

“Beacon of Faith”
ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

“Cathedral of the Plains”
THE BASILICA OF ST. FIDELIS

“Pearl of the Prairie”
ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Parish Office:	601 10th Street, Victoria, KS 67671 • 785-735-2777 • Fax: 785-735-2779 Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 — Friday 8:30-12:00	Catholic Faith Education Office: 785-735-9244	
Gift Shop Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30–noon and 1:00–4:30 Friday: 8:30–noon	Weddings: Couples planning to marry must contact the Parish Office at least 6 months before the wedding date for marriage preparations.	Baptisms: All new parents are asked to complete a Baptismal Preparation class before their child is baptized. For information, please call the Parish Office.	Hospital Visits: To arrange for our pastor to visit someone in the hospital, please call the Parish Office.
In-Home Mass: Any homebound or hospice family interested in having Mass in their home should contact the Parish Office.	Holy Communion Brought to Homebound: Holy Communion can be brought to homebound parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is unable to come to a Sunday Mass.	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: THURSDAYS 10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. in St. Fidelis Church Chapel behind the main altar	

www.stfidelischurch.com / www.stbonifacevincent.com

December 18, 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses:

St. Fidelis, Victoria

Saturday — 5:00 pm
Sunday — 10:00 am
Monday — 7:00 pm
Tuesday through Friday — 6:45 am

St. Ann, Walker

Saturday — 6:30 pm — November - April
Sunday — 7:30 am — May - October

St. Boniface, Vincent

Sunday — 8:45 am

Confessions:

at St. Fidelis — Mondays — 7:30 pm
or by appointment (contact Parish Office)

Tri-Parish Prayer Line

Anyone wishing to request prayers for family or friends may call Helen Windholz (735-2508) or Teresa Shepherd (735-9576) to add their requests to the Prayer Line

Dates To Remember

Dec. 21 — First Day of Winter — Winter Solstice @ 4:44 a.m. CST
Dec. 22-Jan. 4 — School Break
Dec. 23 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas holiday
Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 — Christmas
Dec. 26 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas holiday
Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve
Jan. 1 — New Year's Day — Mary, Mother of God
Jan. 2 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED for New Year's holiday



(from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24)

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.



The Annunciation, the first joyful mystery of the rosary, is a meditation on the announcement to Mary that she will be the mother of the promised Messiah. The scriptures record other annunciations of special births in the course of salvation history: in the Old Testament for the births of Ishmael, Isaac, Samuel, and Samson; in the New Testament the birth of John the Baptist is announced to his father, Zachariah.

The announcement of the birth of Christ is unique in that there are two annunciations: to Mary his mother in the gospel of Luke; and to his foster father Joseph in Matthew's gospel. Too often we overlook the annunciation to Joseph, today's gospel.

Our dominant image of the Annunciation of the conception of Christ in art and literature and liturgy is that from the gospel of Luke which focuses on the mother, Mary. We should not miss the special significance in the annunciation of this birth to Joseph in the gospel of Matthew which is the gospel reading for this fourth Sunday of Advent. Joseph is the central figure in today's gospel.

It is quite natural that the birth of a child is associated more closely with the mother. Yet our traditional Marian focus on the Annunciation should not minimize the importance of the announcement to St. Joseph which has a message about the responsibilities of fathers to a society where too many fathers are absent. Such absence may be physical; but there can also be a physical presence but an absence of a sincere commitment or the lack of a personal involvement with the children and their mother.

The gospel says of St. Joseph that he was "a righteous man." The defining event of his righteousness was his response to the unexpected pregnancy of his betrothed as told in today's gospel. He could have demanded vindictive justice. But he chose to temper justice with mercy. He did what was right not only for himself, but also for his finance.

If Mary had violated their betrothal, the law required that he divorce her. A formal trial would shame her and exonerate him. The gospel says that he decided even before the angel's appearance to divorce her quietly. He would satisfy the law without disgracing her or seeking revenge. He would not assume the worst or seek the maximum punishment. He was a righteous man. He did the right thing.

