



Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church Parish Bulletin

December 10, 2023 | The Second Sunday of Advent

Fr. Jaime Zarse, Pastor

Our Parish Mission: *We, the faith community of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, faithful to the teachings of the magisterium, are committed to forming Disciples of Christ by embracing Stewardship through Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service.*

Facebook [@SacredHeart5501](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeart5501)

www.shoj.org

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WELCOME

*We're
Glad
You're
Here*



Sacrament & Contact Information



BAPTISM

A Baptism preparation class must be completed prior to scheduling your child's baptism. Baptisms are held on Sundays after the 11 a.m. Mass. Please contact **Kathleen Whalen** at **913.422.5700** for more info and to schedule your class.



CONFIRMATION

Preparation begins in August for those students who are in the 8th grade. Please contact **Jen Zans** at **913-422-5700 ext. 247**, for more information.



RCIA (Becoming Catholic)

Our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sessions meet weekly on Tuesday evenings beginning in mid-September. Contact **Char Mies** **913-422-5700, ext. 241** for more information.



FIRST EUCHARIST

Preparation begins in August for those students who are in 2nd grade. Please contact **Emily Dumler** at **913-422-5520 ext. 202** for more information. First Eucharist will be on Sat., April 22, 2023.



MARRIAGES

You must be a registered member of the parish for a minimum of six months. Please contact a priest at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date to begin marriage preparation.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Celebrated the First Thursday of each month within the 6:30 and 8:15 a.m. Masses as well as upon request. Contact the parish office **913.422.5700** for details.

Hospitality

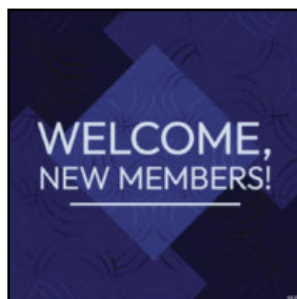
"LET MUTUAL
LOVE
CONTINUE.
DO NOT
NEGLECT
HOSPITALITY,
FOR THROUGH
IT SOME HAVE
UNKNOWNLY
ENTERTAINED
ANGELS."

– Hebrews
13:1-2



Welcome NEW Members of Sacred Heart of Jesus!

- James and Carla Zimmerman
- Michaela Dreher
- The John Chladek Family
- The Brune Family



Christmas Potluck & Gift Exchange

Wednesday, December 13, from 11:00am-1:30pm

Fr. Zarse would like to host this year's Social Seniors' Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange at his home! Please bring a dish to share and a "White Elephant" gift to exchange! It can be something small in your home that you're happy to part with! We ask that you RSVP, so we can ensure we have plenty of seating, etc for this fun gathering! Scan to RSVP here:



COMING UP:

St. Mary's Food Kitchen
Tuesday, December 12

Adoration Night w/Fr. Zarse
Wednesday, December 13


Mother's Circle Meeting
Thursday, December 14

Feed His Lambs
Friday, December 22

Do you receive our
weekly email updates?
If not, scan the barcode
below to join!



Week at a Glance

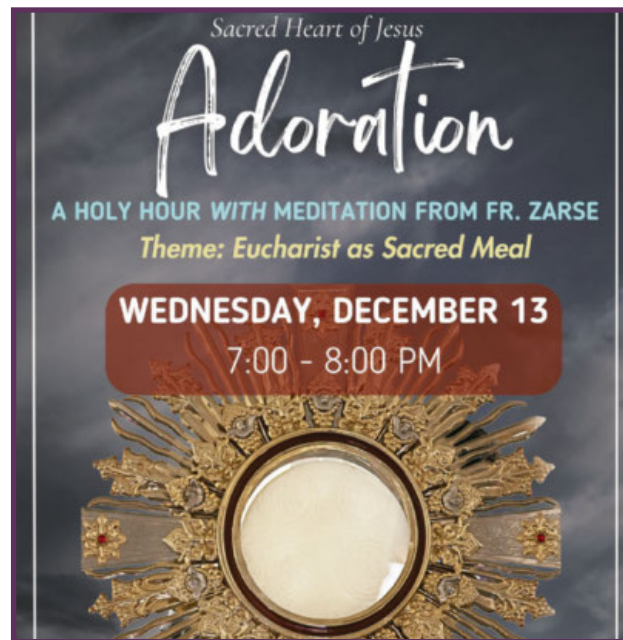
	MONDAY 12.11.23	TUESDAY 12.12.23	WEDNESDAY 12.13.23
Mass Times/ Mass Intentions	6:30 a.m. Harry and Kathyne O'Meara †† 8:15 a.m. Trevor Cates †	6:30 a.m. Frank Magistro & Michael Mullane Jr. †† 8:15 a.m. Pat Waliczek †	6:30 a.m. Thomas and Patricia Kucera †† 8:15 a.m. Beau Bonanno †
Daily Gospel Readings	First Reading: Is 35:1-10 Gospel: Lk 5:17-26	First Reading: ZEC 2:14-17 Gospel: LK 1:26-38	1st Reading: Is 40:25-31 Gospel: Mt 11:28-30
Reconciliation Times	7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Feast Days or Memorials			

