

# Our Lady of SORROWS CHURCH



ESTABLISHED 1890

IN MARY'S TEARS AND SORROWS WE FIND GRACE

## From our Pastor:

### Advent Reflection: Prepare the Way of the Lord

"Prepare the way of the Lord" is a common phrase during the Advent season. It is an invitation to get ready to welcome the Lord. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist tells us how to do this. As the forerunner of Jesus Christ, the Baptist came to make known the Messiah, who was already present but unrecognized by the people. Jesus went unnoticed because the Jews expected a Messiah who would descend from heaven with divine power, destroy Israel's enemies, and establish His kingdom. However, Jesus, born of a woman, appeared too ordinary to be acknowledged as the Messiah. In response, John appeared in the wilderness, issuing a bold wake-up call. With his dynamic presence, he proclaimed near the River Jordan the urgent need for repentance to experience salvation. He declared, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt 3:2), and "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Luke 3:4). Through the baptism of repentance, John opened the eyes of the people, helping them recognize the Lord, who had come to save and offer them hope.

John's mission was not simply about preparing people for the Messiah's arrival, as He was already present among them. Instead, it was about helping them see and acknowledge the Lord in their midst. John's call reminds us that the barriers preventing us from fully recognizing and receiving Jesus are the roadblocks in our lives. These obstacles fall into three categories:

**Valleys to Be Filled:** John refers to sins that leave hollows in our lives—broken relationships, lies, gossip, and prayerlessness. These sins create emptiness and separation from God. While they may not stop us from going to church, they eat away at our spiritual vitality, leaving us weak and disconnected. Such sins can sometimes be disguised by outward acts of religiosity but block God's grace from reaching us (Isaiah 59:1-3).

**Mountains and Hills to Be Made Low.** Pride, arrogance, anger, and lack of forgiveness create steep barriers to our relationship with God and others. These sins, akin to what Jesus  
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## 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  
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 Schedule

Christmas Eve: 3pm and 5pm

Christmas Day: 10am

New Years Day: 10am

DECEMBER 8, 2024  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Feasts and Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY, December 7— The Second Sunday of Advent**  
4:00pm † Russ Daly

**SUNDAY, December 8— The Second Sunday of Advent**  
11:00am The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows

**MONDAY, December 9— The Immaculate Conception of the BVM**

Noon

**TUESDAY, December 10— Our Lady of Loreto**

**WEDNESDAY, December 11—St. Damasus I**

Noon Jennifer Rose Family & Friends (Living and Deceased)

**THURSDAY, December 12— Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Noon †Theresia Claire Pileggi

**FRIDAY, December 13— St. Lucy**

**SATURDAY, December 14— The Third Sunday of Advent**  
4:00pm † Russ Daly

**SUNDAY, December 15— The Third Sunday of Advent**  
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

12/7 & 12/8	4:00pm	11:00am
Reader	Lynette Wheeler	Bill Capotosto
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Michael Elsey	Rita Witt
Server/Sacristan	James Hardy	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tschirhart	Bill Capotosto

12/14 & 15	4:00pm	11:00am
Reader	James Hardy	Maureen Kramanak
Eucharistic Minister	Nancy Lowdon	Rita Witt
Server/Sacristan	James Hardy	George Bryde
Usher	Ted Tschirhart	Bill Capotosto

## Readings for the 2nd Week of Advent

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13; Mt 11:11-15  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9-13  
 Sunday: Zep 3:14-18; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

# Parish Calendar of Events

- Dec 8— Religious Retirement Collection
- Dec 9— Immaculate Conception Mass at Noon
- Dec 2— Legion of Mary at 6pm (Every Monday)
- Dec 14-15— Social Ministry Collection
- Dec 17—Water Garden Society at 5:30pm
- Dec 21— Wedding at 1:30pm
- Dec 24— Christmas Eve Masses at 3pm and 5pm
- Dec 25— Christmas Day Mass at 10am
- Dec 28— Wedding 1:30pm
- Jan 1— Mary, Mother of God (To Be Announced)
- Jan 1— Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Jan 4— Parish Christmas Party after 4pm Mass
- Jan 9— Bible Study (The Gospel of John) at 7pm
- Jan 11-12— Social Ministry Collection
- Jan 19—Catholic Home Missions Appeal
- Jan 21—Water Garden Society at 5:30pm
- Feb 5— Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Feb 6— Bible Study (The Gospel of John) at 7pm
- Feb 8-9— Social Ministry Collection
- Feb 18— Water Garden Society at 5:30pm
- Mar 5— Ash Wednesday at Noon
- Mar 5— Knights of Columbus at 6:30pm
- Mar 6— Bible Study at 7pm
- Mar 9— Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Appeal
- March 30— Catholic Relief Service Collection
- Apr 18— Good Friday Holy Land Collection
- May 18— Tomorrow's Priests: Vocation Fund

Keep watching for more info & dates to come!

