open to visitors \_\_\_\_\_ any time with the greatest courtesy," —*A German Immigrant in Mo.*, Gert Goebel.
39. Letters for English as a Second Language; often special courses at schools for non (or partial) English speaking students.
40. Stomach muscle.
41. Approximately 2,000 laypersons work in Vatican City in secretarial, \_\_\_\_\_, trade & service occupations.
43. "...You are a priest forever according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Melchizedek," (Hebrews 5:6).
45. "I returned to (Hannibal) like some banished Adam who is revisiting his half-forgotten Paradise and wondering how the \_\_\_\_\_ outside world could ever have seemed green and fair to him," —letter to Jenny Boardman, 1887; Mark Twain.
46. "The object of opening the \_\_\_\_\_ as of opening the mouth is to shut it again on something solid," —G.K. Chesterton.
48. A note on the musical scale.
49. "I alone am left, and they are seeking \_\_\_\_\_ life," (Romans 11:3).
50. "Hardship often \_\_\_\_\_ as the best teacher," —*Mountain Man* by Davis Marshall.
51. Just OK.

**DOWN**

1. John the Baptist's relationship with Jesus.
2. The Vatican has its own astronomical \_\_\_\_\_, the oldest active such facility in the world with roots going back to 1582. It is located at the Pope's summer residence just outside Rome.
3. Woe is \_\_\_\_\_!
4. A gift of the Magi.
5. Bothwell Lodge State Historic \_\_\_\_\_, north of Sedalia, is a castle-like 31-room, 12,000 sq. ft. lodge built on a 120-foot bluff atop two natural caves. Was built by Sedalia lawyer John Bothwell over a number of years, 1897-1928.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ de la Cite is the island in the Seine river in the heart of Paris on which the famous Cathedral of Notre Dame is located.
7. Pigeon talk.
8. Los Alamos Nat. Laboratory in this State is the recognized site of the development and creation of the atomic bomb (abbr.).
9. Vatican City, ironically, has statistically the highest crime rate in the world, 1.5 crimes per Vatican City citizen. Massive visiting tourist crowds make it a \_\_\_\_\_ paradise.
10. "Do you have eyes and not \_\_\_\_\_?" (Mark 8:18).
13. The Swiss Guard are exclusively \_\_\_\_\_ for the Pope, since 1506. There is a police force for crowd control and normal crimes. Normal crimes are tried in Italian courts. There are two small pre-trial cells in Vatican City.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ and true.
19. No, in Scotland.
25. "He who was the carpenter's glorious son set his \_\_\_\_\_ above death's all-consuming jaws," —St. Ephrem, Syrian deacon and hymnographer; d. in 373 A.D.
27. Six points in football (abbr.).
31. Jupiter moon.
33. *Pax \_\_\_\_\_ cum*; Latin for Peace be with you.
35. "...putting the child in (the basket), placed it among the \_\_\_\_\_ on the river bank," (Exodus 2:3).
36. "...leave your gift there at the \_\_\_\_\_, go first and be reconciled with your brother..." (Matthew 5:24).
37. Short for *Book of Blessings*; produced for the Church by Catholic Book Publishing Co.
38. One of the Cartwright sons.
40. Fictional company in Road Runner cartoons that supplied Wile E. Coyote with outlandish products that failed or backfired catastrophically.
42. A note on the musical scale.
43. "A man who leans \_\_\_\_\_ God is immovable and cannot be overthrown," —St. Claude de la Colombiere; 1641-1682; Confessor of St. Margaret Alacoque, visionary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
44. The \_\_\_\_\_ Grande river is the 5th longest river in the U.S. and among the top 20 in the world.
47. "The secret of getting ahead \_\_\_\_\_ getting started," —Mark Twain.



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## Fundraisers & Social Events

Nov. 25-Jan. 9

**Laurie**, Festival of Lights, 5-10 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Dec. 3

**Hermann**, St. George Home & School 60th Annual Christmas Bazaar with chicken & fish fry, 5-7 pm, school gym & cafeteria

Dec. 3-4

**Columbia**, Sacred Heart Parish Christmas Bazaar, Fri. 3-7 pm, Sat. 8 am-3 pm, activity building

Dec. 4

**Shelbina**, K of C Farm Toy Show, 9 am-3 pm, Fr. Buhman Center

Dec. 4-5

**Columbia**, St. Thomas More

Newman Center Parish Christmas Resale, 8 am-1 pm, multi-purpose room

Dec. 5

**Bonnots Mill**, Community Betterment Association drive-thru Live Nativity, 5:30-7:30 pm; **Salisbury**, K of C breakfast, 6:30-10:30 am; **Taos**, K of C Women's Auxiliary bake sale & donut Sunday, 7:30-11:30 am; **Vienna**, K of C breakfast, 7:30-11 am

