

Jackson County Catholic Community



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14th, 2025

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Like last Sunday, John the Baptist figures prominently in today's Gospel passage. In this account, however, we are at a much later point in John's life. The story unfolds in three basic parts. First, we see him in prison. This means John's death is near. Yet he still enjoys enough freedom to hear about Jesus' accomplishments. In this way, we learn that the "works of the Christ" (for whom John prepared a way with his baptism) signify true freedom. They are not hindered by imprisonment. In fact, recognizing the potential meaning of Jesus' actions, John dispatches messengers to ascertain with greater certainty the nature of Jesus' identity.

The scene then shifts to Jesus' exchange with those messengers. While John sent a simple binary question— are you the Christ or not?— Jesus offers a more circumspect response. He bids John's messengers to report what they have seen and heard Jesus accomplish. As if to prompt their report, Jesus lists some examples of what He has done. This list undoubtedly signals (in part) some of the transformative works performed by the Lord in today's first reading, from Isaiah. By dispatching the messengers back to John with this list, Jesus exhibits great trust in John's ability to discern its meaning. By extension, Jesus expresses significant respect for John's preparatory role in salvation.

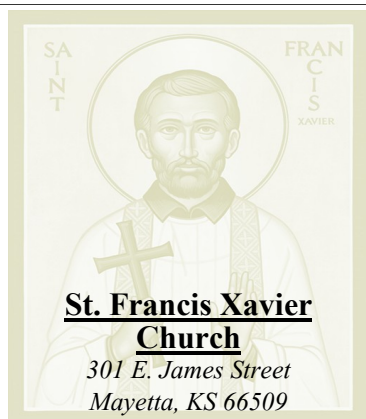
The third part of the reading then shifts to Jesus addressing crowds around Him. He aims to clarify John's identity and significance in God's saving work. With a series of seemingly rhetorical questions, Jesus bids His audience to consider the Baptist and his ministry. By highlighting John's remoteness and lack of quality in his attire, Jesus emphasizes that John was no royal figure. He held no elevated social status. Rather, he was a prophet. But John's uniquely preparatory prophetic task rendered him more elevated than any royalty. Still, in a final twist, Jesus highlights the great grace of being counted as a member of the kingdom of heaven— its least member is more illustrious than John in his earthly ministry. ~Eric J. Wagner CR

TODAY'S READINGS:

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Reading II: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 3:2-11



PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Jonathan Dizon

jdizon@archkck.org

For sacramental emergencies, please call the Rectory: (785) 362-7026

PARISH OFFICE:

115 E. 5th St., Holton, KS 66436

Phone: (785) 364-3262

Website: <https://jacocatholics.com>

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 a.m. ~ 1:30 p.m. Tues.~Thurs.

9:15 a.m. ~ 12 noon Friday

PARISH STAFF:

Pastoral Associate: S. Dyann Parks

parish.jacocatholics@gmail.com

Director Parish Life & Faith Formation:

Angie Reith

jacocatholicsre@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Vera Rioux

Business Mgr.: Marilyn Atkinson

acct.jacocatholics@gmail.com

Custodians: Kenyon Moran (St. D)

Vera Rioux (St. FX)

WEEKDAY MASS Schedule:

St. Francis Xavier:

8:30 a.m. ~ Tues., and Thurs.

St. Dominic:

5:30 p.m. ~ Wednesday

8:30 a.m. ~ Friday

WEEKEND MASS Schedule:

Saturday Vigil

5:30 p.m. ~ @ St. Dominic

Sunday

7:00 a.m. ~ @ St. Dominic

8:30 a.m. ~ @ St. Francis Xavier

8:30 a.m. ~ @ Our Lady of Snows

10:30 a.m. ~ @ St. Dominic

CONFESSION Schedule:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. @ St. Dominic

Weekends, 30 minutes prior to each weekend Mass

(excluding 7:00 a.m. Mass)

ADORATION Schedule:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. @ St. Dominic

BAPTISM: Those requesting baptism for their children need to be registered parishioners. Preparation classes are required for parents and Godparents prior to event.

