

CORNERSTONE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE:

ST. JOHN'S

Opportunity



RESTORED!



Our first Mass back in our newly restored church was celebrated on Tuesday, August 29 with the school family and many from the parish community.

Restoration CELEBRATION

JAN. 7, 2024

Please join us in celebrating Mass at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Vincke in our newly restored church. Parish potluck to follow at noon in the gym with the conclusion of the iGiveCatholic challenges.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE MAIN DISH & SIDE/DESSERT TO SHARE!



GRACE – LABOR – SUPPORT - PRAYER

In the rear of our newly-restored church, if one were to meander up the stairway leading to the landing at the back of the church and then to the choir loft, tucked away on the landing one would view a fresco of a dove in flight. Upon further scrutiny would come to light a collage of renderings, in chronological order, providing a vivid pictorial walk through of the timeline from the fire date June 27th, 2021 through restoration completion in August 2023.

Parishioner, Greg Holdren chronologized a potpourri of important dates and events in that 25-month time frame. Each pillar – Prayer, Labor, Grace and Support, with the foundational pillar being Prayer, represent collectively, the success of the restoration endeavor. If any pillar were removed from the faith-field journey, the success of the complete endeavor would not have been fulfilled.

No part of the restoration would have been completed without the unwavering heavy-lifting of the parishioners and the wonderful, prayerful supporting cast well beyond our parish!

- Prayer -

“Fire department rushing to the scene.”
“Lord, how do we do this?”

- Labor -

“The church in a forest of scaffolding.”
“Roofers set up camp/workshop in parking lot.”

- Grace -

“New pews being installed.” “Marble statues of St. Joseph and St. Mother Cabrini re-situated.”

- Support -

“Stations of the Cross repainted.”
“First Mass in the restored church August 29th, 2023.”

*We can't
thank you
enough!*



Pilgrimage to Poland

Father Jarett Konrade, Pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, along with representatives of the parish and the Catholic Diocese of Salina, recently embarked on a pilgrimage to various Catholic sites throughout Poland. The origins of the trip began several years ago as St. John's and the Salina Diocese began collaborating with the Polish association Comunita Regina della Pace related to the group's international work of praying for peace in Eucharistic adoration. As a result, St. John's was designated a Star on the Mantle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace in 2021, and joined others throughout the world in prayer for peace, especially before the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration.

The Polish group established in 2008 by Piotr Ciolkiewicz, has worked extensively with famous artist, Mariusz Drapilowski of Drapikowski Studios, who has created all their custom Eucharistic monstrances. With blessings from both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, the Association is playing a key supporting role in the Popes' calls to continue encouraging deeper prayer in Eucharistic adoration throughout the world. Fr. Konrade explained,

"We reached out to them nearly three years ago after we began to understand that their mission of expanding Eucharistic Adoration aligned with my hopes for St. John's in increasing Eucharistic Adoration. Over time, as we began to share with them the story of the Diocese of Salina and Beloit itself, they invited us to visit Poland to meet their board and gain a greater insight to their vision."



Father Konrade met with artists Mariusz Drapikowski, and son Kamil Drapikowski, of Drapikowski Studios, on his recent pilgrimage to Poland.



Father offered Mass at Corpus Christi Basilica, Krakow, Poland.

Bishop Vinke and Fr. Konrade celebrated St. John's inauguration as a Star on the Mantle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace in 2021. St. John's is the first parish in the United States to be crowned a star on Mary's mantle.



Based on the biblical reference in Revelations 12:1 to the 12 stars on the crown of Mary, one of the Association's primary goals is to place 12 international shrines strategically all over the world as centers of prayer for peace. To date, they have placed eight of these shrines: Bethlehem (Israel), Medjugorje (Bosnia), Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast-Africa), Namyang (South Korea), Oziornoje (Kazakhstan), Kibeho (Rwanda-Africa), Niepokalanów (Poland), and Dagupan (Philippines).

In addition, the Association is working to develop an international network of sites of prayer and worship for all facets of peace including political peace in our world, peace within our work and social cultures, peace within our families and marriages, and most especially peace within our own individual restless hearts. To date, they have named 67 of these locations as Stars on the Mantle of our Lady, Queen of Peace, primarily throughout Europe. St. John's was designated such a location in 2021. Selected by Comunita Regina della Pace's seven member board of directors and 35 advisory committee members, the Association is striving to place hundreds of these designations throughout the globe.

"We are excited to continue collaborating with Comunita Regina della Pace in their mission of praying for peace in the world through the means of increased Eucharistic adoration. This pilgrimage, and a greater understanding of the Association's mission, was a great blessing and I hope we can spread this message, a message our society so desperately needs, to our community, the Diocese of Salina, and ultimately throughout the United States and the world," said Father Konrade.



Comunità Regina della Pace's Mission

An international apostolate of Eucharistic Adoration for peace and reconciliation among people.

