

Our Lady of SORROWS C H U R C H



ESTABLISHED 1890

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEDICATION OF OUR PARISH CHURCH: 1923-2023

From our Pastor:

Dear Friends and Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows,

With profound joy and heartfelt gratitude, I extend to each one of you my prayerful best wishes for a Holy and Blessed Christmas. On that sacred first Christmas, the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will." The shepherds, drawn by the heavenly light, came to adore the newborn Savior. St. Luke beautifully captured the moment, writing, "And Mary treasured all of these things and reflected on them in her heart." In this season, we are beckoned to pause and treasure the timeless gift of Christmas in our hearts. That gift is none other than Jesus, the true God who embraced true humanity. He came to illuminate God's truth and love, sacrificed for our salvation, and established a Church – a divine family – where His presence endures through both Word and Sacrament. Let us cherish and reflect on the profound gift of Jesus and the unifying faith we share as members of the Catholic Church.

Moreover, let Christmas not merely be a fleeting day on the calendar. Embrace the spirit of Christmas each day. Reflect on how to enhance the appreciation of this gift by incorporating prayer into your daily life, by delving into Sacred Scripture and the teachings of our Church, by fostering a deeper devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass, and by engaging in acts of kindness and compassion for those entrusted to our care and those in need.

If you are reading this and have been distanced from the Church for a while now, know that the Our Lady of Sorrows church family dearly misses you. If you are seeking a parish home, this is truly the place to be. Please consider joining us in the coming weeks as we gather to worship and express our gratitude to God for His abundant goodness in our lives.

As your priest and Pastor, I treasure the gift of each one of you and the unwavering dedication, sacrifices, and hard work that have transformed this parish into a radiant expression of Christ's love. My heartfelt appreciation extends to those who generously serve in various ministries and organizations, as well as those who have contributed to making our Christmas celebrations a vibrant and meaningful occasion. On behalf of Deacon Mike Elsey and our entire staff, I extend warm wishes for a blessed and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family resonate in your lives each day of the New Year.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Leonard Gicheru



Parish Office

2552 Gillham Rd
Kansas City, MO 64108
Next to the church at the top
of the stairs.

Office Hours

9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday-Friday

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Rev. Leonard Gicheru

Pastor
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Brad Geist

Pastoral Associate
Legion of Mary President
bgeist@oloskc.org

John Pileggi

Knights of Columbus
816-547-6574
jgapileggi@gmail.com

Weekly Schedule

Saturday

Confessions 3:30 pm
Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday

Mass 11:00 am

Wednesday and Thursday

Confession 11:30 am
Mass 12 Noon

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 11:00 am

Baptism and Marriage

Call for information or email
bgeist@oloskc.org

Christmas Mass Times

Dec 24- 3pm- Christmas Eve Mass

Dec 24- 5pm- Christmas Eve Mass

Dec 25- 10am- Christmas Day Mass

DECEMBER 24, 2023
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions and Feasts

SATURDAY, December 23—4th Sunday of Advent
 4:00pm The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

SUNDAY, December 24—4th Sunday of Advent
 8:30am † Regina Foster
 3:00pm The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows
 5:00pm The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

MONDAY, December 25— The Nativity of the Lord
 10:00am The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

TUESDAY, December 26— St. Stephen

WEDNESDAY, December 27—St. John, Apostle
 Noon † Frankie Fowler

THURSDAY, December 28— The Holy Innocents
 Noon † Maurice Carey

FRIDAY, December 29— St. Thomas Becket

SATURDAY, December 30—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 4:00pm The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

SUNDAY, December 31—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 11:00am †Fausta Roco Pelayo, †Charlie Mantle Pileggi

12/16 & 17	4:00pm	11:00am
Reader	Anthony Effertz	Jim Carley
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Michael Elsey	Deacon Michael Elsey
Server/Sacristan	John Pileggi	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tshirhart Judy Stevens	Bill Capotosto

Mass Assignments

12/23 & 24	4:00pm	11:00am
Reader	Lynette Wheeler	Brad Geist
Eucharistic Minister	John Pileggi	Rita Witt
Server/Sacristan	John Pileggi	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tshirhart Ed and Judy Stevens	Bill Capotosto

12/24 & 25	3:00pm	5:00pm	10:00am
Reader	Lynette Wheeler	Ann Creedon	Tim Healey
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Michael Elsey	Joe Creedon	Rita Witt
Server/Sacristan	John Pileggi	John Pileggi	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tshirhart		Bill Capotosto

Readings for the Octave of Christmas

Monday: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5, Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

Parish Calendar of Events

- Dec 24— Christmas Eve Mass at 3pm
- Dec 24— Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm
- Dec 25— Christmas Mass at 10am
- Dec 30— Wedding at 2pm
- Dec 31— Sunday Mass at 11am
- Dec 31— Wedding at 4pm
- Jan 1— Mary, Mother of God Mass at 11am
- Jan 3—Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Jan 4—Bible Study (The Gospel of John) at 7pm
- Jan 6— Church Cleaning at 9am
- Jan 13-14— Social Ministry Collection
- Jan 20— Rediscover Your Faith at 10am at St. Monica's
- Jan 20-21— Catholic Home Missions Appeal
- Feb 1— Bible Study (The Gospel of John) at 7pm
- Feb 3— Church Cleaning at 9am
- Feb 8—Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Feb 10-11— Social Ministry Collection
- Feb 14— Ash Wednesday Mass at Noon
- Feb 17-18— Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Appeal
- Feb 18— Catholic Movie Night at 6pm
- Mar 2— Church Cleaning at 9am
- Mar 3— Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Mar 4— Bible Study (The Gospel of John) at 7pm
- Mar 9-10— Catholic Relief Services Collection
- Mar 29— Good Friday Holy Land Collection
- Apr 6— Church Cleaning at 9am

Keep watching for more info & dates to come!