Dec. 10

**Mexico**, K of C fish fry, 4-7 pm

Dec. 11

**Russellville**, St. Michael Parish Christmas Bazaar & luncheon, 10 am-1 pm

Dec. 12

**Belle**, St. Alexander Parish breakfast, 7-11 am

Dec. 17

**Jefferson City**, Fr. Helias K of C #1054 Christmas chili supper, 4-7 pm, K of C Hall, Tanner Bridge Rd.; **Laurie**, Festival of Lights lighting, with caroling & music, hot chocolate & s'mores, campfire and gift shop, 5:30-8 pm, National Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Church

Dec. 19

**Linn**, K of C breakfast and bake sale, 7-11 am

## Meetings & Conferences

Dec. 4

**Holts Summit**, 40 Days for Life Closing Rally and dinner, 6-8:30 pm, St. Andrew Church

Dec. 6

**VIRTUAL**, Couple to Couple

League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 pm, to RSVP email [MidMoNFP@gmail.com](mailto:MidMoNFP@gmail.com)

Dec. 8

**VIRTUAL**, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri refugee resettlement program orientation, 5:30-6:30 pm, for info or to register, call 573-442-7568

Dec. 18

**VIRTUAL**, Couple to Couple League natural family planning introductory session, 8-9 am, to RSVP email [MidMoNFP@gmail.com](mailto:MidMoNFP@gmail.com)

## Liturgical

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

**Jefferson City**, Prayer event for *Dobbs v. Jackson* women's health Supreme Court decision, 8-5 pm, sidewalk in front of the Missouri Supreme Court building, for info contact Kathy Forck at 573-821-5130

Dec. 1

**Jefferson City**, Benediction,

Rosary and Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament for life, 6:30-8:30 pm, Immaculate Conception Church

Dec. 12

**Sedalia**, St. Vincent de Paul Parish Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 11 am Mañanitas, 11:45 am Mass, St. Juan Diego play, lunch and traditional dancing, St. Patrick Chapel

## Retreats & Spiritual Renewal

Nov. 28-30

**Columbia**, "Let Your Faith Blossom" parish mission with Fr. Pete Schavitz, C.Ss.R., 7 pm each evening, Sacred Heart Church

## Health & Wellness

Nov. 28

**St. Thomas**, Blood drive, 8 am-12:30 pm, K of C Hall

Dec. 8

**Loose Creek**, Blood drive, 2-6 pm, Loose Creek Community Center

## "PREPARE YE"

From page 1

"We really want people to take the time, especially this year, to reflect together on what Advent really means," she said.

With help from the Holy Spirit, participants will prayerfully ponder such questions as: "What does Advent mean? What is the message behind Advent — the preparation and the expectation of Christ's coming, the gift that Christ Jesus is to us? The gift that God gave to us through His Son Jesus Christ?"

Mrs. Korsmeyer emphasized that while the program is ideal for everybody, it's particularly helpful for families.

"It's a way to push lovingly back at things that tend to distract us as we prepare

for our promised Savior and ponder the significance of His coming," she said.

"Prepare Ye" includes a section for each week of Advent —

three focusing on Jesus's birth, the last one focusing on His Second Coming.

"We begin with a Scripture reading, followed by a reflection and questions for conversation," said Mrs. Korsmeyer. "Then we move into a real-life story that helps illustrate the theme for the week."

Personalities range from St. Teresa of Kolkata to Ed Mitchell, who traveled to the Moon aboard Apollo 14.

"Each section closes with an Advent action," said Mrs.

with their children.

"There's even an image for children — or adults! — to color each week," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

### "What we need"

Sr. Janet, the program's author, is faith formation director for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

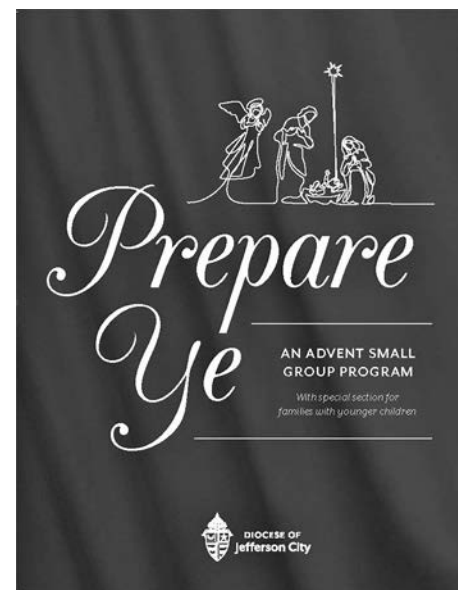
She has written hundreds of articles and several publications.

She leads retreats and days of recollection, online

classes for the University of Dayton and Boston College, and serves as a pastoral services team member for Renew International.

She helped prepare the draft of the U.S. Catholic bishops' pastoral plan for adult faith formation, "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us."

"She is excellent," said Mrs.



Korsmeyer. "What she has given us is just too good to pass up."

"Prepare Ye" promotes experiencing the congregation as a community, not just as individuals.

"It ties into the notion that we work better in community, that we grow stronger in community, and that's one of the things we've been lacking since the pandemic started — the ability to spend time together and build each other up," said Mrs. Korsmeyer.

