

**MASS INTENTIONS—February 25<sup>th</sup>—March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday—5pm** +Pat Journot  
(Rick and Kathy Thurman)

**Sunday— 8am** +Charlie Steinbacher  
(Jim & Judy Vitt)

**10am** People of St. Patrick's Parish

**Monday—7am** Mother's Day Novena

**Tuesday—8am** Father's Day Novena

**Wednesday—8am** Special Intention

**Ash Wednesday, Cont.**

**12:05pm** People of St. Patrick's Parish

**6pm** Joan Coughlin (Charlene Stottmann)

**Thursday—9:55am** +Gertrude McKinney  
(Jim & Mildred Simon)

**First Friday—7am** David George (Lisa Harriger)

**Next Weekends Intentions:**

**Saturday—5pm** +Eddie George

**Sunday— 8am** People of St. Patrick's Parish

**10am** +Vicki Sallee



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Bob and Linda Moore, Gary Warstler

**THE CATHOLIC SIDE**

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

Norma McCorvey died this past week. Many people don't know who she is. She is better known for her pseudonym, Jane Roe. She was the woman who lawyers persuaded to file a suit for her "right to choose" an abortion. We all know how that played out these 44 years later. For a while, she was the belle of the ball for pro-aborts. Then, in 1995, there was a fulfillment of a line from St. Paul, "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more." Norma became a Christian and repented of her part in bringing abortion to the United States. Later, she would come into the Catholic Church with the help of Fr. Frank Pavone, founder of Priests for Life. Needless to say, once she became a Christian and turned away from the abortion movement, she became a pariah. Norma carried a heavy weight all her life, even knowing that she had been forgiven by the Lord for her part in this national disaster. Her repentance didn't change the reality that by the time of her death, around 60,000,000 babies have lost their lives in the so-called "right to choose." Norma once said about her role in abortion, "I long for the day that justice will be done and the burden from all of these deaths will be removed from my shoulders." She received great solace from the Lord in the sacraments of the Church, especially Confession and the Most Holy Eucharist. I suspect these were the two lifelines that kept her going when it seemed like the weight of legalized abortion pressed down on her. In her book, *Won by Love*, Norma wrote about what brought her to change her mind about abortion. At the time this happened, she was working in an abortion mill. She said, "I was sitting in O.R.'s offices when I noticed a fetal development poster. The progression was so obvious, the eyes were so sweet. It hurt my heart, just looking at them. I ran outside and finally, it dawned on me. 'Norma', I said to myself, 'They're right'. I had worked with pregnant women for years. I had been through three pregnancies and deliveries myself. I should have known. Yet something in that poster made me lose my breath. I kept seeing the picture of that tiny, 10-week-old embryo, and I said to myself, that's a baby! It's as if blinders just fell off my eyes and I suddenly understood the truth—that's a baby! I felt crushed under the truth of this realization. I had to face up to the awful reality. Abortion wasn't about 'products of conception'. It wasn't about 'missed periods'. It was about children being killed in their mother's wombs. All those years I was wrong. Signing that affidavit, I was wrong. Working in an abortion clinic, I was wrong. No more of this first trimester, second trimester, third trimester stuff. Abortion—at any point—was wrong. It was so clear. Painfully clear."

There was an interesting article about Norma and Sarah Weddington. Sarah Weddington was Norma's lawyer during the Roe case. There was a decidedly pro-abortion young woman, Melissa Clement, at the University of Nevada who had the opportunity to interact with Sarah in various "feminist" gatherings throughout her time in college. One time, she had what she called the pleasure of having Sarah come to Nevada and give a talk to a feminist group. Melissa was especially excited because she thought Sarah was the perfect feminist icon: powerful lawyer who argued the supposedly key case of feminism before the Supreme Court and she won. After the presentation, which thoroughly impressed Melissa, she and a few other women from the group took Sarah out for supper. In the course of the supper, Melissa asked an innocent question, "What ever happened to Roe?" This is what Melissa wrote of Sarah's response: "Sarah's gracious demeanor and beautiful smile changed instantaneously. 'She's a stupid piece of white trash. She's pro-life and a Christian,' she snarled throwing in a few decidedly ungracious and unrepeatable curse words. 'She's a piece of trash. She was stupid when we found her and she's worse now.'" I quickly paid the check and the evening ended. Her words and her demeanor hung in the air that night and honestly, I have never been able to forget them. And that, right there, was the end of a chapter. I would no longer blindly follow a feminist agenda that defined progress on the backs of dead babies."