In Sympathy:

Let us remember in our prayers the repose of the soul of **Pamela Adkins**, Wife of Tom Adkins and Mother of Kristy Smith, of our Parish.

SHOJ's Newly Baptized *Congrats!*

- ♥ Brooks Clement Pond, child of Christopher and Carly Pond
- ♥ Tate Garriott Pond, child of Christopher and Carly Pond
- ♥ Braxton Wayne Denzin, child of Cole and Jessie Denzin
- ♥ Andrew Raymond Ross, child of Benjamin and Rebecca



Gospel Meditation

Second Sunday of Advent

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

"HAVE NO ANXIETY AT ALL, BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN TO GOD."
Philippians 4:6



THURSDAY 12.14.23	FRIDAY 12.15.23	SATURDAY 12.16.23	SUNDAY 12.17.23
6:30 a.m. Intention of Lori Schierts 8:15 a.m. Don Mills †	6:30 a.m. Dennis Kaminski † 8:15 a.m. Moses Sedillo †	8:15 a.m. Linda Davis † 4:30 p.m. Raymond Hardin †	8:00 a.m. Mary Elizabeth Laffoon † 9:30 a.m. Sacred Heart Parishioners 11:00 a.m. Jake Aberle †
First Reading Is 41:13-20 Gospel: Mt 11:11-15	First Reading: Is 48:17-19 Gospel: Mt 11:16-19	First Reading: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Gospel: Mt 17:9a, 10-13	First Reading: Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24 Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
	7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	
			

Adult Formation

"I, THE
LORD, YOUR
GOD, TEACH
YOU WHAT
IS FOR YOUR
GOOD, AND
LEAD YOU ON
THE WAY YOU
SHOULD GO."

– Isaiah
48:17



RCIA Participants Dismissal

Why are some RCIA participants dismissed in the middle of our 9:30 Mass?

For the last couple weeks you may have noticed those adults preparing to be baptized into the Catholic church are dismissed at the end of the Liturgy of the Word. This will continue each Sunday until Easter when, at the Easter Vigil, those who are ready will join us at the Table of the Eucharist for the first time. Though they cannot yet come to the table of the Eucharist, the Church has an obligation to feed those who have entered into a relationship with her through the Rite of Acceptance which we recently celebrated as a community. God's Word is their food during this period. These participants depart from the Mass with an RCIA team member to discuss the Mass readings and to experience more fully the impact of the Scriptures in their lives. It is a most fruitful and joyful experience. Please pray for them and their time spent in Dismissal!

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the one who belongs to God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



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Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Can Catholics Gamble?



Question: The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What's correct?

Answer: Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parish or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fundraisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

As in all things, moderation and a sense of healthy limits should be applied to gambling and games of chance. For those who find themselves living with addiction to gambling, help is available in various 12-step and addiction recovery programs.

Advent Corner

Make Room for Jesus

Fasting is a form of penance, which at first glance seems out of step in the season of hope. Yet it is the need for and the action of penance that prepares us for the coming of the Savior, who has come to save us from our sins. And He will not save us unless we first repent – acknowledge our sins and our need to be forgiven – and then manifest our repentance through acts of penance: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Fasting, by depriving us of worldly goods, sharpens our efforts at combating sin and acting charitably. We know that fasting and the spirit that comes with it, far from turning Advent into a shorter Lent, help us resist the temptation of reducing Advent into an extended shopping spree. From fasting, we receive the grace to gaze upon the manger instead of ritzy displays, the shepherds instead of models, the Magi instead of Macy's.

This Advent, as we add fasting to our prayer and almsgiving, may we also merit to receive the same reward, found not in a store or catalogue, but away in a manger.

Here are a few suggestions on ways to fast or abstain during Advent. Choose one or two that you can start to practice right away. May Our Lady,



Mother of Good Counsel, encourage us to deny ourselves and say “yes” to the love of God by serving our brothers and sisters with a generous heart! (Lk. 1: 38—Mary’s “Yes” to God).

