

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Parish

411 Pioneer Seneca KS 66538

Rev. Arul Carasala, Pastor

www.saintspeterandpaul-seneca.com

Email: sppchurch@carsoncomm.com

Parish Office: 785-336-2128 Fax: 785-336-2307 Rectory: 785-336-2208

Email: sppsecretary@gmail.com

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School 409 Elk Seneca KS 66538

Mr. Todd Leonard, Principal - Email: tleonard@spps.school.com

Office: 785-336-2727 Fax: 785-336-3817

Director of Religious Education Mrs. Shannon Holthaus

Email: sppchurchccd@gmail.com 785-294-1328

Baptisms: By appointment

Reconciliation: Saturday 2:30-3:30 PM or by appointment

Weddings: Six months advance notice

Mass Schedule:

Weekday Mass: Tues. 6:00 PM, Wed. & Fri.: 8:00 AM, Thurs. 7:00 AM

Saturday: 7:30 AM; Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

December 6th, 2015



On the feast of Immaculate Conception

(Tuesday, Dec. 8th), we begin the Year of

Mercy for the entire Catholic Church. Our

parish will have an inaugural Mass that day at

8:00 AM to begin this year. It is a year-long

process of internal transformation for healing, forgiving

and asking for forgiveness. We are encouraged to

practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

These are printed on a postcard and inserted in this

week's bulletin. Post these in a visible place in your

home. We will journey together this year in our personal

spiritual journey to sail with Jesus and, at the end, we

want to say "Father forgive them for they do not know

what they are doing". These words will echo in us for

any healing we need personally or we need to give to

others. Let us make every effort to build a close

relationship with God through this year. I pray for you

and all your families. God Bless You, Fr. Arul

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary, this Tuesday, is a Holy Day of

Obligation. Masses are as follows:

Tues Dec 8th at 8:00 AM Inaugural Mass for Year of

Mercy. Everyone please come.

Tues Dec 8th at 6:00 PM Evening Mass for Holy Day



Prepare the way for the Christ Child by

attending the 8 AM Children's Mass on Fridays

in Advent. After Mass the school children and

all those present form a Living Advent Wreath around

the Church to light the advent candle, pray, and sing.

Poinsettia: Anyone wishing to purchase a Poinsettia for Christmas, please call Seneca Florist at 336-6186.

2nd Sunday of Advent



The Sounds of Christmas" Concert is today

(Sunday), Dec 6th at 2:00 PM at Sts. Peter &

Paul Church There will be individual

performances plus the Adult choir, Youth choir, High School choir, and the K of C choir. Our parish has some amazing talent so come and enjoy the best of the "Sounds of Christmas".

Note to Adult Choir: Choir practice every Tuesday at 7:00 PM until Christmas.

Advent Penance Services

Sunday, December 6th (today!)

3:00 PM - Corning

7:00 PM - Kelly and Wetmore

Sunday, December 13th

3:00 PM - Marysville and Baileyville

7:00 PM - Frankfort and Axtell

Sunday, December 20th

3:00 PM - Seneca

7:00 PM - Sabetha and St. Benedict



Sts Peter and Paul School is accepting

monetary donations for an adopted family. If

you would like to donate money toward gifts for this family, please contact the parish office (336-2128) or school office (336-2727). We are also providing

Christmas tote baskets for other area families. If

you would like to donate any of the following items: new

blankets, bed pillows, bath towels, kitchen towels, wash

cloths and dish cloths, please bring them to the parish

or school offices. Help the needy to have a good

Christmas.



Masses for Dec 7 to Dec 13 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday	Dec 7 – St Ambrose 7:00 AM – Communion Service
Tuesday	Dec 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:00 AM – Inaugural Mass for Year of Mercy – L/D Bill & Helen Hermes Family 11:00 AM – Life Care – Fr Ed 6:00 PM – Melvin H Haverkamp & Carol Hood
Wednesday	Dec 9 – St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin 8:00 AM – John J Niehues
Thursday	Dec 10 – 2nd Thursday of Advent 7:00 AM – L/D Leander & Connie Engelken Family
Friday	Dec 11 – St Damasus I 8:00 AM – L/D Edward & Elaine Frehe Family 11:15 AM - Country Place – Gilbert Broxterman
Saturday	Dec 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe 7:30 AM – L/D George & Elizabeth Olberding Family 4:00 PM – Galen Lackey (Anniv)
Sunday	Dec 13 – Third Sunday of Advent 7:00 AM - L/D Norman & Darlene Rethman Family 9:00 AM – Erma Osterhaus (Anniv) 11:00 AM – For our Parish