"That's really what we need. That's really what this program

is intended to do," Mrs. Korsmeyer stated.

### For one and all

People who follow the Diocese of Jefferson City on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will see excerpts and discussion questions from "Prepare Ye" throughout Advent.

While "Prepare Ye" can work as a weekly devotional for individuals, it's designed to stoke lively conversations.

Some people might prefer to organize Zoom meetings with other participants if they can't leave home.

"If you're unable to able to meet in a group, try the resource on your own, and then think about picking up the phone to discuss something you read with someone you care about," Mrs. Korsmeyer said.

Booklets cost \$3 apiece at the Chancery, 2207 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

The online version is free of charge.

Contact Mrs. Korsmeyer at [lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org](mailto:lkorsmeyer@diojeffcity.org) 573-635-9127, ext. 222, for information.

**"Teach us, compassionate God,  
how to truly love. Teach us this Advent  
how to love You and those around us always  
with gratefulness and affection. Let love,  
unity and the desire to work together  
live intensely in our hearts, in our parishes,  
in our Church and in our world. We pray  
together through Jesus Christ  
and the Holy Spirit Who live and reign  
with You forever and ever. Amen."**

— from the Closing Prayer for "Prepare Ye"

Korsmeyer.

There's also a family corner, with simple, age-appropriate questions and discussion topics parents can spend time sharing

## CEMETERY

From page 10

The Knights had also used some of the stones to pave the area in front of the altar so Mass could be offered there several times a year.

With permission from Father Jeremy Secrist, current pastor of St. Peter Parish, the restoration volunteers began returning to St. Peter Cemetery #1 each week this summer to probe for buried headstones and set as many as possible back up.

"It's been a monstrous undertaking," said volunteer, Denise Wingate. "The ground was so hard, we couldn't get a probe to go down more than a few inches until we finally got some rain."

Copies surfaced of research documents relating to the cemetery, including the deed, plat maps and several of the 1939 research essays written by the Immaculate Conception High



Students of St. Peter Interparish School in Jefferson City visit little-known St. Peter Cemetery #1, in which burials took place from 1854-1885, on Nov. 2, All Souls Day. Volunteers are working to restore the cemetery.

— Photos by Jay Nies

School students.

When Louis Menke submitted his composition in 1939, he had taken it upon himself to go out to the cemetery and record all the burials and all the suspected burials. The group

has found this reference very helpful in identifying the worn tombstones.

They have also combed through archived newspapers in search of obituaries of people who were buried there but not recorded on Louis Menke's list.

The group's work has yielded further information.

While probing, they unearthed tombstones from two children's burials that were previously unrecorded.

Mr. Hager found one and Ms. Wingate found the other.

"Both were under 2 years old," said Mrs. Thompson. "People lost a lot of babies and children back then. These discoveries will probably fill in a blank slot on someone's family tree."

The group identified a small obelisk as belonging to James Watson, son of J. Christy and A.N. Watson, who was commissioner of the permanent seat of government.

They found a tombstone fragment belonging to Wendler Gehring, a Civil War veteran. They hope to re-mark that grave with a replacement marker from the Veterans Administration.

The volunteers set aside other fragments, hoping to find the rest and piece them together.

### Dry bones

The old cemetery was kept in better shape after the St. Peter Cemetery Association was established in 1935 and the local Knights of Columbus council paid for repairs.

Although the association still owns St. Peter Cemetery #1, the groundskeepers at Heisinger Bluffs mow the grass and maintain the grounds.

This year, on the afternoon of Nov. 2, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Depart-

**More photos from this event have been posted in *The Catholic Missourian's* online edition, [cathmo.com](http://cathmo.com). Select "Photo Galleries" from the "Multimedia" tab on the menu bar.**

ed (All Souls Day), Fr. Secrist and teachers led the eighth-graders of St. Peter Interparish School in a Rosary procession from school to St. Peter Cemetery #1.

With the students gathered around the outdoor altar, Fr. Secrist spoke of lessons to be learned in an old cemetery.

"Take a look at the names," he suggested. "Some of the last names may be familiar to you. Take a look at the dates. And try to figure out what languages we have here, because it's more than just English."

He pointed out that all of the graves face east, in deference to Bible references to the Second Coming of Christ.

He acknowledged that cemeteries are often depicted as scary places and unholy ground.

"But when you stop and think of it, cemeteries are really the holiest ground, in addition to our churches, on this earth," he said. "Because when you

look around at all of these people, they are awaiting the Resurrection. All of them and all of us, we live and we die as the Lord's people, in the hope that one day, we will rise in glory. So this is a place of hope!"

He led them in praying for the repose of the souls of everyone buried there and all who await the Resurrection.

"These are really our predecessors in the faith in this parish," he noted.

Alan Lepper, executive director of the Catholic cemeteries of Jefferson City, noted that the last time such a large group gathered in St. Peter Cemetery #1 was probably for a burial over 100 years ago.

### "God knows"

After probing the entire cemetery and piecing together all of the information they have, the group will now order 24 simple, granite markers for the currently unmarked graves.