1. Eat less and receive The Most Holy Eucharist more.
2. Control your tongue.
3. Control wandering eyes.
4. Listen to others.
5. Be thankful rather than complain.
6. Smile, even if you don’t necessarily want to.
7. Pray, even when you do not feel like it.

“BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO
HUNGER AND
THIRST FOR
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SATISFIED.”

– Matthew
5:6



INVITED to ADORE!

We are inviting you and your families to commit to a permanent weekly holy hour this Advent! The goal is to have a minimum of two adorers in the Adoration Chapel every hour of every day! The potential of such a spiritual practice to enrich and uplift each adorer as well as the entire Sacred Heart faith community is immeasurable! You will never regret this time spent with our LORD. Scan the code to register or visit the information desk!

Advent Dates for Couples, Week 2

DIY Advent Calendar of Gratitude

--Create a homemade Advent calendar with small notes or activities for each day leading up to Christmas. Include expressions of gratitude, acts of kindness, and moments of prayer.

-Each evening, open a new compartment and engage in the activity or reflection together. This could include writing thank-you notes, praying for specific intentions, or recalling shared memories.

-Conclude each evening with a prayer of gratitude for the blessings you’ve experienced and a prayer for those in need.

-Remember, the key is to create intentional moments for reflection, prayer, and connection while celebrating the anticipation of Christmas. Adjust these ideas based on your preferences and make them personal to your relationship. <https://archkck.org/family/life/>



Sacred Heart School

DECEMBER

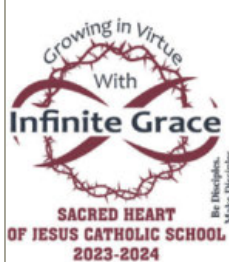
VIRTUES:

SINCERITY

AND

TRUSTWOR-

THINESS



Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School



Community Spotlight

Near & Dear Day!

2023-24 GROWING IN VIRTUE WITH INFINITE GRACE



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED

Near and Dear Day at Sacred Heart School

One of our favorite days at Sacred Heart is Near and Dear Day. In the week of Thanksgiving, we hosted 400+ guests in the building: a special aunt or uncle, grandparents, great-grandparents, or family friends who hold a special place in the hearts of our students. Our guests joined us for Mass and time in student classrooms. We are grateful to our parish family for allowing our students' extended family to celebrate a day at Sacred Heart.

8th Graders Read to 2nd Grade Friends

8th graders have been learning about all the different types of figurative language. Each student chose a topic and created a book to read to his or her 2nd grade buddy.

We enjoyed reading the silly sentences, looking at the funny pictures, and spending time together before Thanksgiving break!

We are thankful for these students and the joy they bring everywhere they go.



Adult Formation

December Mother's Circle Meeting

Join us for the December Mother's Meeting on **Thursday, December 14** starting at 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

There will be fiesta to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a SPECIAL GUEST! Fr. Dan Morris will give a presentation.

Don't miss it! Enter through the doors near the circle drive and go to Meeting Rooms 1-2.

"BLESSED ARE
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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Blessed Art will be at Sacred Heart!

Save the date! Blessed Art will be visiting Sacred Heart again on the weekend of **December 9-10, 2023**. They will be set up in the Meeting Rooms with lots of gifts and items to see and choose from.

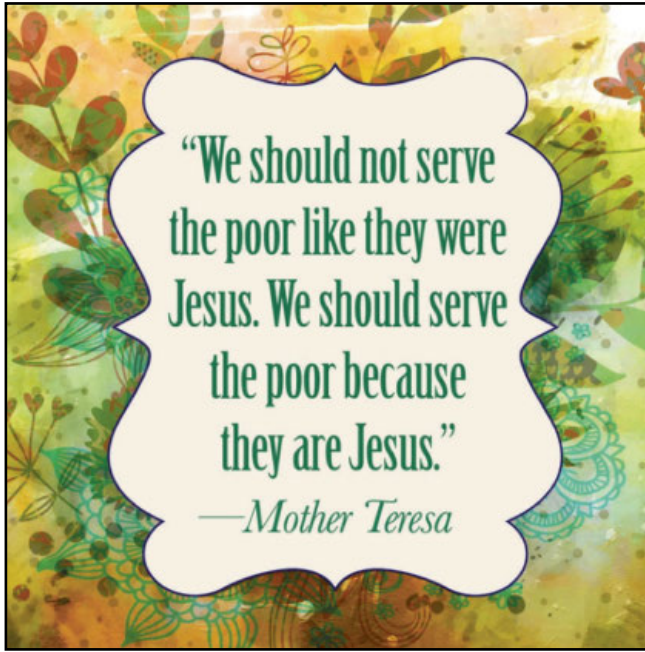
Their Mission: Here at Blest Art, our mission is simple, to encourage growth in the diminishing population by ensuring these beautiful handcrafted pieces can reach you, right to your doorstep. We work closely with Catholic churches in the United States to preserve the presence of Christianity in the Holy Land and bring awareness to their mission. Wars and violence have affected tourist trade so greatly that for centuries, many of the Christians in the Holy Land have based their livelihoods on creating and distributing these crafts.