Weekday Servers Tues 6 PM, Thurs 7 AM, Sat 7:30 AM - Emma Elder & Rachel Gudenkauf
Tues 8 AM, Wed 8 AM & Fri 8 AM – SPPS Students

Sat 4:00 PM

Damon Koch
Andrew Henry
McKynsey Henry
Shayla Hammes

Sun 7:00 AM

Sarah Hemman
Ben Feldkamp
Samantha Nordhus
Braden Bramhall

9:00 AM

High School
CCD Junior
Class

11AM

Chris Dalinghaus
Kinsey Scott
Cole Hermes
Heather Suther

Assistants at The Eucharist for Saturday Dec 12th & Dec 13th

	<u>Lector/*Commentator</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Cup</u>	<u>Cantor</u>	<u>Organist</u>
<u>4:00 PM</u>	Jean Wassenberg *Gary Niehues	Mary Sack Donna Miller	Bob Niehues Kirby Schmelzle	Katie Nordhus	Terry Nordhus
<u>7:00 AM</u>	Myra Runnebaum *Joan Henry	Dorothy Hammes Rick Henry	Adam Niehues Jim Runnebaum		
<u>9:00 AM</u>		High School Junior Class		Youth Choir	Owen Zinke
<u>11:00 AM</u>	Paula Rottinghaus *Richard Gress	Jerry Rottinghaus Mike Stallbaumer	Lynda Cross Bryant Stallbaumer	Eileen Love	Jana Kramer

ROSARY LEADERS:

4:00 PM Eunice Winkler

9:00 AM Alan Lierz



The SPPS PTO is hosting its 3^d Annual Christmas Wish List Event for the teachers and school. If you would like to donate to this event, please email Jill Hammes at jjhammes@hotmail.com or call 785-294-1360. There is an insert in this week's Bulletin, or you may find the list on the church website at www.saintspeterandpaul-seneca.com. Thank you for supporting this project.



The 19th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Vigil for Compassionate Friends will be held on Sunday, Dec 13th. Everyone is invited to light a candle in their home from 7-8 PM in memory of all children who have died, but are not forgotten! The Seneca Chapter of Compassionate Friends is planning their own Candle Lighting that evening at the Cornerstone Coffee Haus, 431 Main St. Anyone who has lost a child is welcome to join them. If planning to attend or for more information, call 785-336-3691.



Decorate the Memory Tree - The SPPS PTO will again sponsor the Memory Tree in our Church this Christmas Season. Remember your deceased loved ones and place their heart on the Memory Tree by enclosing a list of names and a free will donation in a separate envelope marked Memory Tree. Place in the Sunday offering. All money donated will be given to the school to purchase necessary items. Call Michelle Thomas at 336-0228 with any questions.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:

Sun Dec 6 - Parish Christmas Concert 2:00 PM in Church
Tues Dec 8 - Holy Day - Feast of Immaculate Conception
Fri Dec 11 - Mission Center Meeting Narthex Basement
Wed Dec 16 - "Los Posadas Navidenas" begins

SCHOOL NEWS:

Mon Dec 7 - USD 115 - No bus service.
Wed Dec 9 - Christmas Program - 7:00 PM
Dress Rehearsal @ 12:45 PM same day.
Thu Dec 10 - BB vs Centralia @ Home. Begins 4 PM.
Mon Dec 14 - BB vs Doniphan West @ Home. Begins 4 PM

CCD NEWS:

Wed. Dec 9th No Class due to SPPS Christmas Program
Wed. Dec 16 "Los Posadas" in Church, then Christmas Party afterward!!

CONTRIBUTIONS for week of 11-23-15 to 11-29-15.
Weekly Budget is \$15,000.

Church	Plate	\$	2,327.00
	Envelope	\$	3,337.00
School	School support	\$	590.00
Thanksgiving		\$	1,035.00
Immac. Concep		\$	10.00
TOTAL	Thank You!!	\$	7,299.00



Come and Celebrate "Posadas Navidenas"

The Cobian-Rivera family of our parish wants you to help celebrate a 500+ year old Mexican tradition with prayer, Christmas carols, the rosary and more. The tradition of *Las Posadas* starts on Dec 16 and goes to Christmas eve. *Las Posadas* literally means "the inns". Joseph & Mary and their company (adults and children in Nativity costumes) and parish members will travel each night to volunteer houses (inns) to find lodging for the birth of Jesus. The procession goes from "inn" to "inn" each night looking for a place to stay, singing songs and praying the rosary. The last night we will have a party in the Church basement, including a pinata, food and more. An insert in next week's Bulletin will explain the schedule of houses and where we begin.



