



Father Brian Lager, Pastor
 pastor@sacredheartcolby.com

Father Jesse Ochs
 fatherochs@sjoakley.org

Father Frederick Gruber
 fathergruber@sacredheartcolby.com

Reverend Mr. Mike Brungardt
 mlocker@st-tel.net

PARISH OFFICE & RECTORY
 625 Freeman Ave.
 Oakley, KS 67748
Phone: (785)671-3828

Secretary: Mrs. Teresa Stephens (673-3063)
 parish@sjoakley.org or
 stpaulangelus@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs.

ST. JOSEPH DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS

Director of Religious Education
7-12th grade – Bryn Kuhlman
 Cell: (913)660-3805
K-6th grade – Jessica Halbleib
 Cell (785)672-7643

Music Coordinator
Mrs. Heliana Halbleib
 Cell: (785)672-0258
 E-mail: thhalbleib@st-tel.net

ST. PAUL DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS

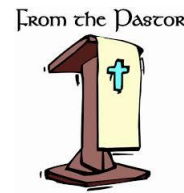
Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Amanda Ostmeyer
 E-mail: ostmeyerjaj@yahoo.com
Phone: (785)443-2728

Music Coordinator
Mr. Jeffrey Huffman
Phone: (785)953-7199

ST. JOSEPH GRADE SCHOOL
 725 Freeman Ave.
 Oakley, KS 67748
Phone: (785)671-4451
Fax: (785)671-3919

Principal: Mrs. Michelle Selzer
 principal@sjoakley.org

Secretary: Mrs. Vicky Joseph
 schooloffice@sjoakley.org



FROM THE PASTOR

From December 17 through December 24 the liturgy turns to the first coming of Jesus. This is specifically marked by what are called the O Antiphons. The O Antiphons are seven precious jewels of our Catholic Liturgy, counting down the last seven days before Christmas with building anticipation. Because each antiphon begins with an “O” this group of antiphons are called O Antiphons. Dating back to the fourth century, these antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent

Messianic titles:

1. O Sapientia (Wisdom),
2. O Adonai (Lord and Ruler)
3. O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
4. O Clavis David (Key of David)
5. O Oriens (Dawn of the East)
6. O Rex Gentium (King of the Gentiles)
7. O Emmanuel (God With Us)

that are based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. Put in reverse order: Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, and Sapientia, the first letters of these Messianic titles spell out the Latin words ERO CRAS, meaning, “Tomorrow, I will come.” The antiphons sum up in excellence the longing of our Redeemer, and we echo the prayers of the Old Testament faithful by also begging Him to “Come!” These antiphons are a little “pick-me-up” that helps us refocus on the two-fold coming of Christ at Christmas, as described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

524 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 Saviour’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.

The outward preparations for Christmas can be distracting, and by this time, we may have lost focus on the true meaning of Advent preparation. Many of our Advent endeavors may have not come to fruition. Christmas is in seven days. The O Antiphons beckon us to refocus, relax, and invite Christ to come into our heart.

If we try to make our own the thought of these antiphons on their proper days, letting their ardent aspirations dominate our prayer life, our minds and hearts will surely be more closely attuned to the mind and heart of the Church as she prepares for the coming of her King (With Christ Through the Year, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B., 1947).

The repeated and urgent “Come!” reminds me of a child’s eager and impatient waiting for Christmas Eve, but the antiphons and their symbolism and meaning are not always easy to relate to children. It doesn’t need to be elaborate, but it is quite helpful to find various ways to present the O Antiphons that touch many of the senses. (There are many creative and crafty ideas on the Internet or books.). Our Jesse Tree ornaments incorporate the O Antiphons for the last seven days of Advent. But no matter how I decide to present the antiphons, my main intention is to unite our family’s prayers with the universal Church and her Liturgy.

