

BUILDING A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE

Official Family Newsletter of the Archdiocese of KCK



ADVENT INVITES US TO OPEN THE DOOR

The Advent wreath invites us to pause and prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming. May these prayers help your family welcome the season with reflection and hope.

WEEK ONE

Listen...open the door of your heart.
Dare to hope with confidence in God.
Do not fear or despair of the present...or the end times that are coming.
God is fulfilling his promise of salvation.
Worry only makes us sluggish and distracts us from God.
This imperfect world calls for our awareness of reality..
and our involvement, joyfully revealing God.
Allow God’s love to increase and abound in and through you.

WEEK THREE

Listen...with joyful expectation, open the door of your heart.
Let us all, every one, in our imperfect humanity, receive and be thankful for God’s gifts.
Do not surrender to anxiety.
Rest in God’s peace.
God is truly in our midst.
Let God’s kindness and mercy flow through you.

WEEK TWO

Listen...open the door of your heart.
Prepare and open your soul to God’s wisdom and love.
God’s salvation is meant for all.
Be perceptive...discern what is of value.
Be transformed.
Become God’s peace and justice.



WEEK FOUR

Listen...open the door of your heart.
Do as Mary did.
She listened. We listen.
She believed. We believe.
She opened her entire self to God.
We open our hearts, our entire selves to God.
God, who is peace, is coming to the world through us.
Allow yourself to BE his peace.

Advent reflection by Kristina Frank
Kristina Frank, a member of the Good Shepherd Shawnee community, is a spiritual director and staff member of the Souljourners Spiritual Direction Formation program. Kristina is the coordinator of Contemplative Outreach KC.

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PLAN FOR A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS

BY LIBBY DUPONT



Holiday Planning Mode is almost in full swing. We buy and wrap gifts, make treats, clean the house, pack up the car and be sure everyone's jammies are matching. But in the busyness of the season, let's not forget to prepare for the one thing that makes or breaks our family gatherings: our relationships!

First, it's good to take stock. Usually, tricky relationship issues we encounter during holiday gatherings do not spring up out of nowhere, but rather they are part of a predictable pattern. Taking some time now in prayer and in conversation with your spouse or children about what stressful situations have come up in the past is the first step to flipping the script. Don't gossip or stir up drama, but honestly ask, "What situations have come up in that past that were awkward, stressful, hurtful or disappointing? What specific behaviors were at fault and how did you experience them?"



Second, it's important to address the past hurts. If it was your own behavior that hurt a loved one, acknowledge your fault and ask for forgiveness. If the hurts were caused by an extended family member with whom reconciliation is not appropriate, you can still pray together as a married couple, or as a parent and child to forgive that person. It is helpful to name the specific thing they did that was wrong, how it made you feel and then pray together to offer that to God, releasing the debt they owe you (and probably won't ever pay anyway!). Choosing to forgive is an act that frees you to love those closest to you. For more practical tips on forgiveness see forgivenessinstitutekc.com.

After forgiving the past, make a plan for this year. Some things can be simple logistics like switching to a better Christmas Mass time or dividing tasks more evenly. Other changes might require some honest conversations with extended family, such as expressing the desire to spread out Christmas visits over a few days to avoid burnout and meltdowns.



Some changes require us to accept that we cannot change other people, but only our reaction to them. Perhaps you have a gentle but witty reply ready for the critical comment you know is coming, or a plan to go for a short daily walk with your spouse during a crowded stay with relatives. You may simply need to let go of expectations our loved ones cannot fulfill.

Taking a little time now to invest in your closest relationships will go a long way in making the season merry!

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY DECEMBER 12

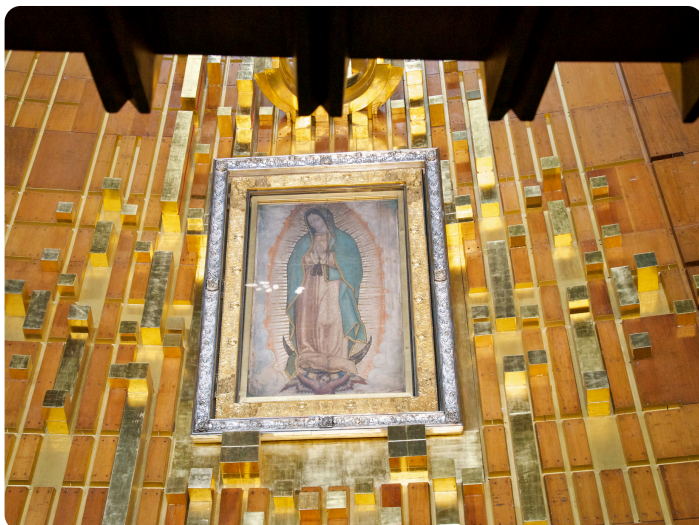
The year is 1531 in what is now Mexico City. Things are a mess. Spanish missionaries have been there for several years, but due to bad interactions with previous Europeans, they are not making much progress in sharing the good news of the Gospel. The Aztecs continue to make war on neighboring peoples, in large part to fuel their need for human sacrifice to their gods. What hope for peace could there be between such different cultures? After so much hatred and violence, how could one dream of reconciliation and healing?