Please keep in your prayers these couples to be married: Tyler Glatczak & Chelsea Henry (1-2), Andrew Dunsing & Emily Stallbaumer (1-9).

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank all who supported their Pancake Breakfast last Sunday. All is greatly appreciated!

Mission Payments have been sent to Catholic Univ. of America - \$662.00, and to World Mission Coop - \$1,945.00. Thank you for your generosity.



Give a meaningful gift this season: Donate Blood.

Seneca Community Blood Drive, Friday, Dec 18th from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Call 336-3360.

See Pope Francis meeting Sr. Michael Marie Rottinghaus in Africal Go to: You-tube Pope Francis meeting clergy in Kenya.

AREA EVENTS:

****St. James, Wetmore, Consignment Auction** today, Dec 6th. Taking consignments to time of sale.
****25th Annual Festival of Lights Christmas Luminaries** tonight, Dec. 6th. A 10 block Christmas Experience at Horton 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Meet at Jim's Thriftway, Hwy 20 and 2nd Ave.
****NVCH Bake Sale**, Sat Dec 12 from 8 AM to 12 PM at Seneca Variety. Proceeds benefit the 2017 band trip to the Alamo.
****Living in Love Weekend** on Sat Jan 16 and Sun Jan 17 at Sacred Heart Parish, Sabetha. If you haven't made this weekend, go and be in for a treat. Register at www.archkck.org/LivingInLove.
****Quo Vadis retreat for men 18-35 yrs old.** At Savior Pastoral Center on Saturday, January 19th 4:30 PM to Monday Dec. 21, 11AM. For more information or to register, go to Kckvocations.com or email at vocation@archkck.org. Go & encourage your friends also.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Second
Sunday

Prepare the Way for the Lord

Luke 3:1-6

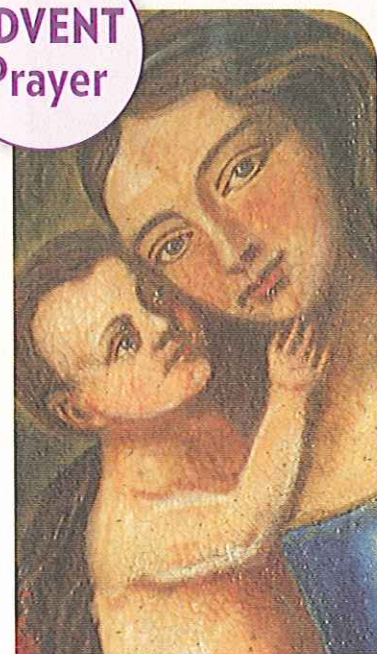
Would you join John the Baptist in going around the country to speak about repentance? It's challenging to imagine — asking people to consider the wrong that they've done, express remorse, and pledge to do differently.

Yet the message is critical for our salvation. In this Gospel reading, John travels and preaches just before Jesus begins his ministry, preparing the way for the Son of Man to challenge the commonly held ideas of right and wrong.

During Advent, we're preparing not only for the birth of Jesus at Christmas but also for the Second Coming of Christ. It's our calling to do so in our own hearts, in our families, in our communities, and in our world.

How will you do so? Perhaps your call is not to travel and preach. Perhaps your means of preparing the way is to give of time or money, do something active, meditate and pray at daily Mass, nurture faith in your children or in the children of a local homeless shelter, change global policy, or develop a relationship with one person whose heart is in need of repair.

ADVENT
Prayer



Be with us,
Lord, as we
continue in this
waiting season
of Advent.

*We thank you for the
many blessings in our
lives,
and with anticipation,
preparation, and hope,
we look forward to the
arrival of your son, Jesus,
the light of the world.
Amen.*



INSPIRATION FOR THE SEASON



Saint Paul

The second reading this weekend is from Philippians, written to Christians in the city of Philippi by Saint Paul while he was under house arrest for preaching the Gospel.

If you don't know much about Saint Paul, this is one person you'll definitely want to get to know. He began as a persecutor of Christians, and quite a good one at that. But in his famous conversion — he was struck blind while traveling to Damascus — he became one of Christianity's most fervent proponents.

Saint Paul was a talented writer, penning missive after missive to the early churches to encourage and inspire Christians while he traveled the countryside or spent time in prison. His letters make up a large portion of the New Testament and serve to inspire us today with not only his words, but also his own ability to repent and become one of God's shining lights in the world.



Daily LIVING

"Waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting."