As we begin Lent this week, make sure to have some prayer or sacrifice specifically for the end to abortion. This is the key to living in a culture of life. And, offer a prayer for the repose of the soul of Norma McCorvey, that the merciful arms of Jesus will welcome her into eternity. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace, Amen.

May our holy patron, St. Patrick, intercede for us. St. Joseph, protector of the Church and the family, pray for us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, protectress of life, pray for us. Peace in Jesus and Mary,

*Fr. Borkenhagen*

**PARISH NEWS**

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**—"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." REALLY!??? Maybe Jesus could sit in on strategic planning or budgeting meetings. :-) But in reality, do we invite Him into those moments? Do we begin with prayer or stop to ask the Holy Spirit to come be with us in moments of need? I almost have to laugh at myself as I am reading the Gospel this weekend. Forget just tomorrow, we have already begun enrollment for next school year and have been drafting next year's calendar. That's more than 365 tomorrows!!! Anyway, this past week we hosted the second League Quiz Bowl Competition. It is a lot of work, so thank you Mrs. Yoakam and all our teachers for working to host this event. But it's also a good experience when you have middle school students, parents, and staff from all 7 Mineral Belt League schools here at the same time. Not to mention one of our teams was a perfect 6-0 that day! Lastly, we are still looking for a Middle School Track Coach. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact us at the school office 620-421-0710 or school@stpatricksparsons.org Thanks So Much and God Bless, *Emilio Aita*

**4th ANNUAL BOB GREENOUGH MEMORIAL 5K**—and 1-Mile Walk/Fun Run will be held March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Registration will be from 7:15-7:45 in front of the church. Entry fee is \$15 if registered by March 12<sup>th</sup>, which also guarantees you a t-shirt on race day, and \$20 after March 12<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds support St. Patrick's Catholic Youth Ministry. Registration forms may be picked up at the rectory or Upscale Country. For more info contact Bethany at [bethanyk@labette.edu](mailto:bethanyk@labette.edu) or Carolyn at [cwaugh@usd506.org](mailto:cwaugh@usd506.org).

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER**—will be Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Watch next weekends bulletin for more details!

**BECOME A FOURTH DEGREE K OF C MEMBER**—The Fourth Degree Assembly #2496 will host an Exemplification on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. If interested in joining the Fourth Degree, this is a perfect opportunity to do so in Parsons. The cut off date is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**ESTATE PLANNING FOR CATHOLICS**—The Diocesan Office of Planned Giving is hosting an informative meetings in Southeast Kansas on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at St. Mary's Colgan H.S. Auditorium from 9:30-11:30am. Travis A. Pearson, Esq., will be speaking about "Planned Giving: Combine your family financial planning and your stewardship" and Kevin Mitchelson, Esq. will present on "Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning: powerful tools to take care of your family, minimize taxes, and implement your planned giving desires."

**DON'T FORGET**—Go to Silver Wheels Skating Rink from 2-4pm today. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 for families with 4+ kids. Proceeds support Hannah's Promise!

**SPEND ONE HOUR WITH OUR LORD!**  
*Adorers are needed for the following hours:*  
**Wed 3-4am, Wed 7-8am, Sat 2-3am,**  
**Sat 10-11pm, Sun 12-1am,**  
**Sun 5-6am, Sun 10-11pm.**

**Stewarding our Gifts...**

**"GO IN PEACE, GLORIFYING THE LORD BY YOUR LIFE."**  
*Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time*

"...O you of little faith." There aren't many phrases in the Bible that feel like a punch to the gut quite like this one. To be called out by Jesus for a lack of faith is a terrible thought for most of us. In fact, we would likely react in a Peter-like denial if someone suggested our faith were lacking. But when you read today's Gospel, you really can't deny it. We worry. A lot. We worry about what we will eat and where we will live. We worry about caring for ourselves and our families. We work and toil our lives away, trying to meet all of our "needs". Jesus tells us that if we had any faith in God, we wouldn't worry about anything. He tells us that if God provides for the birds and the plants then surely he will also provide for us. That message is not a new one, either. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah also reminds us that a mother could more easily forget her newborn infant than God could forget about us. So have faith!! As stewards, we are called to be faithful to God. As stewards, we are expected to be grateful for what he provides. As stewards, we must share all He has given us. Therefore, worry is for the insatiable, not for the faithful.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PATRICK'S THIS WEEK:**