MARRIAGE: Preparation begins with initial consult with parish priest. Please allow at least six months notice to fulfill the Archdiocesan marriage requirements.

ANointing of the SICK: Call the office during business hours. Call the rectory after hours or for emergencies. If no answer, call (785) 364-7402.

DECLARATION of NULLITY:

Please call the parish office for details.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE: next week

4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 20th & 22nd	Sat. 12/20 @ 5:30 pm SD	Sun. 12/21 @ 7:00 am SD	Sun. 12/21 @ 8:30 am SFX	Sun. 12/21 @ 10:30 am SD
SACRISTAN	Wanda Weldin		Vera Rioux	Terry Ludvicek
MUSIC	Cody Utz		Marguerite Mzhickteno Kenneth Kietzman	Robin Sides Jenea Chartier
LECTOR	Barb Heideman	CANCELLED	Kathy Devlin	Susan Schirmer
GREETER- USHER	Kara Hoffman and Bob Fox		Steve Devlin & Ben Ehrhart	Dale & Kathleen Noel
EMHC	Tom Heideman		Steve Devlin	Mike Meerpohl
Acolytes			Dalton Cole (CB) Zack Rioux, Izzy Harris	Westin Tanking Kyla Tanking, Calvin Henry

Homebound Communion Ministers: Niki Meerpohl (*St. Dominic*), Alice Zeller (*St. Francis Xavier*), and Paula Morris (*Nursing Homes*)

CALENDAR of EVENTS

December 15th, Monday**Parish Office is Closed**6:30 p.m. **Rosary Fellowship****St. Dominic Parish Hall****December 16th, Tuesday**8:30 a.m. **MASS****St. Francis Xavier**6:00 p.m. **Penance Service****St. Francis Xavier****December 17th, Wednesday**5:30 p.m. **MASS****St. Dominic**

6:00 p.m. Adoration and Reconciliation

St. Dominic6:30 p.m. **Religious Ed.****St. Dominic Hall****December 18th, Thursday**8:30 a.m. **MASS****St. Francis Xavier**6:00 p.m. **Penance Service****St. Dominic**6:00 p.m. **O.C.I.A.****Meet @ St. Dominic Church****December 19th, Friday**8:30 a.m. **MASS****St. Dominic****December 20th, Saturday**5:00 p.m. **Confession****St. Dominic**5:30 p.m. **Mass****St. Dominic****December 21st, Sunday**7:00 a.m. **NO MASS****St. Dominic**8:00 a.m. **Confession****St. Francis Xavier**8:30 a.m. **Mass****St. Francis Xavier**9:30 a.m. **Religious Ed.****St. Francis Xavier**8:30 a.m. **Mass****Our Lady of Snows**10:00 a.m. **Confession****St. Dominic**10:30 a.m. **Mass****St. Dominic****December 22nd, Monday****Parish Office is Closed**7:00 p.m. **K of C Mtg.****St. Dominic Parish Hall**

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAILY MASSES have resumed.

**7:00 a.m Sunday Masses have been cancelled
until further notice.**

*Missed Daily Mass Intentions are being reassigned
in 2026.*

BECOMING
CATHOLIC

Catechumen
Cortlin Roles
**Candidates for full
Communion**
Brooke Doyle
Connie McClain
Wyatt Roles
**Candidate for
Confirmation
and Eucharist**
Chase Eck

As our **2025-26 OCIA**
participants celebrate
their first milestone this
weekend, with the
combined Rites for
Entrance and Welcoming,
**we humbly ask our
Parish Communities to
lift these individuals
and their Sponsors up
in prayer,** as they con-
tinue their journey to full
communion with the
Catholic Church.