— Henri Nouwen

FAMILY FOCUS

A Manger Lined with Love

Make your efforts to prepare the way of the Lord tangible for everyone in your family. Set up a Nativity scene in a prominent spot in your home. Each day, as part of dinner or your Advent wreath

meditation, talk together about ways that you each did God's work in the world that day. Those actions might be grand,



community-wide gestures, or they might be small acts of exceptional kindness, or even acts of internal prayer. For each way in which you've prepared for Christ's coming, ask the children to add a piece of straw to the manger. In this way,

you're creating a soft bed for the arrival of Baby Jesus as well as a strong faith that brings Jesus' ministry to the world.

Catechism CONNECTION

The central focus of the season is the coming of the Lord. Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses a two-fold meaning: "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" (524).

WAIT, WATCH and Wander

Watch for signs of Jesus all around you each day. Watch for someone to hold a door for the next person, shovel a neighbor's walk, or help carry something heavy. Watch for opportunities to say hello to someone who looks lonely, cheer up a crying child, or clean up a mess that you didn't make. Offer these moments up to Jesus in silent prayer. Watch for the first star of the evening one night, then read from the Bible the story of the star announcing Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20.

FOR REFLECTION:

What do I need to let go of this Advent season?

Our
Northern
Service
Area



Offices:
Atchison and Leavenworth

Resource Bus Stops:
Alma, Hiawatha, Holton,
Marysville, Oskaloosa, Seneca,
St. Mary's, Troy and Wamego



Our Friendly Visitors
volunteers provided over
1,300 hours of service to
senior citizens.



Nearly 1,000 persons
received food
assistance in Atchison.



Food assistance to persons
in Leavenworth increased
by 60% and housing
requests by 42%.



In an effort to restore
dignity and assist
persons with special
dietary needs, our food
pantries are now operating as a
client-choice model. This allows
individuals and families to
choose the food they receive.

FOR I WAS
HUNGRY AND YOU
GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS
THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE
ME DRINK, I WAS A
STRANGER AND YOU
WELCOMED ME, I
WAS NAKED AND YOU
CLOTHED ME ...

Matthew 25:35-36

Christmas, 2015

catholic charities

OF NORTHEAST KANSAS



Meet Brian. Brian is homeless.

When the school bell rings at the end of the day, the students head home. Everyone, that is, except for 13-year-old Brian. Brian doesn't have a home to go to. Together with his mom, dad and three siblings, Brian is homeless; a family of six living in their van.

Brian's father, an Army veteran, needs surgery and is temporarily unemployed. Brian's mother provides care for the four children—a task requiring more effort because she is blind. Brian and his brother and sisters attend school. They work hard to make good grades despite the constant distraction of a poor night's sleep in the family van. While some kids wish for a smartphone or an Xbox, Brian's only wish is a place to call home.

That's when Brian's family walked into our Emergency Assistance Center. A Catholic Charities case manager worked diligently to find suitable housing for Brian and his family. Soon, the family was able to get back on their feet.

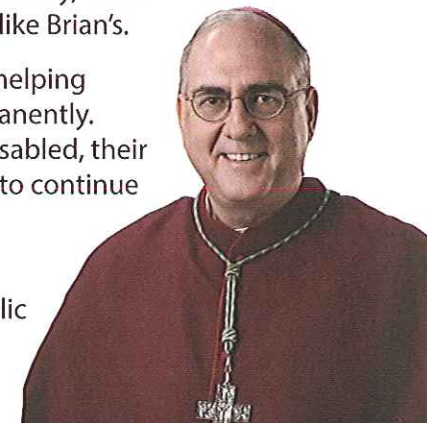
Now, when the school bell rings, Brian goes home.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We honor Jesus when we serve those in need. On Christmas Day, I invite you to make a gift to Catholic Charities to support families like Brian's.

Catholic Charities offers meaningful programs focused on helping individuals and families find a path out of poverty — permanently. Whether they serve children, the elderly, refugees or the disabled, their open doors offer hope. Your generous gift will allow them to continue to meet the needs in our communities and move toward long-term change.

In this Year of Mercy, on behalf of all those served by Catholic Charities, thank you, and may God bless you. Merry Christmas!



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, D.D.
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

9720 West 87th Street | Overland Park, Kansas 66212
913.433.2100 | catholiccharitiesks.org



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Sunday Evening Menu 5-9pm

Tuesday-Saturday Evening

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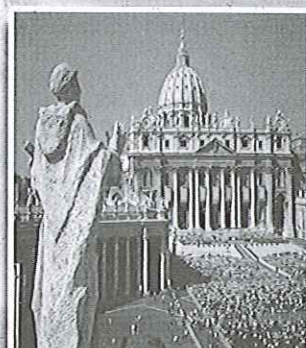
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sower ... bread for food
to eat ... the increase
from seed sown ... and
increases the harvest of
your righteousness.

~ II Corinthians 9:10

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