They hope to have them in time to set them up in the spring.

"When it's all said and done, you just want to remember your family," said Mrs. Thompson. "So you're preserving a piece of history that could very easily be lost."

Fr. Secrist said St. Peter Parish is open to receiving contributions to help offset the cost of replacing lost headstones and building a suitable sign at the entrance to the cemetery.

He said he's grateful to the volunteers for their hard work and research.

He's looking forward to offering Mass at the outdoor altar someday, after work in the cemetery is completed.

Although the names on the headstones that were used to build the altar 80 years ago can no longer be read, he believes it's an honor for these deceased parishioners to have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered on something that once marked their resting place.

"God knows where they're buried," the priest noted. "Every single one of them. And the Church will keep praying for them until the Lord returns to call us home."

## DIGGS

From page 5

### "Life goes on"

The Diggsses recently sold their house and farm after 40 years and moved to a senior living community in Columbia.

"We really like living here," said Mrs. Diggss. "We're the only black couple here, but everybody is really nice."

Their oldest son died in January of this year. Their oldest daughter died in October.

"You never want to outlive your kids," said Mrs. Diggss. "It just doesn't seem right. But that's what happened."

The Diggsses have grandchildren and great-grandchildren living all over the country. The COVID pandemic has kept the relatives apart, but their daughter's funeral in Chicago brought them together.

Their youngest son, David, wants them to move out west to be closer to him and his family.

"But I think maybe we'll stay here," said Mrs. Diggss.

The couple don't think much about the cold shoulder they both felt decades ago unless they're asked about it.

They are convinced that the Catholic parishes in Columbia have become much more Catholic in their capacity to welcome and draw together people together from different backgrounds.

That sense of solidarity also permeates the senior citizen community where they live, said Mrs. Diggss.

"We all have our meals together and exercise classes together and talks together, and everybody hugs and kisses, and life goes on," she stated.

Well aware of the ongoing struggles for justice and equality in this country, she prays for the love of Christ to influence how people stand together and treat each other.

"I just want people to love one another, regardless of race or religious affiliation, and appreciate what we have in this world, and just take care of each other," she said.

*Some of this information came from an article by Jeremy P. Amick, "Veteran was among first African Americans inducted in WWII Marine Corps," in the Dec. 1, 2019, edition of the Jefferson City News-Tribune, and is used here with permission.*

## Anniversaries

**Argyle, St. Aloysius**  
Tom & Peggy Wildhaber, 43 years  
Josh & Trisha Weber, 17 years  
Sam & Leslie Barnhart, 13 years

**Frankenstein, Our Lady Help of Christians**  
David & Mary Gabelsberger, 51 years

**Freeburg, Holy Family**  
Virgil & Aggie Struempff, 58 years  
Keith & Karen Beck, 49 years  
Steven & Nancy Maxwell, 49 years  
Allen & Denise Gradel, 39 years  
David & Patty Lauberth, 34 years  
Norbert & Paula Fick, 27 years  
Jeremy & Lesley Knoll, 20 years

**Fulton, St. Peter**  
Charles & Linda Roe, 50 years

**Hannibal, Holy Family**  
Jess & Victoria Ornelas, 59 years

**Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
Bernard & Jean Schanzmeyer, 69 years  
Doug & Connie Smentkowski, 43 years

**Jefferson City, St. Peter**  
Jim & Darlene Brenneke, 59 years  
Dennis & Linda & Hood, 52 years  
Steve & Beverly Cearlock, 49 years

**Koeltztown, St. Boniface**  
Greg & Margaret Sankey, 61 years  
Tom & Becky Loehner, 39 years  
Keith & Sheila Weber, 27 years

**Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows**  
Brad & Barbara Adrian, 40 years

**Moberly, St. Pius X**  
Raymond & Helen Skinner, 60 years

**Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart**  
Michael & Sarah Oliver, 15 years  
Michael & Caterina Sesti, 14 years  
Jake & Bethany Neuner, 13 years  
Billy & Sheldon Redel, 13 years  
Scooter & Angie Woodward, 13 years

**Rolla, St. Patrick**  
Joseph & Jane Dalton, 23 years

**Russellville, St. Michael**  
Glenn & Jackie Steenbergen, 47 years  
Larry & Judy Thompson, 47 years  
Robert & Maricel Tripp, 15 years

**St. Martins, St. Martin**  
Bob & Joan Kauffman, 60 years  
John & Henrietta Gentges, 60 years

**Vienna, Visitation**  
Don & Gloria Brunnert, 63 years  
Arthur & Connie Sandbothe, 40 years  
Jim & Vicki Sandbothe, 37 years  
John Wessman & Kelley McCall, 31 years