PASTORAL COUNCILS

<i>St. Dominic</i>	<i>St. Francis Xavier</i>
Jenea Chartier	Jeri Albright
Jessi Deters	Marie Burdick
Cathy Haug	Ben Ehrhart
Wayne Leiker	Chris Everts
Niki Meerpohl	Mike Henry
Joshua Shupe	Marquerite Mzhickteno
Theresa Watkins	Dot Sosna

FINANCE COUNCILS

<i>St. Dominic</i>	<i>St. Francis Xavier</i>
Barb Heideman	Mary Lou Koch
David Ashcraft	Sharon Cole
Diane Gross	Farrell Holthaus
Mark Starr	Donald Sunday

PARISH STEWARDSHIP
December 6th & 7th, 2025

	St. Dominic	St. Francis Xavier
Envelopes (Incl. November Dir. Dep.)	\$7,315.00	\$3,115.00
Plate	645.50	478.75
TOTAL	\$7,960.50	\$3,593.75
<i>Week of November 29th & 30th</i>	\$3,189.48	\$1,397.00
<i>Week of November 22nd & 23rd</i>	\$3,476.50	\$1,271.00

PRAYER INTENTIONS

INTENTIONS OF POPE LEO XIV FOR DECEMBER:

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

INTENTIONS OF FR. JONATHAN FOR DECEMBER:

For a meaningful and fruitful observance of the season of Advent.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS:

Parishioners:

Barbara Bausch	Bill Berns	Bob Butts	Mary Devader
Steve Devlin	Mildred Eisenbarth	Sheila Fernkopf	Freda Galer
Martin John Hamm	Mary Harris	Pat Hasenkamp	Ed Hrenchir
Carolyn Koger	Karen McClaskey	Mike McClaskey	Don Morford
Mary Morford	Richard Mulroy	Mike Myers	Joe Purcell
Larry Reilly	Ramona Robinson	Barb Schussler	Kade Sides
Arneil Springer	Evelyn Sullivan	Ray Zeller	

Relatives of Parishioners:

Jorgan Beck	Christopher Brown	Roger Brown	James DeVader
Don Dillner	Brad Fiedler	Dennis Fiedler	Jennifer Fiedler
Mike Fiedler	Sherri Fiedler	Warren Fiedler	Van Fuqua
Allan Gibson	Gladys Gibson	Kase Glassel	Jamie Goldman
Vickie Goodman	Dan Gruber	Eric Harris	Floyd Klein
Carrie Lierz	Felicia Nicholes	Lainey Parks	Leonard Riley
Danyell Russell	Butch Schiffbauer	Linda Schiffbauer	Anna Segenhagen

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM:

US Army: MP ANG Therron Fox SSgt. Matthew Zeller **US Marines:** Maj. JP Turner
US Navy: E-5 Dennis Reed Potter **US Air Force:** MSgt. Dylan Parks, TSgt. Nicole Parks

To place or remove someone's name on the prayer list, please call the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS for the WEEK

December 13th (Sat) 5:30 p.m. St. Dominic	3rd Sunday of Advent All Parishioners Living & Deceased
December 14th (Sun) 7:00 a.m. St. Dominic 8:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier 10:30 a.m. St. Dominic	3rd Sunday of Advent NO MASS Betty Fuqua+ Cooper Zeller+
December 16th (Tues) 7:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier	Advent Weekday Samantha Justice+ Marlene Putnam+
December 17th (Wed) 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic	Advent Weekday Harriet Buchholz+
December 18th (Thurs) 5:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier	Advent Weekday Matt & Amy Zeller
December 19th (Fri) 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic	Advent Weekday Alan Lierz Family
December 20th (Sat) 5:30 p.m. St. Dominic	4th Sunday of Advent Bob Krogman+
December 21st (Sun) 7:00 a.m. St. Dominic 8:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier 10:30 a.m. St. Dominic	4th Sunday of Advent NO MASS Gene Stallbaumer Family, Living and Deceased Ronald H. Collins+