The initiative was brought about in 2008 as a response to numerous calls of Our Lady and out of desire to fulfill spiritual legacy of the great Advocate of Peace St. John Paul II.

← Fr. Konrade next to a bronze sculpture of St. Pope John Paul II at the John Paul II Shrine and Museum in Kraków, Poland.

Why I STAND FOR LIFE

On Monday, November 13, I peacefully stood outside Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. Alongside my classmates and fellow students at St. John's on the sidewalks of a busy, four lane road in Lincoln, Nebraska we silently prayed. We were there for two hours. For a portion of that time, I watched as people drove by, going about their daily lives. Many of them pretended they didn't see us or that they were distracted. Some of them honked their horns in approval, smiled, and waved at us. A few of them shook their heads or gestured signs of disapproval. The reactions of those driving by isn't what we were standing there for.

We were present that day to stand for truth and pray for the end to abortion. We were there to pray for those who work in abortion facilities and for those mothers considering the path of abortion. We were there to stand for life; for those who cannot stand for themselves.

At one point, we noticed a young woman pull into the parking lot of Planned Parenthood; only 50-60 feet from us. She sat there. She never left her vehicle. She waited for a matter of minutes and then drove away. We can't be sure of her situation, but I think seeing students peacefully standing there may have had something to do with her not walking into the facility. Our prayers are truly heard by God. We were praying for her. We realized, even just our presence can make a difference.

I am fortunate to have always been taught that abortion is gravely wrong. There is nothing the devil wants more than abortion. Many do not know the truth about abortion or simply refuse to pay attention to it.

Every individual, no matter what they believe, is to be treated with compassion and love.

This is what the Catholic Church teaches. I believe that abortion is one of the greatest evils this world has ever known. The number of people missing from our country today because of abortion is staggering. Each of those babies killed was someone's daughter, son, grandson, granddaughter, someone's best friend or teammate. They were a precious, beautiful, unrepeatable soul made in God's image. And that is what is so sickening about abortion: It destroys a life, which is the most precious of gifts.

But there is hope. If you are in a situation in which abortion seems to be the only answer or the easiest path, know that there is another way. You just have to ask for help. Choose life! Life is beautiful and there are people that God will send to help you along the way. Just ask for help. There is hope for the future. But in order for peace to finally come, we must do everything in our power to eradicate our culture of death. That is why I choose to stand for life.



By: Emma Mick





KKSJ Catholic Radio

107.5 FM

KKSJ, 107.5 FM, is broadcasting again after being off the air for several months earlier this fall. The hardware for the broadcast was being moved from the Cornerstone offices on Independence Ave to St John's High School. The move to the St. John's campus facilitates the creation of specialized, custom content. For the first time, radio services we create will be broadcast to our local community. Up until now, all of the broadcasts have consisted of syndicated content packaged and aired directly by EWTN.

"Thanks to Cornerstone, St. John's students have a unique opportunity to be a part of KKSJ now," said English/Media teacher Alan Holdren.

This new positioning of the headquarters of the KKSJ radio station is an exciting prospect and we hope you'll tune in regularly for the broadcasts! You will be able to pray regularly with our priests and students and even hear about initiatives coming up at the parish. Didn't catch the Sunday homily? You'll be able to catch it on air. Is there something you wish we carried? Let us know and we'll see what can be done to provide the best Catholic content available.

KKSJ can be accessed on the FM dial in any home within an approximate 35 mile radius of Beloit. It was founded in 2015 to evangelize the greater Beloit community with the salvific message of the Gospel.

"The chance to participate hands-on in evangelization efforts through radio is a huge boost to our curriculum and also the life experience of our students."

- Alan Holdren



On Sunday, November 12, St. John's students hosted a country swing dance at Bishop Neumann Catholic High in Wahoo, Neb. Over 150 students from six Catholic schools in Wahoo, David City, Hastings, Lincoln, and Beloit attended the event.

The following day, the students prayed and stood peacefully outside Planned Parenthood in Lincoln, NE. They also got the opportunity to tour St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska, and the Nebraska Memorial football stadium and practice facilities.





CULMINATION OF HARD WORK

BISHOP'S STAR AWARD

Bishop Vincke and Superintendent Jeff Andrews came out and joined us on the football field at half time to award students in grades 4th through 12th with the Bishops Star Award for Kansas Assessment! Bishop Vincke recognized the students who scored a 3 or 4 on their Kansas State Assessment in English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

narrowly edged us out of the championship last year. 2A St Mary's Colgan placed third, and some other notable High Schools in attendance where 6A Manhattan High School, 6A Shawnee Mission North High School, & 5A Goddard High school.

ECO-MEET

St. John's Catholic School celebrates it's first Kansas State Eco-meet Championship! St. John's traveled to Camp Aldrich to compete in the 23rd annual Kansas State Eco-meet. Our students demonstrated their passion and knowledge of Kansas plants and animals in the four part competition. This includes a habitat lab-type test over the short grass prairie ecosystem, a focus lab-style test on mammals, a scavenger hunt to identify native plants, and finally an interpretive event that is aimed at entertaining an audience and judges while informing them about 4 native Kansas species. It is a fun mix of events that really tests the students.