- Sun Feb 26 \*Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast **7am-12pm**  
—Hosted by the Altar Society: home-made biscuits, gravy, scrambled eggs, juice, coffee. Best breakfast in town! Carry-out available!  
\*Bake Sale in Parish Hall— **9 & 11am**  
—Delicious homemade pies & other baked items—Hosted by the Altar Society  
\*RCIA Class **9:15am-12pm**  
—Commandments 6-10
- Mon Feb 27 \*Rosary in the Church **6:30am**  
\*Parish Library Work Evening **6:30pm**
- Tue Feb 28 \*Rosary in the Church **7:30am**  
\*Cursillo Group Meets **5:30pm**  
\*Knights of Columbus Meeting **7pm**
- Wed Mar 1 \*Ash Wednesday  
\*Rosary in the Church **7:30am**  
\*Cursillo Group Meets **5:15pm**  
\*PSR K-5 Family Night **5:30pm**  
\*CYM Meeting—Parish Hall **7pm**  
\*Bible Study—by Fr. Borkenhagen **7pm**  
—St. John's Gospel Chapters 5-8  
\*RCIA Class attend Bible Study after Mass
- Thur Mar 2 \*Rosary in the Church **9:25am**  
\*Bible Study—by Fr. Borkenhagen **1pm**  
—St. John's Gospel Chapters 5-8  
\*Theology on Tap—Kitchen Pass **6pm**
- Fri Mar 3 \*Day of Penance: abstinence from meat, prayer and works of mercy, reading of Sacred Scripture for an outpouring of God's mercy and the Holy Spirit's gifts of holiness and strength upon the Church  
\*Kapaun's Men—Parish Hall **5:30am**  
\*Rosary in the Church **7:30am**  
\*Stations of the Cross **2:45pm**  
\*Stations of the Cross **6pm**  
\*Soup and Bread in the Hall **6:30pm**
- Sat Mar 4 \*Rosary in the Church **6:30am**  
\*Cursillo Group Meets—Hall **7am**  
\*First Saturday Confessions **7:15am**  
\*First Saturday Mass **7am**  
\*Confessions **3:30pm**
- Sun Mar 5 \*RCIA Class— **9:15am-12pm**  
—Passion, Death and Resurrection  
\*Men's Basketball **8:30pm**

**BIG XII RAFFLE**—Two lower level premium tickets for all sessions of the 2017 Big XII tournament at the Sprint Center in K.C will be given away this Tuesday. Chances are \$25 for one ticket or \$50 for three. Call Rick at 423-4417 or contact any Knight for more information.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH:**

February 18<sup>th</sup>—February 19<sup>th</sup>

NEEDED: \$17,081.46 RECEIVED: \$11,021.05

**Altar Servers:**

Mar 4—5pm E Wheat/B Chavez/M Bogner  
Mar 5—8am J O'Hara/A Nibarger/C Buller  
10am Dylan G/Schibi/Farris/Waun/Waun

**Extraordinary Ministers:**

Mar 4—5pm Steve Ramsey  
Mar 5—8am Jane Alexander  
10am Harry Heppler

**Lector:**

Mar 4—5pm Scotty Zollars  
Mar 5—8am Megan Rexwinkle  
10am Daniel Schibi

**Offertory Gifts:**

Mar 4—5pm Mike and Janell Carson  
Mar 5—8am Dave and Cathy Forbes  
10am Adam and Kayan Myers

**Ushers:**

Mar 4—5pm VanMiegheem/Moreno/Cupp/Ritz  
Mar 5—8am R & E Montee/C & R Sprague  
10am Vincent and Mary Schibi

**Money Counters:**

Mar 4 & 5—Lori Nolting and Cathy Schibi