Service

"I, THE
LORD, YOUR
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— Isaiah
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Serve with Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas serves people of all faiths throughout the 21 counties of Northeast Kansas.

Volunteers are EXTREMELY VITAL to the success of the programs and services they offer to people in need. The best way to learn how you can serve is to send an email to: ccnekvolunteers@catholiccharitiesks.org. Opportunities are available for students, families, and individuals.

Current options available:

Food Pantries
Hope Distribution Center
TurnStyles Thrift Store
Refugee & Immigration Services
Shalom House



Ongoing Service Opportunities

2nd Tuesday of the Month

Every second Tuesday of the month, Sacred Heart helps feed the hungry through the **St. Mary's Food Kitchen**. Look for pans the weekend before (in the narthex) to cook and bring back a dish by Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. OR help serve the food that morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Willa Gill Center, 645 Nebraska Ave. KCKS. Contact Ryan and Lynsey Hammeke for further details at 913-422-8228.

4th Friday of the Month

Do you like to bake? Every 4th Friday of the month (see sign up genius for exact dates) Sacred Heart provides cookies for **Feed His Lambs** community organization which provides meals to families in need in the Bonner Springs and Edwardsville communities. To donate go to: <http://bit.ly/FeedHisLambs-SHOJ>

Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments **The World is Pregnant**

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen. The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

Eucharistic Revival

From Sister Alicia Torres, F.E.

Managing Editor of the Eucharistic Revival Newsletter



Dear Friends,

On some college campuses (and indeed among some Catholic families!), it is popular for Catholic students to host a "Liturgical New Year's Eve Party" at the beginning of the Advent Season. I think

this is a really great idea. It is a very simple way to claim what is already ours: the gift of the Liturgical Year.

You are probably familiar with the seasons of the Liturgical Year: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, some more Ordinary Time...and many Solemnities (the highest level of liturgical celebration), feasts, and memorials along the way. The Liturgical Year is not just a bunch of "themes" we take note of as the weeks and months pass between the First Sunday of Advent and the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The Liturgical Year is the major way our Church invites us into the great love story that is salvation history...and it is the very context in which we discover our roles in the great drama of redemption.

As we embark on our "New Year" on the First Sunday of Advent, I want to encourage you to really live this Advent season, which invites us into the disposition of waiting and watching. Let us take heed as we hear the voice of Jesus call out,

"Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mk 13:33/First Sunday of Advent). Let us wonder as we hear John the Baptist announce, "One mightier than I is coming after me" (Mk 1:7/Second Sunday of Advent), and consider what action we can take when he prompts us to "Make straight the way of the Lord" (Jn 1:23/Third Sunday of Advent). Join me in listening deeply with Mary as she hears the voice of Gabriel speak words yet unheard by human ears (Lk 1:26-38/Fourth Sunday of Advent).

I also want to call your attention to our beautiful Eucharistic Prayer Companions for the Advent and Christmas seasons, available today! Sr. Maria Miguel Wright, OP, and Sr. Anamargaita, SCTJM, prayerfully prepared these guides to help us encounter Jesus in the Eucharist and go with him on mission to share his merciful love with others. I am so excited for all of us to go deeper with Jesus together!

Our New Year has only begun! May we allow ourselves the space and time to truly enter into the mysteries of our Faith, always keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus as we encounter him in every Eucharist!