FHSU MATH RELAYS

Seventeen students from St. John's Catholic High School ventured to the Fort Hays State University campus last Thursday for the 44th annual Math Relays competition, where a total of 601 students competed. The Blujays captured their 12th straight 1A title, while also finishing 3rd overall (1A-6A). There were a total of 20 schools in 1A and a total of 48 schools (1A-6A). We are the only school to finish in the overall (1A-6A) top five for 10 of the last 11 years.

St. John's won the State Team Championship by 21 points over 6A Shawnee Mission South High School, who

CROSS COUNTRY

The St. John's boys' and girls' cross-country team had another great season! Boys placed 3rd as a team and girls placed 11th as a team at the 1A State Championship meet in Wamego!



VOLLEYBALL

Our Lady Jays volleyball team finished fourth at the state tournament with an overall record of 37-6! They were also the Northern Plains League Champions, a goal that hasn't been completed since 2016.

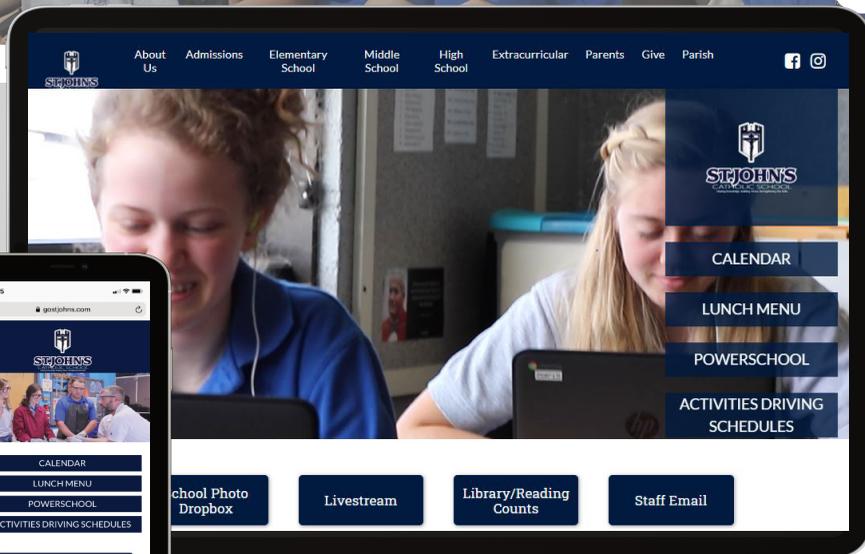
SOLOMON VALLEY YOUTH CHALLENGE

Our grade school students worked to run their goal every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning before school. They ended their challenge by running from end zone to end zone completing a total of 26.2 miles!



WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES IN THESE COMPETITIONS.

STAY CONNECTED



Find out the latest information on our website:

GOSTJOHNS.COM/SCHOOL




ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL
AUCTION
Friday, March 15 - Saturday, March 16
 St. John's Catholic High School | Beloit, KS
 Join St. John's alumni and friends for our annual fundraiser benefiting St. John's Catholic Schools.

THANKS BE TO GOD! - \$317,385

We are overwhelmed by the generosity from our community. Thank you to everyone who has supported us through this campaign!



#iGIVECATHOLIC

Please join us on Sunday, January 7 following 10 am Mass to celebrate and see the teachers and administrators spin the Wheel of Good/Bad Fortune!

The Milestones Reached:

- **\$50,000** - Movie at Solomon Valley Cinema for parish students sponsored by S & S Drug
- **\$75,000** - Teachers spin the Wheel of Good/Bad Fortune
- **\$100,000** - Administrators spin the Wheel of Good/Bad Fortune
- **\$125,000** - Father Konrade goes skydiving
- **\$250,000** - Bishop Vincke walks from Glasco to St. John's Church



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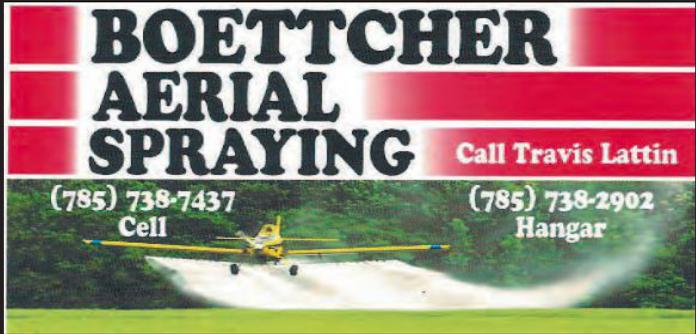
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Return Service Requested



WALK FOR JAYS



Thank you to all who supported our Walk for Jays fundraiser! This year we were able to raise over \$11,000 with your help! The students enjoyed walking together as a school community.