And yet, within a year 9 million Aztecs are baptized. How is this possible?

The answer is Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Mother of Jesus, who appears to a humble native convert, Juan Diego. Every detail of her appearance and every word she speaks conveys the Gospel, in exactly the way that makes sense to the Aztecs.

Our world today can often seem as dark and bleak as it was in 1531.

We are divided from one another, and often it seems like nothing can bridge the gap of misunderstanding, hurt and distrust. This Advent, as we wrap up the Jubilee Year, let's remember that no person and no situation, no matter how difficult or painful, is beyond hope. Let's entrust them all to Our Lady of Guadalupe and ask her to appear with exactly the right message for whatever difficulties lay in front of us.



BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - MEXICO CITY

**"ALWAYS STAY CLOSE TO THIS HEAVENLY MOTHER,
BECAUSE SHE IS THE SEA TO BE CROSSED TO
REACH THE SHORES OF ETERNAL SPLENDOR."**

SAINT PADRE PIO

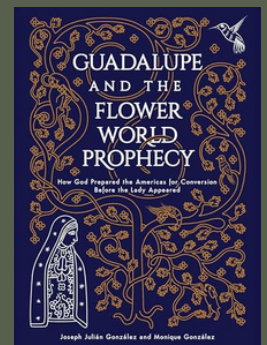


Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose, make intercession for the Holy Church, protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary, and Mother of the True God, obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, of burning charity, and the precious gift of final perseverance.

Amen

To read more about how Our Lady of Guadalupe fulfilled centuries-old Aztec prophesies, check out "Guadalupe and the Flower World Prophecy: How God Prepared the Americas for Conversion Before the Lady Appeared" by Joseph Julián González and Monique González and published by [Sophia Institute Press](#).



JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PLANNING A FAMILY PILGRIMAGE



**MAY WE BE PILGRIMS
OF HOPE, AS WE KNOW
HOPE DOES NOT
DISAPPOINT! (ROM 5:5)**

Are you hoping to make a pilgrimage to close out the Jubilee Year? The good news is that by the time this newsletter hits your inbox, there are five weekends to visit one—or more!—churches before it ends on Monday, January 6, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. A few extra vacation days might give you the extra time you need to make a plan. Gather your extended family together and attend Mass at one of the churches listed below.

Feast days to consider for your pilgrimage:

December 26 - St. Stephen

December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28 - Feast of the Holy Family/Feast of the Holy Innocents

January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 6 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

[LINK](#) for information on receiving a plenary indulgence with this visit.



**SACRED HEART
EMPORIA**

SACRED JUBILEE SITES

Cathedral of St. Peter

Sacred Heart of Jesus in Shawnee

Sacred Heart in Emporia

Sacred Heart (part of Divine Mercy) in Gardner

Sacred Heart (part of Our Lady of Unity) in Kansas City

Sacred Heart in Mound City

Sacred Heart in Ottawa

Sacred Heart in Paxico

Sacred Heart in Sabetha

Sacred Heart in Baileyville

Sacred Heart in Tonganoxie

Sacred Heart (part of Sacred Heart-St. Joseph) in Topeka

Sacred Heart (part of Sacred Heart-St. Casimir) in Leavenworth



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS
SHAWNEE**



**SACRED HEART-ST. CASIMIR
LEAVENWORTH**



CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER



**SACRED HEART
PAXICO**

RUNNING TOWARDS HEAVEN TOGETHER: FEATURED MARRIED SAINT OF THE MONTH

Bl. Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi 1880-1951
Bl. Maria Corsini 1884-1965

ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON EWTNVATICAN.COM

The Italian couple was married for 45 years, enduring two world wars together and nurturing their four children's vocations in service of the Church amid unprecedented difficulties facing Europe.