In the Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph we pray, "He was that just man, that wise and loyal servant. With a husband's love he cherished Mary and with fatherly care he watched over Jesus." Joseph is a model for all men to be just, wise, and loyal. He is a special challenge for married men to cherish their wife and to watch over their children.

Saint Joseph is the only major character in the Gospels who does not speak! Jesus speaks, Mary speaks, John speaks, James speaks, Peter speaks – too often! But Joseph never speaks. He is the spiritual standard for the maxim, "Actions speak louder than words." Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "The silence of Saint Joseph is steeped in the contemplation of the mystery of God. It is a silence of thanks, a silence woven of constant prayer, a prayer of blessing of the Lord, of the adoration of His holy will and of unreserved trust in his providence. In a world that is often too noisy, that encourages neither recollection nor listening to God's voice, let us allow ourselves to be filled with the silence of Saint Joseph."

... and mirth

Christmas is like a day at the office: you do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

Parish Staff

Pastor:

Fr. John Schmeidler, OFM, Cap.
email: frjohncap@gmail.com

Secretary:

Jan Brungardt
email: fidelis@ruraltel.net

Catholic Faith Education Office:

Shirley Brungardt, Coordinator
email: sfreled@ruraltel.net
Jeanette Brungardt, Youth Minister
email: fidelisyouth@ruraltel.net

Sacristan: Katie Scheck

Housekeeping: Darlene Dreiling

Groundskeeper: Julius Dreiling

Maintenance: Joe Brungardt

Organists: Kathy Dreiling-Amrein

Lou Ann Hammersmith

Choir Director: Kathy Dreiling-Amrein

Technology Coordinator:

Connie Windholz
email: sftech@ruraltel.net

Council Members

St. Fidelis Pastoral Council

Randy Leiker 259-1392 (Chair)
Andy Kuhn 639-2156 (Vice-Chair, B & G)
LeeAnn Schmidtberger 735-9486 (Sec)
Janea Dinkel 735-9529 (FamLife)
Peggy Fitzpatrick 735-8186 (RelEd)
Doug Kuhn 650-1058 (Bldgs & Grounds)
Donna Juenemann 735-9700 (Liturgy)
John Schulte 735-9535

St. Fidelis Finance Council

John R. Braun 735-2622
Harland Rupp 735-2206
Dave Juenemann 656-0647

St. Boniface Pastoral Council

Carol Freitag 735-9282
Randy Huser 735-4836
Fred Tholen 735-4801

St. Ann Pastoral Council

Helen Windholz 735-2293
Terry Riedel
Jerry Nowak 637-5273

Contributions December 10-11, 2016

ST. FIDELIS:

Adult 2425.00 Loose 1484.00
Repair Fund 50.00
Retired Religious 226.00
Immaculate Conception 298.50

ST. ANN:

Adult 86.00 Loose 416.39
Candles 96.00
Retired Religious 46.00
Immaculate Conception 1.00

ST. BONIFACE:

Adult 205.00 Loose 129.50
Candles 31.00
Retired Religious 189.00
Immaculate Conception 10.00

Dec. 19 — Mary Brungardt, Det Younger

Dec. 27 (Tuesday) — Dorothy Goetz

With Sympathy

The sympathy of the parishes is extended to the family of **Lila Mae Schippers**, who passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2016. Services were held at Salem Church, Tomball, Texas, on Wednesday, December 7. Additional services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14, at The Basilica of St. Fidelis with burial in St. Fidelis Cemetery, Victoria.

Please remember your
ADVENT ANGEL
in your prayers
throughout the season of Advent.



"Help one another:

This is what Jesus teaches us and this is what I am doing, and doing with all my heart."

~ Pope Francis, *Homily on Holy Thursday*
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Christmas Log

Christmas night or sometime before the tree comes down, ask each family member to write his or her impressions of this Christmas—gifts given and received, special moments with relatives and friends, etc. Put these ideas in a homemade Christmas log (decorated notebook or scrapbook) and add to it each year. Store the log with Christmas decorations and take it out each year to remember the past and celebrate the present. Don't be picky about neatness or consistency. Write out comments of preschoolers. Include entries by special visitors who stay at your home each holiday.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Oh dearest Lord, Compassionate God of justice, so many areas of my life seem imprisoned but you promise me real peace. Renew my spirit and free my soul. Please, open my heart which you have bathed in the longing of Advent. I am awe-struck as your glory fills the earth and I want to follow you in caring for others. Grant me the grace to see how you shine your light on the poor who have such a special place in your heart. Thank you for these weeks of prayer. In the spirit of the season my waiting, my patience, feels sacred. Bless my heart with generosity and make me ready to receive you.



