



"We saw his star at its rising and  
have come to do him homage."

MATTHEW 2:2

## Following Jesus Without a Star to Guide Us

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage"** (Matthew 2:2) describes the spark that sent the Magi on their journey. Something unusual in the sky, interpreted as a sign of something wonderful—in response, they changed direction in their lives and devoted themselves to a completely different path. As wonderful as it might well be, a special star in the heavens is not the ordinary experience of how we learn to follow the Lord or discern his will. If only there could be a sign in God's universe for each of us, beckoning us forward, clarifying what we need to do, setting down the path that needs to be followed. Perhaps life would be much simpler. Or perhaps not?

Would it truly be less complicated if everything were made clear and certain? Is the manifestation of God's grace and blessings confined to the straight and narrow, or can we also experience God in the chaos—"in the weeds," so to speak. Human experience seems to suggest that life is more "gray" than "black and white." There is real grace in the journey, in making mistakes, even in choosing something that is incomplete. Thankfully, God's grace does not need perfection to be powerful. We can know and follow God's will for us in the ordinary moments of day-to-day living. We do not need the extraordinary or the dramatic. ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

***How can I resolve to look for God in the unplanned, the unexpected, the interruptions?***

**St. Joseph Catholic Church,**  
221 N Sycamore Street, Nortonville KS 66060      [www.stjosephsnortonville.com](http://www.stjosephsnortonville.com)

**St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
905 Broadway, P.O. Box 176, Valley Falls KS 66088

**Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 18760 Rogers Road, Atchison KS 66002**

Dec 2022

**Parishes Office:** 221 N Sycamore Street  
Nortonville, Kansas 66060  
**Secretary:** Therese Maderak  
**Office hours:** M, W, F 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.  
**Phone:** 913-886-2030  
**E-mail:** [sj.ic.cc.parishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sj.ic.cc.parishoffice@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Fr. William Dun-Dery  
**E-mail:** [wdun-dery@archkck.org](mailto:wdun-dery@archkck.org)

#### Sacraments

**Reconciliation** Saturday & Sunday 30 min before Mass, Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Joseph  
**Marriage** Six-month notice required  
18 months if annulments needed  
**Anointing** Please let us know of any hospital admissions  
**Baptism** For Baptismal dates call the office;  
one Baptismal Class required

#### Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat.	Jan 3	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
†	Tina Gaspard		
Sat.	Jan 3	7:00pm	St. Joseph
†	Patrick and Carol McCreary		
Sun.	Jan 4	8:00am	St. Joseph
	Mass for the People		
Sun.	Jan 4	10:00am	St. Mary's
†	Francis Grollmes		
Mon.	Jan 5	No Mass	
Tue.	Jan 6	8:00am	St. Mary's
†	Leroy Noll		
Wed.	Jan 7	8:00am	St. Joseph
†	Vincent and Phyllis Bertels		
Thu.	Jan 8	8:00am	St. Joseph
	Genevieve French		
Fri.	Jan 9	10:30am	St. Joseph
†	Jenifer Weishaar funeral Mass		
Sat.	Jan 10	5:00pm	Corpus Christi
†	Gerald Kramer		
Sat.	Jan 10	7:00pm	St. Joseph
†	Gene and Darlene Sittenauer		
Sun.	Jan 11	8:00am	St. Joseph
†	Mark Wilson		
Sun.	Jan 11	10:00 am	St. Mary's
	Mass for the People		

**There will be no 8:00am Mass on Friday, January 9 at St. Joseph** since the funeral Mass for Jenifer Weishaar is at 10:30am with a Rosary at 10:00am

**9 Days for Life Novena-** Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena *9 Days for Life*, Friday, January 16-Saturday, January 24. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more by email or text message. Sign up at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)!

## Thank You

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On behalf of the Pastoral and Finance councils, I extend a word of gratitude to all

parishioners for all your generosity and sacrifices for the year 2025, in supporting the parishes to run. Very much appreciated. God bless you immensely.



**Ignite for Life and Kansas  
March for Life**  
Topeka Performing Arts Center  
January 28, 2026

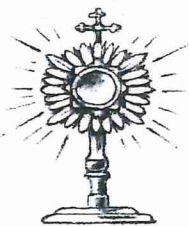
**9:00am:** Ignite for Life. Live music, inspirational speakers, ministry fair. All are welcome. Registration is requested: [archkck.org/ignite](http://archkck.org/ignite)

**10:30am:** Kansas Mass for Life. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with Kansas Bishops and Priests.

**Noon:** Kansas March for Life. March from the Topeka Performing Arts Center to the Capitol for the Kansans for Life Rally.