# Ministries & Reflections



## Saints of the Week— Pope St. Damasus I

The son of a Roman priest and possibly of Spanish extraction, Damasus started as a deacon in his father's church, and served as a priest in what later became the basilica of San Lorenzo in Rome. He served Pope Liberius (352-366) and followed him into exile. When Liberius died, Damasus was elected bishop of Rome; but a minority elected and consecrated another deacon, Ursinus, as pope. The controversy between Damasus and the antipope resulted in violent battles in two basilicas, scandalizing the bishops of Italy. At the synod that Damasus called on the occasion of his birthday, he asked them to approve his actions. The bishops' reply was curt: "We assembled for a birthday, not to condemn a man unheard." Supporters of the antipope even managed to get Damasus accused of a grave crime as late as A.D. 378. He had to clear himself before both a civil court and a Church synod. As pope, his lifestyle was simple in contrast to other ecclesiastics of Rome, and he was fierce in his denunciation of Arianism and other heresies. During his pontificate, Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman state, and Latin became the principal liturgical language as part of the pope's reforms. His encouragement of Saint Jerome's biblical studies led to the Vulgate, the Latin translation of Scripture which 12 centuries later the Council of Trent declared to be "authentic in public readings, disputations, preaching."

## Religious Retirement Collection

There will be a second collection after Mass for the Religious Retirement fund, which helps to cover the cost of medical care and other needs of retired religious who have dedicated their lives to the Church, often working for free. Please be as generous as you are able.

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called the "yeast of the Pharisees" (Matt 16:6), prevent true repentance and block God's grace. John calls us to examine our lives, tame selfish ambitions, and restore harmony through repentance.

## Winding Roads Made Straight and Rough Ways Smoothed.

These refer to sins that distort the Christian personality, such as double standards, addictions, and unfaithfulness. These actions tarnish our dignity and create a gap between faith and practice. Despite full churches, crowded confessionals, and busy altars, these sins remain a significant challenge. John calls us to align our lives with the Gospel through sincere conversion.

The message remains the same: Jesus is present among us, but sin blocks our ability to experience His salvation. The Church, like John the Baptist, calls us to recollection and reconciliation. Confession is essential, but without a repentant heart, it is incomplete. Advent preparation demands true conversion.

## Prayer of the Week

### The Angelus

**V/.** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

**R/.** And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

**V/.** Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

**R/.** Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

**V/.** And the Word was made flesh,

**R/.** And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

**V/.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

**R/.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Let us pray.** Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Immaculate Conception

The feast of the Immaculate Conception has been moved to Monday, December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation.  
**Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows will be at Noon.**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:true.francis@diocesekcsj.org)



# Weekly Activities & Events

## Last Week's Offering

From November 25 to December 1, 2024

Plate	\$630.50
Envelopes	\$1156.00
Candles	\$74.33
Poor Box	\$65.00
Maintenance	\$425.00
Christmas Flowers	\$195.00

## Annual Catholic Appeal

The 2024-2025 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) supports over 30 ministries and the people they serve to provide spiritual, educational, and social needs in our Diocese. This is an opportunity to commit our support to diocesan programs and ministries that no one parish could provide on its own. You will receive an invitation from Bishop Johnston inviting you to participate. Our goal is 100% participation. No gift is too small. Please join the effort.

## The Knights of Columbus

Are you looking to make a difference in your community, grow in faith, and build lasting friendships? The Knights of Columbus are calling you! The Knights of Columbus:



**\*\*Serves Others\*\*:** Participation in charitable works that support those in need.

**\*\*Strengthen Faith\*\*:** Deepening spiritual life through prayer, education, and service.

**\*\*Enjoy Brotherhood\*\*:** Connection with like-minded men who share Catholic values with commitment to faith, family, and community.

Please contact Arthur Kovach at (816) 574-0900

## Email Prayer Chain

If you would like to request prayers, please email our prayer chain at [AnnMarie@oloskc.org](mailto: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.

## 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, Jay Keen

## 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 email Brad at the office at [bgeist@oloskc.org](mailto:bgeist@oloskc.org).

## Visit our Website & Facebook Page

Please visit our website at [oloskc.org](http://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 Legion of Mary

Our Lady of Kibeho Praesidium of the Legion of Mary meets every **Monday at 6:00pm in the parish hall except for the last Monday of the month, when we meet at St.**

**Monica's.** The Legion of Mary is a Marian group that seeks to bring Jesus and Mary to the world through acts of evangelization and spiritual outreach. 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.



## Christmas Party

Our Parish will celebrate its annual Christmas Party on January 4th after the 4pm Mass. This is a wonderful time to enjoy one another's company in festive cheer. More details to come. Please plan on attending this wonderful celebration!

## Parish Bible Study

The next Bible study session is on Thursday, **January 9th at 7pm** and we normally 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 walk through Jesus' passion, beginning with his arrest and trials. You do not want to miss this session! Please email Brad at [bgeist@oloskc.org](mailto:bgeist@oloskc.org) for updates and details.



## 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 today, December 14 and 15th**, 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](mailto:bcapotosto@gmail.com).