Come, Lord Jesus! Come!

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED—We are looking for individuals or couples to conduct tours of the church for visiting groups and tourists. For more information, contact Jan at the Parish office.

ST. BONIFACE

24 Hour Adoration at St. Boniface

The 24 Hour Adoration at St. Boniface parish will begin **Saturday, December 17, at 8:00 a.m. and conclude Sunday, December 18, at 8:00 a.m.**

Families will take turns an hour at a time around the clock.



Little Town of Bethlehem Nativity

Hours of Display

The crib at St. Boniface will be open to visitors from 1:00-5:00 p.m. on all the Saturdays and Sundays of December up to and including Christmas Day.



CHOIR

PRACTICE: Wednesday, December 21, @ 7:00 p.m.

SING: Sunday, December 18, @ 10:00 a.m.; Christmas Eve Midnight Mass (10:00 p.m.); and New Year's Eve Mass (5:00 p.m.). Anyone wanting to sing should come for the practices.

We welcome anyone who loves to sing.

DIOCESE

Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity."



Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Congratulations to our Religious Ed second grade class who celebrate their First Reconciliation this afternoon, Sunday, December 18th.

May they always rejoice in the love and mercy of Jesus.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Sunday, December 18** — 1:00 P.M. Second grade – Receive Sacrament of First Communion — Location: St. Fidelis Church
3:00 - 5:00 pm—CYO Spiritual Bouquets. Meet in PAC Meal Site Room
- Wednesday, December 21** — 10th grade Confirmation: Letter to the Bishop due!
Turn in all service hours completed so far (remainder due end of January 2017)
Religious Ed Classes
K – 5 6:30 - 7:15 P.M. — Christmas Pageant practice at St. Fidelis Church
6 – 12 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.
- Friday, December 23** — 1:00 - 3:15 P.M. — Christmas Pageant practice at St. Fidelis Church
3:-00 - 4:00 P.M. — Jubilee Choir practice (performs at Christmas Eve Mass)
- Saturday, December 24** — 5:00 P.M. Mass @ St. Fidelis - Christmas Pageant & Jubilee Choir performs
- Sunday, December 25** — Christmas – No Liturgy of the Word during Mass
- Monday-Thursday, December 26-29** — CYO Ski Trip in Nathrop, Colorado

Wednesday, December 28 — No Religious Ed Classes

JANUARY CALENDAR

- Sunday, January 1** — No Liturgy of the Word during Mass
- Monday, January 2** — PAC closed
- Wednesday, January 4** — No Religious Ed Classes — No Jubilee Choir practice
- Sunday, January 8** — 10:00 A.M. Mass – Jubilee Choir performs
- Tuesday, January 10** — 7:00 P.M. - Religious Ed Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, January 11** — Religious Ed classes – Beginning of second semester
K – 5 6:30 - 7:15 P.M.
6 – 12 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.
- Monday, January 16** — PAC Closed
- Wednesday, January 18** — Religious Ed classes
K – 5 6:30 - 7:15P.M.
6 – 12 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.
- Wednesday, January 25** — Religious Ed classes
K-5 6:30 - 7:15 P.M.
6-12 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.
10th grade Confirmation class – remaining service hours due**

YOUTH MINISTRY



The annual Christmas Pageant will be held at the 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Fidelis. Practice for the Christmas Pageant in St. Fidelis Church on Thursday, December 23, at St. Fidelis from 1:00 – 3:15 P.M.

Jubilee Choir Practice

Jubilee Choir has an additional practice scheduled for **Friday, December 23, from 3:00 until 4:00 P.M.** Please drop your child off in the back of church. The children will practice in the choir loft with Mrs. Scheck and Mrs. Hammersmith. If your child is also performing in the Christmas Pageant, they will go directly from the Christmas Pageant practice with Miss Rome, in the church, to Jubilee Choir practice.