## Crossword puzzle answers

O	S	O	S	S	E	A	V	E	R	S	X	M
I	J	D	N	I	M	A	D	R	I	A	R	V
R	E	R	O	R	C	I	S	E	M	O	D	S
K	A	V	B	A	B	S	L	E	S	L	A	V
E	C	N	U	O	B	D	A	O	R	B	A	V
J	O	G	I	D	E	R	R	V	A	N	E	N
P	E	L	S	J	L	C	H	R	I	R	I	R
K	A	V	K	O	D	R	E	R	S	E	R	S
E	C	N	O	N	J	E	N	O	T	S	U	O
E	I	E	M	B	I	L	I	L	Y	B	E	O
S	P	N	O	S	S	M	I	M	O	C	I	C

## Baptisms

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Julia Lebens**

Fulton, St. Peter — **Alistair James, Ingrid Vada** and **Eleanor Irene Rushkin**, children of Riley & Robin Rushkin

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Adelyn Rose Brauner; Jayce, Jayelle, Mason and Marlee French**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Henry Aaron Scheuler**, son of Joshua & Gabrielle Scheuler

Linn, St. George — **Carter Michael Lumpkin**, son of Bryan & Lisa Lumpkin

Mary's Home, Our Lady of Snows — **Sloan Daniel Evers**, daughter of Jeremy & Alyssa Evers

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Rosemarie Faith Spillman**, daughter of Steven & Renee Spillman

Rich Fountain, Sacred Heart — **Kennedy Jean Schnieders**, daughter of Chris & Brooke Schnieders

Russellville, St. Michael — **Boone Michael Doerhoff**, son of Donovan & Maddie Doerhoff

Westphalia, St. Joseph — **Camden John Huhn**, son of Nathan & Brittany Huhn; **Evelyn Margaret Kirsch**, daughter of Tyler & LeAnna Kirsch

## Marriages

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Laura Fischer & Logan Anselmi**

Russellville, St. Michael — **Crystal Wolken & Skyler Smallwood**

## Birthdays

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua — **Mary Lou Heckman**, her 98th on Dec. 2

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Isabella Meyer**, her 103rd on Nov. 30

Jefferson City, St. Peter — **Mary Ann Menke**, her 90th on Sept. 23

Martinsburg, St. Joseph — **Eunice Welschmeyer**, her 94th on Nov. 17

## Elections

Russellville, St. Michael — **Alan Lepper**, president; **Brian Schulte**, vice-president; **Lisa Coots**, secretary; **Kelli Hagenhoff** and **Alan Schrimpf** new members, to the Parish Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council of the Catholic Community of Clark County — **Debby Whiston**, St. Michael Parish, Kahoka representative; **Myrna Daughtry**, Shrine of St. Patrick Parish, St. Patrick representative; **Tim Seckman** at large representative

## Honors

Linn, St. George — **Ralph and Jerry Voss**, parishioners, by the Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)'s Eugene E. Norton award, the highest honor given by MRPC for volunteers & community service, for their decades of volunteer service to Osage County during the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's (MRPC) annual dinner at State Technical College in Linn.

## Deaths

Camdenton, St. Anthony — **Al Sinovic**

Columbia, Our Lady of Lourdes — **Esther Riegel, Steve Willey**

Eldon, Sacred Heart — **Theresa A. Hunt**

Folk, St. Anthony of Padua — **Margaret Temmen**

Freeburg, Holy Family — **Richard Holterman**

Fulton, St. Peter — **Deborah Draper, Richard Rummel**

Holts Summit, St. Andrew — **Thelma Hendricks**

Jefferson City, Cathedral of St. Joseph — **Richard L. Badger, Anna Marie Klebba, Mary C. Kleene, John Young**

Jefferson City, Immaculate Conception — **Roger G. Doerhoff**

Kirkville, Mary Immaculate — **Walter Gladbach, Mary Walker**

Lake Ozark, Our Lady of the Lake — **Mary Burke, Sue Wilmesher**

Laurie, St. Patrick — **Charlotte D. O'Bryan**

Loose Creek, Immaculate Conception — **Cletus L. Haslag, Catherine W. Kever**

Marceline, St. Bonaventure — **Vicky Niemeier**

Mexico, St. Brendan — **Sandy Niekamp**

Sedalia, St. Vincent de Paul — **Ida Mae Woolery**

Taos, St. Francis Xavier — **Herman J. Brenneke, Louis M. Eiken, Joseph F. Schollmeyer Jr., Martha H. Stegeman**

Tipton, St. Andrew — **Debbie Fassler**

Wardsville, St. Stanislaus — **Thomas J. Schnieders**

## Names for the People Page

Information for the People Page comes from parish correspondents and individual parishioners, as well as bulletins and newspapers. Submissions for anniversaries (10 years or more), birthdays (90 years or more), and baptisms, deaths, marriages and initiations of local parishioners may be e-mailed to [editor@diojeffcity.org](mailto:editor@diojeffcity.org) or mailed to *The Catholic Missourian*, 2207 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0914.

## MCGRADY


From page 9

Rushing to have and do all the things and readying stuff to look at and cling to does nothing to help us let Christ rush into our lives and ready our hearts for the kingdom of heaven.

As we get ready for Advent (beginning Sunday, Nov. 28), let's strive to slow down and intentionally and purposefully look to buy and do less so we can make room for more of the Lord in our lives.