Pilgrimage to Rome – Fr. Brian is organizing a pilgrimage to Rome, and spots are filling up **FAST!!!** The dates of this 11-day pilgrimage are October 26 – November 5, 2026. Not only will you visit Rome, but you will also venture to Orvieto, Assisi, and Siena. To reserve your spot, go to selectinternationaltours.com and use Trip Code: 26MI10ITBL. Don’t delay, though – there are only 11 spots left!!!

ST. JOSEPH NEWS:

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church on December 21st after the 10:30 am Mass.

ST. PAUL CHURCH NEWS: ST. PAUL CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING will be on Sunday, Dec. 21st at 1:00 pm. If you are unable to help at that time but can at a different time, there will be a list at the back of the church for you to mark off what you did. You may also text or call Nancy Schwarz, 824-8001. Those on the committee are: Nancy S., Nancy B., Kristy F., Karen D., Cheryl O., Tristan B., Raecine B., Linda S., Teresa S., and Linda L. THANK YOU!

Knights of Columbus Stag Steak Fry on Tuesday, December 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the hall in Angelus

Angelus Knights of Columbus FREE Youth Trapshoot for grades 5 – 12th. This event will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 1 pm. At the K of C Hall, Angelus.



Our Tithes from Last Week

Oakley: \$8714.03 Angelus: \$631.00

We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website.



Follow us on St. Joseph Catholic Church and School

@stjosephoakley

DAILY SCHEDULE

- Sat 20 – 5pm Mass - Parishioners
- Sun 21 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Leon Zerr
 10:30am Mass + Marge Feldt
 11:30am Decorate in Oakley
 1pm Clean Church in Angelus
- Mon 22 – NO MASS
- Tues 23 – 8:30am Mass + Jack Ostmeyer
 9:30am Bible Study in the rectory
 5:30pm K of C Stag Steak Fry in Angelus
- Wed 24 – 7pm Mass (Angelus) + Daisy Fellhoelter
- Thur 25 – 12am + Pat Porter
 8am Mass (Angelus) + Charlotte Albers
 10:30am Mass + Fr. Bill Surmeier
- Fri 26 – NO Mass
- Sat 27 – 5pm Mass + George & Carol Albers Family
- Sun 28 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Alfreda Stephens
 10:30am Mass - Parishioners

Confessions are available 30 minutes before weekend Masses, by appointment, or as indicated on the schedule.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL

- Mr. Danny Lockhart
- Mrs. Raye Kuhlman
- Mr. David Manhart
- Mr. Mason Sheetz
- Mrs. Penny Pfeifer
- Mr. Ethan Schwarz
- Mrs. Cassie Shirley-Vice Chair
- Mrs. Dana Charles – Chair
- Mrs. Micheline Huffman

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- Mr. Lewis Evins
- Mrs. Dana Charles (Par. Co. Rep.)
- Mrs. Susan Glassman
- Mr. Tom Halbleib

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- Mr. Courtland Osborne
- Mrs. Casey Zerr - Secretary,
- Mrs. Mary Urrego – Vice Chair
- Mr. Russ Kahle
- Mr. Jeff Kuhlman – Chair
- Mrs. Micheline Huffman (Par. Co. Rep.)

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- Mr. Mason Bixenman
- Mr. Clem Fellhoelter- Chair
- Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
- Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair
- Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Dec 27 th 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Dec 28 th 10:30 am	Servers	Alexander B, Jethro & Tomas C.
	Lector	Betty Hockersmith		Lector	Bryn Kuhlman
	Gifts	Mike & Cassie Shirley		Gifts	Mike & Katie Chrisler
	Hospitality	Mike & Cassie Shirley		Hospitality	Mike & Katie Chrisler

Sunday, Dec 28 th 8 am	Servers	LaRynn, Lettie & Lawson Rumback
	Lectors	Millie Baalman & Nick Robben
	Gifts	Gary & Cheryl Ostmeyer
	Ushers	Ron, Daryl, Andrew & Mason Bixenman