Remaining practices + performances for 2016:

Practice:

Friday, December 23, 2016 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Performance:

Saturday, December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve) 5:00 P.M. Mass

VICTORIA VFW POST 1751—If you are looking for a place to gather for Receptions, Weddings, Anniversaries, Family Reunions, Class Reunions, Dances, First Communion, or any type of get together, the VFW has a full kitchen that can be used if needed. For more information to rent the Hall, please call Dennis at 785-639-4621.

City Council Meeting

Victoria City Council meetings are always held on the third Monday of the month. This month's meeting will be **Monday, December 19**, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Community residents are encouraged to attend.

Victoria Elementary News!!

The **Sunny D** labels have been sent in, and now we anxiously await our delivery of 20 books for every classroom at VES!! We are still collecting **Box Tops and Pop Tabs**. Last year we collected 123 pounds of pop tabs, and we received \$1,412.10 for the Box Tops! We'd love to surpass both those numbers this year!

If you have any of these items be sure to give them to any elementary school student or staff member, or you can drop them off at the school. Thanks again for all your help!

Single and Beyond

Single and Beyond is an ecumenical Christian social group for divorced, widowed, and single people located in or near Hays. Their mission is to provide friendship, support, and understanding to one another. Contact Nancy at 785-432-0533 or singleandbeyond@gmail.com. Food and Fellowship gathering on **Wednesday, December 21**, at JD's Country Style Chicken, 740 E. 8th, at 6:00 p.m. All singles are welcome; bring a friend.

KEEP PRAYING!

Pray for the Conversion of Our Nation

We need a lot of prayer, since we are in an important election season. Prayer hour **every 3rd Tuesday** of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Fidelis Church.

All are welcome!



First Care Clinic

Hours are:

Monday – Thursday

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Friday 8:30 AM – Noon

Phone: **785-735-3710**



Victoria Schools Calendar

Monday — December 19

Lunch Menu: Hotdog, macaroni & cheese, mixed vegetables, grapes, salad, milk

AIM period—Students have directed study

3:30 pm HS girls basketball practice @ VES

3:30 pm JH basketball practice: Girls in tin gym

4:00 pm JH basketball C-Team vs. TMP

5:00 pm HS boys basketball practice @ VES

7:30 pm District Christmas Concert

Tuesday — December 20

Lunch Menu: Turkey & gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, dinner roll, pears, pumpkin cake, salad, milk

AIM period—Students have directed study

3:30 pm JH basketball practice: Girls at VES. Boys in tin gym

3:30 pm HS boys basketball practice

6:30 pm FCCLA Christmas banquet in cafeteria

Wednesday — December 21 — End of 1st Semester

Lunch Menu: Pizza, broccoli, banana, oatmeal sugar cookie, salad, milk

AIM period—Students have directed study

3:30 pm JH basketball practice: Boys at VES. Girls in tin gym

3:30 pm HS girls basketball practice

5:00 pm HS boys basketball practice

Thursday — December 22

WINTER BREAK



Happy Holiday!!!

Yes it is Happy Holidays because **Trilogy** has just finished their first Christmas CD and it is ready for sale at **\$15.00 each with \$4.00 going to the Basilica of St. Fidelis from each sale.**

(Cost is \$19 if mailing is necessary.)

The CD's are available in the St. Fidelis Gift Shop OR contact Jerry Schmidtberger at 785-735-7055.

Payment can also be sent to Jerry at

PO Box 211, Victoria, KS.

