



**Fr. Luke Thielen, Pastor**  
 frluke@sjoakley.org

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

**Reverend Mr. Dennis Engel**  
 ddengel@outlook.com/785-672-0888

**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. & Fri.**

**ST. JOSEPH DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS**

**Director of Religious Education**  
**Mrs. Barb Hemmert**  
**Phone: (785)-672-2432**  
**E-mail: kbhemmert@st-tel.net**

**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**  
**Mrs. Albie Kuhlman**  
**Phone: (785)-899-6969**

**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



It may come as a surprise, but my relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary was very rocky at the beginning of seminary. I saw some of the devotions as near idolatry, and I was very hesitant to develop a relationship with her because of this. At some point, I received a prayer book with a specific hymn/poem that helped put into context how Mariology (the study of Mary, different from Mariolatry, which is the worship of Mary) fits into Christology (the study of Christ). I know I'm not the first to ever struggle with this, nor will I be the last. So, I offer this hymn/poem as a means of helping those who struggle to develop a relationship with our Blessed Mother Mary.

Mary the Dawn, Christ the Perfect Day;  
 Mary the Gate, Christ the Heav'nly Way!  
 Mary the Root, Christ the Mystic Vine;  
 Mary the Grape, Christ the Sacred Wine!  
 Mary the Wheat-Sheaf, Christ the Living Bread;  
 Mary the Rose-Tree, Christ the Rose blood-red!  
 Mary the Font, Christ the Cleansing Flood;  
 Mary the Chalice, Christ the Saving Blood!  
 Mary the Temple; Christ the Temple's Lord;  
 Mary the Shrine, Christ the God adored!  
 Mary the Beacon, Christ the Haven's Rest;  
 Mary the Mirror, Christ the Vision Blest!  
 Mary the Mother, Christ the Mother's Son.  
 Both ever blest while endless ages run. Amen.

**Advent Rescue Project:** This week, we will focus on being rescued by Jesus. God's response to our lives is shocking and unexpected. God sends his beloved Son to take away our sins and give us eternal life with him. We often think that it's unfortunate how Jesus died for our sins. But in a dialog with St. Catherine of Siena, Jesus told her that he couldn't wait to die for his people. He wanted to die so that we may not experience eternal death. He also told her that "it was not the nails that kept me on the cross but my love for you." This is the love and mercy that Jesus desires for us to know. St. John the Baptist is asked a question in today's Gospel, "What should we do?" St. John responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." St. Paul tells us in today's second reading, "Your kindness should be known to all." Why is this kindness possible? Because we have been rescued. St. Paul writes to us, "For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all...so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him." What difference does Jesus rescuing me make in my life?

**Fr. Felix Petrovsky, OFM Cap.,** died earlier this week. His funeral will be at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Please pray the repose of his soul. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**3rd ANNUAL ADVENT FAMILY CHALLENGE:** The diocese once again encourages and promotes the Family Advent Challenge. It is centered around building family life while entering the current liturgical season. Step 1 is committing to a Family Night once a week during Advent. Step 2 is to Pray the Novena for Family and Marriage from December 21 – December 28. Step 3 is to go to Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family together as a family (December 29). For more information, please visit <https://salinadiocese.org/office/family-life/advent-family-challenge/>

**Advent Penance Services:** The Advent Penance Schedule for the West Vicariate is available at the church's entrances. St. Joseph's penance service is Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm.

**Memorial poinsettias** are available for purchase at Everythings-A-Bloomin. We have already reserved what we need, and your donation will be deducted from the final total. Please get in touch with Dana or Wendy with your parish, name, and donation. Thank you.

**ST. JOSEPH NEWS:**

**Holiday volunteer sign-up sheets** are in the back of St. Joseph Church. Thank you!!


**St. Joseph School is missing 11 folding chairs.** If you borrowed them, please give the school a call at 785-671-4451. Thank you!

**ST. PAUL NEWS:**

**The Angelus Knights of Columbus Membership Stag Steak Fry** will be held on December 28 at 5:30p.m. Please bring money for dues to help us save money on postage.

**Free Youth Trapshoot** on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1pm. This is for boys and girls grades 5 - 12<sup>th</sup>.

**The Angelus Knights of Columbus Stag/Stagette Steak Fry** will be held on January 11, 2025 at 5:30p.m.






**Our Tithes from Last Week**

Oakley: 4,371.00 Angelus: \$813.00

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



Follow us on  St. Joseph Catholic Church and School

  @stjosephoakley

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

Sat	14 – 5pm + Loretta Schoenfeld
Sun	15 – 8am Mass (Angelus)- Parishioners 10:30am Mass + Bill Goetz
Mon	16 – No Mass
Tues	17 – 8:30am Mass + Larry Kuhlman 9:30am Bible Study in the rectory
Wed	18 – 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + Collin Gormley 7pm CCD Classes at both parishes 7pm Oakley CYO deep clean church/Jr CYO cookie delivery
Thur	19 – 8:30am Mass + Ron Kuhlman
Fri	20 – 7am Mass + Helen Ostmeyer
Sat	21 – 5pm + Mildred Kuhlman
Sun	22 – 8am Mass (Angelus) + Leland & Celeste McInay 10:30am Mass - Parishioners

Confessions 30 minutes before Weekend Masses, by appointment, or if indicated on the schedule.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Darin Munk	Mrs. Aimee Zimmerman - Chair
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
Mrs. Penny Pfeifer	Mr. Ethan Schwarz
Mrs. Cassie Shirley	Mrs. Dana Charles – Vice Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman	

**ST. JOSEPH FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mrs. Betty Hockersmith - Chair	Mrs. Delores Lockhart
Mr. Dana Charles (Par. Co. Rep.)	Mr. Henry Sloan – Vice Chair
Mrs. Susan Glassman	Mr. Tom Halbleib

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COUNCIL**

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Mrs. Casey Zerr	Mrs. Mary Urrego
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**ST. PAUL PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mr. Bernard Dickman	Ms. Diane Solomon
Mr. Clem Felthoelter- Chair	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Felthoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Dec 21 <sup>st</sup> 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> 10:30 am	Servers	Bryn & Kambrie H, Parker K.
	Lector	Bob & Sherri Kuhlman		Lector	Carrie Evins
	Gifts	Darren & Tori Goetz		Gifts	Chris & Jessica Halbleib
	Hospitality	Pat Ryan & Donita Sparks		Hospitality	Jerry Schoenfeld & Karen Wetovick

Sunday, Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> 8 am	Servers	Nick Robben
	Lectors	Millie Baalman & Barney Dickman
	Gifts	Andrew & Tristan Bixenman
	Ushers	Bob Schwarz, Eugene Schwarz, Ron Bixenman & Daryl Bixenman