The St. Dominic, St Francis Xavier & Our Lady of
 Snows Catholic Communities Extend Their
 Sincerest Sympathies And
 Heartfelt Prayers to the families of

Angel Brownell

Parishioner

*ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD
 AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.*

2025 SCHEDULE

TOPEKA REGION

Dec 13 Sat	9:30AM Most Pure Heart of Mary
Dec 14 Sun	2:00PM Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Dec 15 Mon	7:00PM Sacred Heart/ Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 16 Tue	7:00PM Christ the King
Dec 17 Wed	7:00PM Saint Matthew
Dec 18 Thur	7:00PM Mater Dei

JACKSON COUNTY

Dec 16 Tue	6:00PM Saint Francis Xavier
Dec 18 Thur	6:00PM Saint Dominic



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

Angie Reith, Director of Religious Education
 (785) 364-5941 or jacocatholicsre@gmail.com

Religious Education (CCD) Times:

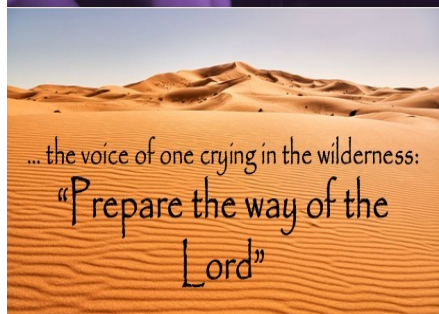
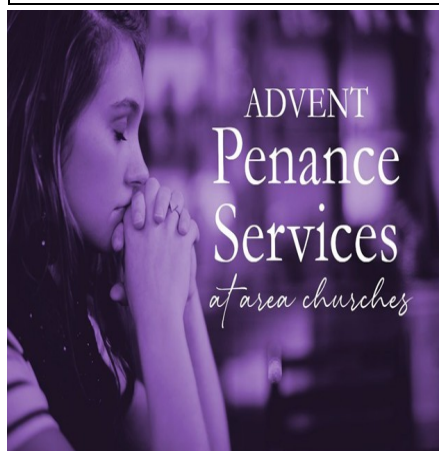
St. D Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

St. FX Sundays: 9:30-10:30a.m.



IF YOU KNOW OF A HOMEBOUND PERSON THAT WOULD APPRECIATE A VISIT FROM OUR YOUTH...

Our St. Dominic 7th & 8th grade Religious Ed. students will be making the rounds, singing Christmas Carols on Wednesday, December 17th. Please contact Angie Reith for more information, or to make a request for a visit!



THEMES: THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Gaudete Sunday is a time of joyful anticipation. The readings focus on hope, patience, and recognizing God's presence among us.

- ♦ **Joy in God's Promise:** The readings show that God's promise brings joy. Isaiah speaks of the desert blooming, and Jesus points to His works as signs of God's presence.
- ♦ **Patience in Waiting:** James calls for patience as we wait for the Lord. Like a farmer waiting for crops, we must trust that God's timing is perfect.
- ♦ **Hope for Healing:** Isaiah promises healing for the blind, the deaf, and the lame. Jesus' miracles in the Gospel show that He fulfills this promise.
- ♦ **The Lord is Near:** The nearness of God brings hope. Jesus reminds John's disciples that He is the one they are waiting for.
- ♦ **Signs of the Messiah:** Jesus points to His works as signs of the Messiah. The miracles He performs fulfill the prophecies in Isaiah.
- ♦ **Encouragement in Trials:** James encourages us to stay strong through challenges. Like the prophets, we are called to endure with hope and patience.

Gaudete Sunday reminds us that our waiting is filled with joy and hope. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we trust in God's promises and His perfect timing.
(YoungCatholics.com)

formed™
Forming Catholics for Life

This Week on Formed

Week of December 14, 2025



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

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Dr. Donald Sunday, DVM
Dr. Amy Sunday, DVM

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