Both of their sons became priests in the 1930s and went on to concelebrate the beatification Mass of their parents with John Paul II in 2001.

Their eldest son, Father Tarcisio Beltrame, a Benedictine monk, and his younger brother Father Paolino, a Trappist, both risked their lives to secretly work with the resistance during the Nazi occupation of Italy in World War II, while the Beltrame Quattrocchi family's apartment in Rome served as a hiding place for fugitives and Italians with Jewish heritage.

A living relative of the Beltrame Quattrocchi family says that he has documents from the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) confirming the sons' collaboration in the Resistance movement, which was made even riskier by the fact that the family's apartment was located right by the headquarters of the German command in Rome. "If they had been discovered, they would have all been immediately shot," Francesco Beltrame Quattrocchi told EWTN.

The Beltrame Quattrocchis' daughters also enthusiastically served the Church. Their eldest daughter, Stefania, entered a Benedictine monastery as a nun in 1927. The youngest child in their family, Enrichetta Beltrame Quattrocchi, was a lay-consecrated woman who had been declared venerable.

The rich spiritual foundation within Luigi and Maria's marriage was at the root of their children's vocations and the courageous witness of the Beltrame Quattrocchi family during times of trial.

When St. John Paul II beatified Luigi and Maria in 2001, he said the blessed married couple "extraordinarily lived an ordinary life."

"Among the joys and anxieties of a normal family, they knew how to live an extraordinarily rich spiritual life. At the center of their life was the daily Eucharist as well as devotion to the Virgin Mary, to whom they prayed every evening with the rosary," he said.

Luigi and Maria lived lives of heroic virtue together as spouses and parents. The couple married in the Basilica of St. Mary Major on November 25, 1905. Luigi was 25 years old, and Maria was 21. Today, a plaque commemorating their marriage can be seen in the basilica's Corsini chapel.

After being married in Rome's largest Marian basilica, the couple later entrusted their family and all their children to Our Lady of Divine Love.



"This couple lived married love and service to life in the light of the Gospel and with great human intensity. With full responsibility, they assumed the task of collaborating with God in procreation, dedicating themselves generously to their children, to teach them, guide them and direct them to discover his plan of love."

St. John Paul II

"From this fertile spiritual terrain sprang vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, which shows how marriage and virginity may be closely connected and reciprocally enlightening with their common roots in the spousal love of the Lord."

Luigi worked as a lawyer, and Maria served as a catechist and wrote several books on education while raising their four children.

The couple also organized Catholic marriage preparation courses for engaged couples through their work in Catholic Action.

During World War I, the family also assisted the wounded and families facing difficulties. They also financially supported some young people who wished to become priests or enter religious life.

Luigi died of a heart attack in 1951 at the age of 71. Maria lived for another 14 years after the death of her beloved husband and continued her dedicated service to her family and the Church.

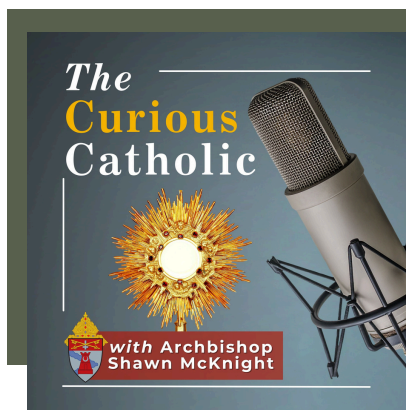
The beatified couple are buried together in Rome's Sanctuary of Divine Love.

The Striving Saint: Resources that Inspire the Road to Sainthood

FEATURED PODCAST

THE CURIOUS CATHOLIC
with Archbishop Shawn McKnight

“Aiming to educate, inspire, and accompany both lifelong Catholics as well as those searching for deeper meaning and truth. This podcast is a communications effort of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. We have centuries of truth to explore; let's walk together.”



FEATURED BOOK

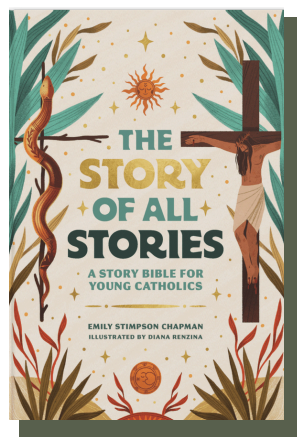
THE STORY OF ALL STORIES
A STORY BIBLE FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS

Emily Stimpson Chapman, Author
Diana Renzina, Illustrator

“Perfect for the young adults, this bible features vibrant illustrations to bring the story home. Share this keepsake at the holidays or on the occasion of a sacraments. Word on Fire gives an excellent introduction to this keepsake Bible: “Each chapter is accompanied by the voices of the Church—saints, popes, and Church Fathers—which highlight how every Bible story is a thread in the great tapestry of God’s redemption.”