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5:6



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Staff

Priests/Deacon:

Fr. Jaime Zarse, Pastor.....ext. 204

Deacon Nicholas Moragues.....ext. 276

Main Parish Office: 913.422.5700

Parish Fax Number: 913.422.5723

Parish School: 913.422.5520

Ministry Staff:

Mindy Boor, Music Coordinator, ext. 237

Emily Dumler, Director of Religious Ed K-5, ext. 202

Megan Dusselier, Director of Preschool, ext. 256

Tara Green, Hospitality Coordinator, ext. 253

Kathy Guthrie, Liturgy Coordinator, ext. 229

Kerry O'Keefe Owens, Miss Discipleship Coord, x250

Char Mies, RCIA and Adult Retreat Coord., ext. 241

Kathy Rhodes, School Principal, ext. 206

Kathleen Whalen, Dir of Missionary Discipleship, ext. 252

Jen Zans, Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator, ext. 247

Administrative Staff:

Jessica Adams, Marketing Coordinator, ext. 248

Mike Billquist, Director of Facilities, ext. 268

Julie Krause, Business Manager, ext. 205

Jennifer Peavler, Executive Assistant to Pastor & Business, ext. 225

Mike Pfitzner, Maintenance Coordinator

Parish Financials

Year-End Tax Savings: Helping YOU and Sacred Heart!

Normally, a distribution from your IRA is taxed as ordinary income, but a special IRS provision allows those who are 72 or older, to make a direct gift from your IRA to any qualifying charity, federal tax free. Your gift counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). You can make a gift in any amount up to \$100,000 per year to charities you support including your parish, the Archdiocese, a local Catholic school, institution or ministry, an endowment or fund at the Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas, or any 501(c)3 charity without paying federal income tax on the distribution.

This is an especially smart way to give to charities if you take the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions, since gifts made this way can reduce your adjusted gross income (AGI). This can also reduce taxes on your Social Security benefits. Consult your tax advisor about

your unique situation.

1. To qualify the donor must be over age 72 (70½ if you reach 70½ before January 1, 2020) and required to make an IRA distribution under IRA rules. The distribution qualifies toward your annual required minimum distribution (RMD).

2. The IRA distribution must be a direct charitable gift and not a distribution to a donor-advised fund, a charitable remainder trust or for a charitable gift annuity.

3. Distributions to charity cannot exceed \$100,000 in a taxable year.

4. The distribution must be from your IRA, not a 401(k) or other retirement plan.

5. Contact your IRA custodian or representative before making a gift to arrange for the proper transfer of funds from your IRA directly to the Church and other qualified charities. The check issued from the IRA must be made payable to the charity.

6. If you have elected to have income tax withheld from your normal IRA distributions, advise your IRA administrator not to withhold taxes from distributions to charity.

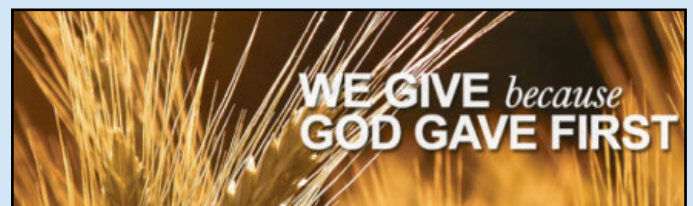
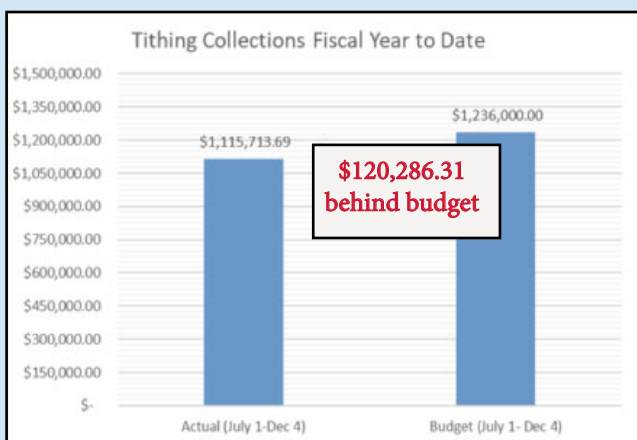
7. Consult your tax advisor for the tax reporting of the special election described above.

For more information about how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, contact your financial advisor.

These helpful tips are only for your information on this change in the IRA tax law and are not to be considered as legal, tax or financial advice. You should consult with your legal, tax and financial advisors to implement the benefits of the IRA charitable rollover law and related matters.



Parish Weekly Financials



"For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." John 3:16

*Life is too precious, do
not destroy.
Life is life, fight for it.*
St Mother Teresa of Calcutta

learn.
grow.
soar.

**FORMING MEN AT
THE ROCK**
ROCKHURST HIGH SCHOOL

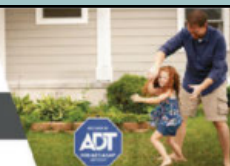
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