

Our Lady of SORROWS C H U R C H



ESTABLISHED 1890

IN MARY'S TEARS AND SORROWS WE FIND GRACE

From Our Pastor:

Merry Christmas! God Is With Us...And Yes, He Meant Us!

Dear Parish Family,

Merry Christmas! This week, heaven does something extraordinary—something so bold, so beautiful, and yes, so unexpected that even the angels had to rehearse their lines: God moves into the neighborhood. Not metaphorically, not symbolically, but literally. The Word becomes flesh and decides to dwell among us. If that doesn't amaze you, imagine God showing up at your door with no warning, no reservation, and no consent form to sign. That's Christmas. But when God arrived, He didn't choose the most "Instagram-worthy" place. No palace, no sprawling estate, no five-star accommodations. He chose a manger. I know some of us complain when the hotel pillows are too thin; imagine the Son of God sleeping in a feeding trough. And yet, that humility is the whole point. God does not wait for perfection to reveal Himself. He enters our lives exactly as they are—messy, noisy, sometimes out of order—kind of like most of our houses on Christmas morning.



This beautiful feast invites us to ponder a profound truth: **If God can choose a manger, then He can choose your heart too.** He comes to us in simplicity so we cannot say, "I'm not ready, Lord," or "Come back when I've cleaned up my life." God knows our hearts, our struggles, our uncertainties, and still says, "Here I am. I have come for you." Christmas is also a reminder that God's love is not theoretical—it is incarnational. It shows up. It takes on flesh. It steps into the cold night for our sake. Christ is the love of God wrapped not in fancy paper but in human vulnerability.

And as we receive this love, we are invited to share it. Christmas challenges us to become instruments of God's presence—

• When we forgive someone even though they absolutely don't deserve it (and they know it!),

• When we call a family member who

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Christmas Schedule

Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) (Jan 1)— at 10am

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

Phone (816) 421-2112

Fax (816) 421-6037

Email oloskc@oloskc.org

Rev. Leonard Gicheru

Pastor

frleonard@oloskc.org

Brad Geist

Pastoral Associate

Legion of Mary President

bgeist@oloskc.org

John Pileggi

Knights of Columbus

816-547-6574

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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

DECEMBER 28, 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Feasts and Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, December 27— The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

4:00pm † Frankie Fowler

SUNDAY, December 28— The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

11:00am The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

MONDAY, December 29— St. Thomas Becket

TUESDAY, December 30—6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity

WEDNESDAY, December 31— St. Sylvester I

Noon † Charlsie Mantle Pileggi

THURSDAY, January 1— Mary, the Mother of God

10am The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

FRIDAY, January 2— Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

SATURDAY, January 3— The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00pm † Russ Daly

SUNDAY, January 4— The Epiphany of the Lord

11:00am The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

Please Note: MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are available for the posted times in the bulletin, on our church sign, and on our website. We do have days with openings for intentions coming up. Call or email the office at (816) 421-2112 or bgeist@oloskc.org if you would like to have a Mass said for yourself or a loved one, living or deceased.

Liturgical Assignments

12/27 & 28	4:00pm	11:00am
Reader	Nancy Lowdon	Ann Creedon
Eucharistic Minister	Lynette Wheeler	Joe Creedon
Server/Sacristan	John Pileggi	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tschirhart	Bill Capotosto

Mary, Mother of God Jan 1	10:00am
Reader	Ann Creedon
Eucharistic Minister	Joe Creedon
Server/Sacristan	John Pileggi
Usher	Bill Capotosto

1/3 & 4	4:00pm	11:00am
Reader	John Pileggi	Maureen Kramanek
Eucharistic Minister	Nancy Lowdon	Rita Witt
Server/Sacristan	John Pileggi	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tschirhart	Bill Capotosto

Parish Calendar of Events

- Dec 29— Legion of Mary at 4pm (Every Monday)
- Jan 1— Mary Mother of God at 10am
- Jan 3— Christmas Party after 4pm Mass
- Jan 7— Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Jan 8— Bible Study (Genesis) at 7pm
- Jan 10— Wedding at 1:30pm
- Jan 10-11— Food Pantry Collection after Mass
- Jan 20— Water Garden Society at 5:30pm
- Jan 31— Wedding at 1:30pm
- Feb 4— Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Feb 5— Bible Study (Genesis) at 7pm
- Feb 7— Church Cleaning at 9am
- Feb 17— Water Garden Society at 5:30pm
- Feb 14-15— Food Pantry Collection after Mass
- Feb 18— Ash Wednesday at Noon.
- Feb 19— Wedding at 5pm
- Mar 4—Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Mar 5— Bible Study (Genesis) at 7pm
- Mar 7— Church Cleaning at 9am
- Mar 14-15— Food Pantry Collection after Mass
- Mar 14— Wedding at 6pm
- Mar 21— Wedding at 1:30pm
- Mar 29— Palm Sunday
- Apr 3— Holy Land Collection
- Apr 4—Church Cleaning and decoration at 9am
- Apr 5— Easter Sunday
- Apr 9— Bible Study (Genesis) at 7pm
- Apr 11-12—Food Pantry Collection after Mass

Keep watching for more info & dates to come!