*Katie Prejean McGrady is an international Catholic speaker and award-winning author and host of The Katie McGrady Show on Sirius XM. She lives in Louisiana with her family.*

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## Learning fire safety



Students at St. Joseph Cathedral School enjoy a visit from Jefferson City Fire Department personnel Oct. 12. The students learned about fire safety as part of Fire Awareness Month.

— Photo from the St. Joseph Cathedral School Facebook page

## Honoring Jesus’s mom



Sister Mary Essner SSND, pastoral minister for Holy Family Parish in Hannibal, visits the pre-kindergarten students at Holy Family School, teaching them about the “Hail Mary” prayer and the story of the Annunciation and the Visitation.

— Photo from the Holy Family School – Hannibal Facebook page

## In honor of a charitable patron saint



Students of St. Martin School in St. Martins put the charism of their school’s patron saint into practice on Nov. 11, his feastday, by doing as he did — sharing clothing with the poor among them. The students brought in socks, hats and gloves to be donated to people in need through the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City.

— Photo by Principal Julie Clingman

## A cavalcade of saints



Father Daniel Lueckenotte, pastor, and students of Holy Cross School in Cuba hold a Saints Parade as part of the school’s fu-filled All Saints Day celebration.

— Photo from the Holy Cross Catholic Church Cuba Missouri Facebook page

## Blessed be God in His angels and saints



Students of St. Clement School in St. Clement celebrate All Saints Day with a parade of saints and angels.

— Photo from the St. Clement Parish, Bowling Green, Mo. Facebook page



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# Jesus heals a centurion's servant

By Jennifer Ficaglia  
Catholic News Service

One day, Jesus and the apostles traveled to Capernaum. When they arrived, Jesus was approached by a centurion.

"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully," the centurion said.

Jesus looked at the man. "I will come and cure him," He said.

But the centurion did not want Jesus to come to his home.

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed," he said. "For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes;



and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Jesus was amazed by the centurion's response. He looked at the people who had followed Him to Capernaum.

"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith," Jesus said. "I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

Jesus turned to the centurion.

"You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you."

At that very hour, the centurion's servant was healed.

After healing the centurion's servant, Jesus entered the house of Peter, one of His apostles.

Jesus saw Peter's mother-in-law, who was in bed with a fever.

Jesus went over to the bed and touched the hand of Peter's mother-in-law. The fever left her immediately, and she rose from the bed and waited

on Jesus and His friends.

Word spread about Jesus' ability to heal people. In the evening, many people were brought to Him who were possessed by demons.

He drove out the spirits by a word, and He also cured all the sick people who were brought to Him.

The acts of healing that Jesus performed fulfilled a prophesy about the Messiah that is found in the Old Testament Book of Isaiah: "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."

### Read more about it... Matthew 8

1. Who asked Jesus to heal his servant?
2. Where did Jesus heal the servant?

## Bible Accent

In Acts 10, we can read about Cornelius, a devout, God-fearing centurion who lived in Caesarea.

One day, Cornelius saw an angel of God in a vision. The angel told him to send some men to Joppa to summon Peter, who was staying there.

The next day, Peter had a vision. A voice told him three times to kill and eat animals. Peter refused because he never ate anything unclean, but the voice said, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane."

When Cornelius' friends ar-

rived, the Holy Spirit told Peter to go with them.

"You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with, or visit, a gentile, but God has shown me that I should not call any person profane or unclean," Peter told Cornelius and his family and friends upon arriving in Caesarea. "Rather, in every nation, whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him."

Peter then spoke about Jesus. The Holy Spirit fell upon the people, and they were baptized in Jesus' name.

## Trivia

Who did Jesus heal before he healed the centurion's servant? (Hint: Matthew 8:2-1)

Answer: A leper.



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## Saint Spotlight

Paula di Rosa was born in Italy in 1813. She left school at age 17 to keep house for her father, who owned a textile mill. She also cared for the girls who worked in the factory. With the help of a local widow, she nursed them back to health during a cholera epidemic. Paula later established a military hospital and a house for poor, abandoned girls. Her works of charity evolved into the founding of an order called the Handmaids of Charity, which the Vatican approved in 1850. Paula made her vows as Mary of the Crucified in 1852, and she established two convents in or near other Italian cities. She died at her home in Brescia after collapsing from physical exhaustion in 1855, and we remember her on Dec. 15.

## How much will you need to retire? Let's talk.

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## Puzzle

Unscramble the letters in each word and arrange them to form a quotation from the children's story.

tel  
\_\_\_\_\_

oyu  
\_\_\_\_\_

heva  
\_\_\_\_\_

sa  
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uoy  
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devilbee  
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node  
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orf  
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eb  
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Sentence:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: let, you, have, as, you, be-  
lieved, done, it, for, be; As you have  
believed, let it be done for you.

## Well-researched work shows lessons in aging from convent life

*Embracing Age: How Catholic Nuns Became Models of Aging Well*, by Anna I. Corwin. Rutgers University Press (New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2021). 202 pp., \$29.95.