Ministries & Reflections



Saint of the Week— St. Stephen

In the earliest days of the Church, the Apostles appointed 7 men to distribute food and charitable aid to the poorer members of the Christian community. Among these men was St. Stephen, likely a Jew who was raised outside of Jerusalem and converted around the time of Pentecost. He was ordained a deacon by the Apostles. He is described as full of faith and the Holy Spirit and was known to work miracles. Stephen's teachings, signs, and wonders aroused the opposition of a local synagogue likely made up of Jews that had been slaves to pagans. They challenged Stephen's teachings, but Stephen bested them in debate. Furious at this, they brought false testimony of Stephen to the Sanhedrin. Stephen was unperturbed and was described to have "the face of an angel." Stephen gave a long speech that the teachings of Jesus fulfilled the Law of Moses and concluded with accusation of the court. The court became enraged and dragged him out to be stoned. They laid their cloaks at the feet of a man named Saul, who would later become known as St. Paul the Apostle. At the moment of his death, he prayed for the forgiveness of his killers. His death sparked a violent persecution of Christians which ultimately resulted in the conversion of Saul. St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr and patron saint of deacons.

Catholic Movie Night

Our first Catholic Movie Night, hosted by the Legion of Mary, **will be on Sunday, Feb 18th at 6pm.** Our next movie will be **There Be Dragons** (2011), a fictional retelling of the life of St. Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of *Opus Dei: Arising out of the horror of the Spanish Civil War, a candidate for canonization, Josemaría Escrivá, is investigated by a journalist who discovers that his own estranged father had a deep, dark and devastating connection to the saint's life. As he uncovers the truth, he learns more about his origins and learns much about forgiveness and the power of faith. Don't miss such an excellent movie!*

For Your Reflection:

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind. And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim peace to his people on earth as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, *and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ. *-From a Christmas Sermon by Pope St. Leo the Great (5th century)*

Office of Child & Youth Protection—Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Advocate Whitney True-Francis, at 816.392.0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org

Weekly Activities & Events

Last Week's Offering

From December 11 to December 17, 2023

Plate	\$459.00
Envelopes	\$2790.00
Christmas	\$125.00
Religious Retirement	\$616.75
Maintenance	\$100.00
Weddings	\$3990.00

Christmas Decorations

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas immediately after the 8:30am Mass on December 24th. If you are able to help, even for a little while, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council #2457 meets in the parish hall on the first Wednesdays beginning with recitation of the Rosary at 6:30pm. We are also establishing a Women's Auxiliary to help support the Knights charitable works both practically and spiritually. Please contact John Pileggi at (816) 547-6574, or jgapileggi@gmail.com.



Email Prayer Chain

If you would like to request prayers, please email our prayer chain at AnnMarie@oloskc.org. If you would like to join the prayer chain to pray for these intentions, please send an email request to be added to the list.

Healing Mass

Are you in need of prayer for physical healing - chronic conditions, broken bones, pain, cancer? Encounter School of Ministry is hosting a healing service from 7-10pm on January 12, 2024 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Overland Park, KS. We encourage anyone in need of physical healing to come as well as anyone wanting to encounter God's presence. No cost or registration is required.

Prayers Requested

Pray for Mary Weatherford, Grace Diaz, Sarah Eck, Jim Healy, Mary Healy, Rose Ann Jett, Jane Carey, Jerry Gumminger, Ken Blundell, Allan Schaff, Grace Weatherford, Joe Creedon, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Nolan Davidson

A Note From The Editor

Announcements and changes for the bulletin must be submitted to the parish office in writing no later than Thursday by Noon. Please indicate which dates you would like the notice to run. Please mail the information to the office or fax it to 816.421.6037 or email Brad at the office at bgeist@oloskc.org.

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Please visit our website at oloskc.org. Once there Visit our Facebook page by clicking where indicated. There is also a link to our YouTube page. Like our Facebook Page and Subscribe to our YouTube Channel.



You may also make donations through our website.

Or use our QR Code for PayPal!

Social Outreach Ministry

The parish Social Outreach ministry will be taking monthly donations of perishable and non-perishable food, toiletries, hygiene products, diapers, and laundry items for donation to the food pantry at St. Monica's. **Our monthly collection of these items will take place on January 13-14**, and takes place on the second weekend of each month. You can leave your items in the back of the church. If you would like to help with the social outreach ministry, please contact Bill Capotosto at bcapotosto@gmail.com.

Parish Bible Study

The next Bible study session is on **January 4th at 7pm** and we meet monthly on the first Thursday of every month. We are studying the Gospel of John, known as the Spiritual Gospel due to its emphasis on Christ's divinity. Our next session will explore Jesus' healing of the man born blind. All are welcome! There is no need to have come to prior meetings to come to this one. Please email Brad at bgeist@oloskc.org for updates and details.



Rediscover Your Faith

Our next meeting will be on **Jan 20 at 10am** at St. Monica's, our sister parish. During each meeting we focus in on a special topic to explore. Our next topic will be announced in the next couple of weeks. Please set aside time in your calendar for a deeper dive into your faith!



The Legion of Mary

Our Lady of Kibeho Praesidium of the Legion of Mary meets every **Monday at 6:00pm in the parish hall**. The Legion of Mary is a Marian group that seeks to imitate Mary in serving Jesus in those they meet by advancing the Gospel. This group collaborates with parishioners of St. Monica's, our sister parish. Our praesidium, does homebound visits of parishioners, takes communion to the sick, leads ministries, and many other vital ministries in our parish.