**1:00-3:00pm:** Adoration at Mater Dei Assumption Church across from the Capitol building.

All events are free. For more information visit: [archkck.org/ignite](http://archkck.org/ignite)



#### Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

St. Joseph  
Wednesdays, 6-7pm  
Corpus Christi  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month, 4-4:45pm  
St. Mary's  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month, 11am- 12pm

**Bulletin Deadline:** Noon Wednesday



### Please Remember in Your Prayers

Kyle Perkis	Jeremy Heinen
Bob Heinen	Virginia Grollmes
Emma Dockweiler	Rosella Hollis
Janet Schmidt	Chris Heinen
Tim Hosler	Heidi Rutar
Phil Heuertz	Dolores Miller
Roxie Herring	Dorothy Herring
Jenna Amack	Tynen DarveauxSr.

Also pray for those serving in the Military, those with health issues and those who have no one to pray for them.

### January Appointments

**Ushers:** Eric Belveal, Thomas Welsh, Nate Heinen

**Lay Ministers:** Joyce Heinen, Larry Heinen, Megan Belveal

**Rosary:** Larry Martin

**January 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Lector:** Brandi Varner

**Music:** RaeAnn Allen

**Servers:** Jack Warth, Tommy Welsh

**Gifts:** Ushers

**Finance:** Larry Martin, Kristy Burns

**Sacristan:** Beth Brown

### Contributions

**12-28-25 and 1/1/26 deposit will be posted next week**

### St Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish Mission Statement

- Study our **FAITH**
- Practice our **FAITH**
- Support our parish and community in **FAITH**
- Evangelize our **FAITH**

**Bulletin additions or corrections:** Contact Crystal Clark 785-806-0262 (text or call)

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS and ALTAR

**SOCIETY** will meet after Mass on Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**BIRTHRIGHT** celebrated it's 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in providing support to women and their babies. In the last 12 months they had 434 office visits and 176 calls. They provided pregnancy tests, layettes, diapers, baby clothes and maternity clothes. There is a baby bed in the bell tower entrance with lists of what they need. This year they are seeing a big need for diapers in sizes 4-6. Birthright needs clothing in sizes 12 months to 3T. Your help is appreciated. Birthright is always in need of volunteers. **There will be a second collection and a benefit breakfast for Birthright on Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHILI-BINGO** will be held Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar for a fun night.

**MEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION** – The 29<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Church of the Ascension in Overland Park.

**Dave Ramsey's Financial Course starting in February.** Take control of your money with Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University! This nine-week class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and invest for your future! Sessions start on February 8 at St. Mary's. More information to follow shortly.

**Our parish extends our sympathy to the family of Freda Smith who died Dec. 29th.** On Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> a Rosary will be recited at 2 PM at the funeral home followed by visitation from 2:30 to 4 PM. The Funeral Mass will be on Monday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM at St. Mary's Church.

**The SAVARIA LIFT has been completed and inspected.** To use the lift, park on the east side of Church and an usher will assist you. The lift can eventually be used by any parishioner with proper training.

**THE WORD AMONG US** has daily meditations and Mass readings. FREE copies are available for you to take home.

# Dear Padre,

*I recently lost my husband of sixty years. I prayed for him through his four-year illness. Since he has died, I cannot pray. Any advice for me?*

My heartfelt condolences on your profound loss. When someone we love dies, a part of us dies too. Sometimes, the trauma is so severe that it can even affect our relationship with God.

Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief. In the denial stage, some people can't accept the reality of the death. It becomes too much to handle. In the anger stage, some may question their belief in God—especially if their prayer requests (such as, “Please God, if you heal my loved one, I will...”) weren't successful in the bargaining stage. People in the depression stage feel overwhelmed by the reality of the loss and may not always feel like connecting with others—even with God in prayer. However, in the acceptance stage, emotions stabilize, and a person comes to terms with their new reality. Nothing makes up for the absence of a loved one, but people manage to cope and live on.

It's because you loved so deeply that the loss feels so deep. God accepts you completely; God understands how you feel. He wants you to be at peace and live life fully. Our compassionate God yearns to help console you and offer assistance in your healing process until you can embrace him again in prayer. ●

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org*



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 25, 2025



YANDRY FERNANDEZ PERDOMO / CATHOPIC

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### Monday

January 5  
St. John Neumann,  
Bishop  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6  
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

### Tuesday

January 6  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:7–10  
Mk 6:34–44

### Wednesday

January 7  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:11–18  
Mk 6:45–52

### Thursday

January 8  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4  
Lk 4:14–22a

### Friday

January 9  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:5–13  
Lk 5:12–16

### Saturday

January 10  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:14–21  
Jn 3:22–30

### Sunday

January 11  
The Baptism  
of the Lord  
Is 42:1–4, 6–7  
Acts 10:34–38  
Mt 3:13–17