Reviewed by Nancy L. Roberts  
Catholic News Service

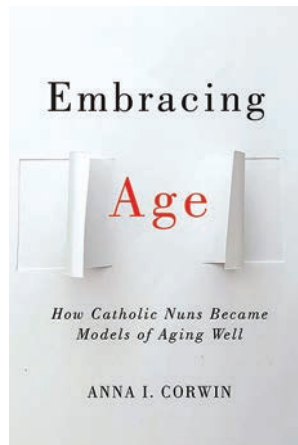
If your intuition suggests that nuns tend to live to a ripe old age, you are not mistaken. There is something about religious commitment that fosters physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

In this fascinating, beautifully written book, Anna I. Corwin illuminates the linguistic, cultural and religious practices that help a Midwestern convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart age gracefully.

One key is that the nuns

don't think of aging as a problem. Not for them euphemisms such as "senior citizen" or "older adult"; they are happy to be called "elderly" and "old." It would never occur to the sisters to praise someone for looking young "despite their age."

Rather than follow society's prescription of "successful aging" (i.e., independence and "active" living), they embrace aging as a normal part of life. As Corwin, an anthropologist, explains, the nuns create a community in which "they learn to support each other as they age



and as they teach each other how to age well."

This social support takes place in myriad ways — during Mass, prayer, shared meals and hallway chats, and even informal card games. The nuns are also enriched by their

frequent pastoral visits to their elderly, infirm sisters. This loving connection goes both ways.

Early in her research, Corwin observed that "Catholic sisters seem to experience fewer chronic conditions as they age." And those "who live in constant chronic pain and can no longer walk, work or even leave their room in the infirmary, seem to experience each day with remarkable peace and joy."

Another key to the sisters' ability to age with grace comes from their view of what well-being is. The modern world teaches us to fight aging, pain and death at all costs.

But to the sisters, well-being means "not only physical and mental health but — most important to them — a deep and enduring connection with the divine."

In her many interviews, Corwin learned that the nuns prioritized "time and space to pray, the ability to serve those in need and a deep connection to God."

### On air

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## Movie Ratings



General  
Patronage

Ron's Gone Wrong (PG)



Adults and  
Adolescents

Clifford the Big Red Dog (PG)



Adults

Belfast (PG-13)  
Dune (PG-13)  
Eternals (PG-13)  
Ghostbusters: Afterlife (PG-13)  
King Richard (PG-13)  
No Time to Die (PG-13)



Limited Adult  
Audience

Antlers (R)  
The Last Duel (R)  
Last Night in Soho (R)



Morally  
Offensive

Halloween Kills (R)

Ratings are supplied by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Film and Broadcasting Office. Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for current reviews.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Corwin found that the older sisters in poor physical health prayed not for recovery but instead for "endurance and spiritual comfort." They also prayed for others, an activity which helped them remain connected to their community.

And the infirm nuns often visited those who were even more infirm than themselves, providing social and spiritual support. This grew directly from the value the sisters placed on human beings in every stage of life, not just the phase when they were active and productive.

This meant that older, physically declining nuns were embraced with love by the other sisters and kept engaged with community life. And this also showed younger nuns that they would be respected and valued even in their later years when they might develop chronic conditions such as dementia.

Corwin, who earned her doctorate at the University of California, Los Angeles, is an associate professor at St. Mary's

College of California.

Her deeply researched book is a model of scholarship while also engaging nonacademic readers as well with its insightful and eloquent portrayal of convent life.

Perhaps most intriguing is the revelation in *Embracing Age* that we too could live happier and healthier lives in old age by following some of the sound pathways that these sisters have demonstrated.

In particular, the nuns' lives show that our bodies themselves are social entities. Indeed, Corwin notes "how profoundly the social world shapes the body. ... How we age is connected to how we interact in the world. The social practices in which the nuns engaged shaped their health, their well-being and their understanding of aging."

*Roberts is a journalism professor at the State University of New York at Albany and the author/co-editor of two books about Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker.*

# FREEDOM

From page 19

want to make a difference, who want to extend that goodness to other people and give them a chance.”

He also requested prayers for the people who work in prisons and are frustrated because of it.

“And ... just that we all know love,” he added. “Real love. Genuine love. And not some sort of selfish desires that we learn how to have. Learning what Jesus’s love was like. That’s what I would want.”

### “Being transformed”

Donald Gardner received Baptism in the cold water of a spring-fed creek when he was 18.

He remembers the preacher baptizing him “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

A lot of things happened between that creek and the gates of Algoa. But his desire for communion with God never left him.

“God is what brought me here,” he stated.

About a year ago, Mr. Pacheco, a friend and fellow ACC resident, invited him to Mass.

“I started going and I like it,” said Mr. Gardner. “On Monday nights, I also pray

the Rosary with the Legion of Mary.”

He brings his Missal to Mass each week and follows along with every word.

“It was all very new to me,” he noted. “I had to learn it. Having it all there in front of me really helps.”