The list of songs on the CD are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Beautiful Star of Bethlehem | 9. Christmas Everyday |
| 2. Glorious Impossible | 10. There's a New Kid in Town |
| 3. Carol of the Stable | 11. It's Still the Greatest Story Ever Told |
| 4. Mary, Did You Know | 12. Christmas Lullaby |
| 5. It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas | 13. Winter Wonderland |
| 6. Sweet Little Jesus Boy | 14. Silent Night |
| 7. Breath of Heaven | 15. We Wish You a Merry Christmas |
| 8. Silver Bells | |

* Sunday Rosary Schedule *

1 st - Christian Mothers	2 nd - Knights of Columbus
3 rd - Daughters of Isabella	4 th - Family Life

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Cantor	Ministers	Servers	Greeters
Children's Choir	Jane Wagner Mary Rome	Audrey Staab Morgan Staab	Volunteers
Lector	Marge Rome	Volunteer	
Volunteer	4 Volunteers		
Comm.			
Volunteer			

Saturday, December 24, 10:00 pm

Cantor	Ministers	Servers	Greeters
Adult Choir	7 Volunteers	3 Volunteers	
Lector	Comm.		
Volunteer	Volunteer		

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am

Cantor	Ministers	Servers	Greeters
Kathy Amrein family	Norma Keenan 6 Volunteers	3 Volunteers	
Lector	Comm.		
Volunteer	Volunteer		

PLENARY INDULGENCE GIVEN WHEN VISITING A BASILICA

The faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence by visiting a minor basilica. An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment for a previously forgiven sin. To obtain a plenary indulgence during a pilgrimage to a basilica, one must participate in any sacred rite or recite the Lord's Prayer or the profession of faith while there, then go to Confession and Communion and pray for the intention of the pope. ~taken from *The Register*, the Salina Diocese newspaper

THURSDAY MORNING COFFEE is held at the Parish Office at 9:30. Come and join Fr. John, other parishioners, and friends at the Parish Office for a cup of coffee and a snack.



BULLETIN ITEMS—The deadline for bulletin articles is **Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.** Please contact Connie (sftech@ruraltel.net or 785-735-2777) at the Parish Office if you have an item for the bulletin.



St. Fidelis Food Pantry

Parish Activity Center (PAC) • 601 10th St. • 785-735-2777

ST. FIDELIS THRIFT SHOP is always accepting donations. Thrift Shop hours are Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10-2, Thursday from 10-4, Wednesday from 10-3:30. If these hours do not work to drop off your donations, contact Jan at the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY	DECEMBER 19
7:00 pm John M. Schippers family and Frank Kuhn family	
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 20
6:45 am Carol Billinger	
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 21
6:45 am Joe, Magdalen, and Bill Roth families and Tom Younger	
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 22
6:45 am Pete and Leona Wellbrock	
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 23
6:45 am Olinto and Viola Lodovici	
SATURDAY	CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 pm St. Fidelis Bonivent, Margaret, Donnie, Leo, Hubert, David, Galen, and Marlene Dinkel	DECEMBER 24
8:30 pm St. Ann Robert and Lydia Sander family living and deceased Pauline Meis	
10:00 pm St. Fidelis Art Vonfeldt and Winnie Beckwith	
SUNDAY	CHRISTMAS DAY
8:45 am St. Boniface Bob and Bernie Schumacher Matthew Wellbrock Julian Huser	DECEMBER 25
10:00 am St. Fidelis Victor and Marlene "Toots" Scheck	



Surprise !

An officer in the South Pacific who had been overseas sixteen months received a letter from his wife telling about a prayer their four-year-old daughter made:

"Dear Lord, please send me a baby brother so we will have something to surprise Daddy with when he gets home."

St. Fidelis Church bulletin November 28, 1993

Holiday Schedules

Confession Schedule for Advent

Monday Evenings at St. Fidelis

after 7:00 p.m. Mass (around 7:30 p.m.)

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

at St. Fidelis

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

on Thursday, December 22

(No Adoration on Thursday, December 29)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

(Christmas is a holy day of obligation)

Saturday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria (*Children's Mass*)

8:30 p.m. • St. Ann, Walker

10:00 p.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

Choir will begin singing at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 — Christmas

8:45 a.m. • St. Boniface, Vincent

10:00 a.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, December 31 — New Year's Eve

5:00 p.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria

6:30 p.m. • St. Ann, Walker

Sunday, January 1 — New Year's Day

8:45 a.m. • St. Boniface, Vincent

10:00 a.m. • St. Fidelis, Victoria