Ministries & Reflections



Saint of the Week— St. Thomas Becket

Thomas Becket was born around 1119 in London. Born to a moderately wealthy family, his career was a stormy one. While archdeacon of Canterbury, he was made chancellor of England at the age of 36 by his friend King Henry II. When Henry felt it advantageous to make his chancellor the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas gave him fair warning: he might not accept all of Henry's intrusions into Church affairs. Nevertheless, in 1162 he was made archbishop, resigned his chancellorship, and reformed his whole way of life, becoming an ascetic.

Troubles began to arise. Henry insisted upon usurping Church rights. At one time, supposing some conciliatory action possible, Thomas came close to compromise. He momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a Church court and prevented them from making direct appeal to Rome. But Thomas rejected the Constitutions, fled to France for safety, and remained in exile for seven years.

When he returned to England he suspected it would mean certain death. Because Thomas refused to remit censures he had placed upon bishops favored by the king, Henry cried out in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!" Four knights, taking his words as his wish, slew Thomas in the Canterbury cathedral.

2026 Calendars

Catholic Calendars for 2026 are available in the back of the Church free of charge.

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hasn't called us back since 2014,

- When we offer kindness to someone who is struggling silently,
When we give our time, not just our gifts.
One of the most important lessons of Christmas is this: The world is saved not by extraordinary people, but by ordinary people allowing Christ to shine through them. Look at the shepherds—simple, tired workers who became the first evangelists. Look at Mary and Joseph—two humble souls who said "yes," even while afraid. God still works this way. The miracle of Bethlehem continues every time we let God be born again through our actions, our compassion, and our courage.

As we gather with family and friends these days, may we not lose sight of the real celebration. Yes, enjoy the gifts. Yes, enjoy the food. Yes, enjoy that relative who always asks you why you're still single or when you'll give them grandchildren. But above all, enjoy the presence of the One who came to make all things new. From my heart to yours: May this Christmas fill you with peace, awaken hope, strengthen faith, and remind you that God is closer than your breath. Christ our Savior is born—may His light shine brightly in you now and in the year to come.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Leonard Gicheru

Readings for the Octave of Christmas

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5-6; Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3-6; Jn 1:29-34
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Office of Child & Youth Protection—Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting 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.

If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, report the suspected abuse to the Diocesan Ombudsman, ombudsman@ombudsmankcsj.org 816-213-6024 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, at 816-714-2357 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Weekly Activities & Events

Last Week's Offering

From Dec 15, 2025 to Dec 21, 2025

Plate	\$521.00
Envelopes	\$2466.00
Christmas	\$420.00
Immaculate Conception	\$115.00
Candles	\$76.50
Poor Box	\$67.00
Weddings	\$2990.00
Maintenance	\$5.00
Lighthouse	\$43.00
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
Online	\$232.40

Christmas Party

Our Parish's annual Christmas Party will take place on **Saturday January 3rd after the 4pm Mass**. There will be carols, good food, and a white elephant gift exchange. Sign ups are on the table in the back of the Church. Those wishing to participate in the white elephant exchange should bring a gift valued at \$20. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Legion of Mary

Under the patronage and care of the Mother of God, the Legion of Mary is formed to serve both the spiritual growth of her members and in commitment of work and service to the Church.

The Our Lady of Kibeho Praesidium meets every **Monday at 4:00pm in the parish hall except for the last Monday of the month, when we meet at St.**

Monica's. This group collaborates with parishioners of St. Monica's, our sister parish.



Prayers Requested

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

A Note From The Editor

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

Visit our Website & Facebook Page

Please visit our website at oloskc.org. Once there Visit our Facebook page by clicking where indicated. Please be sure to like our Facebook Page for updates!



You can make donations through our website or scanning the QR code, which will take you directly to Vanco.

You can also **text to give** by texting the amount you would like to give to **844-780-2300**. You will receive a registration link where you can give your payment information and then confirm.

The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus will be meeting at 6:30pm on Wednesday, **January 7th** in the parish hall. If you have an interest in joining the Knights, we strongly encourage you to attend this meeting.



Parish Bible Study

The next Bible study session is on Thursday, **January 8th at 7pm** and we normally meet monthly on the first Thursday of every month.

We will study the Book of Genesis, the first and one of the most important books of the Bible. Please email Brad at bgeist@oloskc.org for updates and details.



Pray for our Catechumens

Please pray for Noah and Drew, who have begun their preparation to enter the Church next Easter.

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.

Social Outreach Ministry

The parish Social Outreach ministry will be taking monthly donations of perishable and non-perishable food, toiletries, unopened 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 10th and 11th** 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.