A few months ago, Mr. Pacheco, Deacon Wildhaber and lay volunteer Lois Thomas invited Mr. Gardner to consider preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

“And I feel like it’s something God’s calling me to do that I should do, that I need to do, that I want to do, for God,” he stated.

He believes God’s desire for him is to “keep being transformed and keep spreading the Word.”

His prayer life has flourished.

“I’ve become a lot closer to God and am having a stronger relationship with Him,” he

noted. “A lot more of my life is about prayer.”

He received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time a few weeks ago.

“It was good,” he said. “I liked it. It felt good.”

He’s looking forward to being confirmed when he’s ready, and eventually starting a new life on the outside and continuing down the road to eternal life.

All the while, he hopes the Catholic community at Algoa will continue to grow and flourish.

“I hope they can bring more people into the Church and that they keep getting closer and closer to God spiritually and continuing in their faith,” he said.

He asked for prayers for all people suffering from addictions, and “for all the lost souls and those who are in pain and all the people in the world who are hungry and sick.”

“And our families, too,” he said.

Likewise, he requested prayers of thanksgiving for all the people who come into the prison to help the Catholic community thrive.

“Thank God for all those blessings and the things He does for us!” he said.

# Daily Readings

### Sunday, Nov 28

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Jer. 33:14-16  
Ps. 25:4-5, 8-10, 14  
1 Thes. 3:12-4:2  
Lk. 21:25-28, 34-36

### Monday, Nov 29

Is. 2:1-5  
Ps. 122:1-4bcd, 5-9  
Mt. 8:5-11

### Tuesday, Nov 30

St. Andrew, Apostle  
Rom. 10:9-18  
Ps. 19:8-11  
Mt. 4:18-22

### Wednesday, Dec 1

Is. 25:6-10a  
Ps. 23:1-6  
Mt. 15:29-37

### Thursday, Dec 2

Is. 26:1-6  
Ps. 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a  
Mt. 7:21, 24-27

### Friday, Dec 3

St. Francis Xavier, priest  
Is. 29:17-24  
Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14  
Mt. 9:27-31

### Saturday, Dec 4

St. John Damascene, priest and doctor of the Church  
Is. 30:19-21, 23-26  
Ps. 147:1-6  
Mt. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### Sunday, Dec 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Bar. 5:1-9  
Ps. 126:1-6  
Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11  
Lk. 3:1-6

### Monday, Dec 6

St. Nicholas, bishop  
Is. 35:1-10  
Ps. 85:9ab, 10-14  
Lk. 5:17-26

### Tuesday, Dec 7

St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church  
Is. 40:1-11  
Ps. 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13  
Mt. 18:12-14

### Wednesday, Dec 8

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Patronal Feastday of the USA, Holyday of Obligation)  
Gn. 3:9-15, 20  
Ps. 98:1-4  
Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk. 1:26-38

### Thursday, Dec 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin  
Is. 41:13-20  
Ps. 145:1, 9-13ab  
Mt. 11:11-15

### Friday, Dec 10

Our Lady of Loreto  
Is. 48:17-19  
Ps. 1:1-4, 6  
Mt. 11:16-19

### Saturday, Dec 11

St. Damasus I, Pope  
Sir. 48:1-4, 9-11  
Ps. 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19  
Mt. 17:9a, 10-13

### The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for December:

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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## Four holy habits

for a new Year of Grace

*Ed Bode, a member of Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish in Jefferson City, adapted the following suggestions he received from Catholic parishes in Janesville, Wisconsin:*

Increase your personal holiness. Practice FOUR Holy Habits:

### Sundays

- Attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation
- Receive the Eucharist worthily
- Make Sunday special; spend time with family, serving, praying, enjoying holy leisure
- Attend a weekday Mass; worthily receive the Eucharist

### Pray daily

- Pray before and after all meals
- Spend at least 15 minutes in private prayer
- Read a Catholic Bible; begin with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- Apply the messages to yourself for personal responses
- Pray the Rosary; vary the Mysteries; apply the messages
- Pray in a Eucharistic Adoration chapel; respond to Jesus

### Friday penance

- Make every Friday a day of penance
- Do not eat meat, or make some other sacrifice to remember the crucifixion of our Savior, Jesus Christ

### Monthly confession

- Before going to bed, make an examination of conscience
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation worthily at least monthly

## J.C. St. Peter Saturday Mass time

Beginning Saturday, Nov. 6, the Saturday Vigil Mass in St. Peter Church in Jefferson City will be at 4:30 p.m.

This Mass is livestreamed each week.



Sacred Heart Parish  
 COLUMBIA  
*Christmas Bazaar*  
 Parish Activity Building-Locust and Waugh  
 Fri-December 3 3-7 pm  
 Sat-December 4 8am-3pm

Handmade arts & crafts » Silent auction  
 Homemade peanut brittle » Jewelry  
 Book room (DVDs, CDs, puzzles)  
 Prizes » Bake sale

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For a personalized proposal, contact:  
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 Diocese of Jefferson City  
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