Word on Fire Votive

RELEASED OCTOBER, 2025



GIFT IDEA FOR FAMILIES

THE CATHOLIC KIDS' COOKBOOK
HOLY DAYS AND HEAVENLY FOOD

Haley Stewart and Clare Sheaf

“This cookbook is an invitation for families to bring the liturgical year into their homes and grow in their faith. Readers will be introduced to the Church's seasons and holy days with stories of saints and thirty-three recipes. Accompanied by photos, sacred art, Scripture, and prayers, this charming cookbook for children ages 6–14 seeks to evangelize with the beauty of the Church's traditions and cultivate the domestic church.”

Word on Fire Votive



FEATURED PODCAST



Catholic History Trek

Audience: young adult through adult

If you like history, specifically the history of the Catholic church, these 10-12 minute podcasts are perfect for sharing with teens...maybe even on the way to school or a sports practice! Listening with your kids might open the door to a great conversation.

[Spotify download](#)

FEATURED BOOKS



When Mary Says Yes
by Gracie Jagla

"From the time she was a young girl, Mary always wanted to say yes to God. Every little yes in everyday moments led to the biggest yes of her life — one that changed the world. This book is also available in Spanish."

Our Sunday Visitor
Publishing

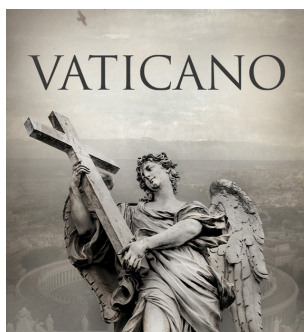


Saintly Rhymes for
Modern Times
by Meghan Bausch

"These kid-friendly rhymes allow children to see the beauty of Christian holiness through the lives of some of our more recent saints. Featuring saints from Damien of Molokai and Thérèse of Lisieux to Teresa of Calcutta and John Paul II, this book shows that holiness is not just a thing of the past."

Our Sunday Visitor
Publishing

FEATURED MOVIE



THE TRUE FACE OF THE VIRGIN MARY
EWTN VATICANO

The movie explores what the Blessed Virgin Mary looked like through interviews and conversations with the Art Historian, Liz Lev, and EWTN Vatican Senior Contributor Paul Badde.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbajDAHyhAk>

UPCOMING EVENTS

HEAR WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE EVERMORE IN LOVE MARRIAGE PREP WEEKEND

“The course's information will impact the way we communicate, approach conflict and intimacy for the rest of our lives. I feel so much more confident and prepared walking into this sacrament. We can't thank you enough!
~Marriage Prep Weekend Participant”

THE OFFICE OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE



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♥ EXPLORE FORGIVENESS

DEC 06, 2025, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM CST

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS,
OFFERED BY THE FORGIVENESS INSTITUTE KC, INC
LEARN HOW TO EXPERIENCE A BETTER LIFE THROUGH THE ACT
OF FORGIVENESS! [REGISTER](#)

♥ EVERMORE IN LOVE MARRIAGE PREP WEEKEND RETREAT SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER - KANSAS CITY, KS

JANUARY 10-11 @ SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER - [REGISTER HERE!](#)

♥ RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE WEEKEND

JANUARY 23-25, 2026 KANSAS CITY, KS

OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO PROVIDE HELP FOR COUPLES
WHO LIVE IN THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND PAIN OF MARRIAGE
PROBLEMS. THE RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND PROVIDES A SAFE
SETTING ENCOURAGING COUPLES TO LEARN COMMUNICATION
IN MARRIAGE IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER.

QUESTIONS? RETROKCK@GMAIL.COM

♥ CALLED TO LOVE AGAIN ROADMAP SERIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - ASCENSION PARISH

ST. LUKE ROOM AT 6:00 PM

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY AND A ROADMAP FOR HEALING
AFTER DIVORCE.

QUESTIONS? KATIE@THECALL2LOVE.COM

[HTTPS://WWW.THECALL2LOVE.COM/CALLED-TO-LOVE-AGAIN](https://www.thecall2love.com/called-to-love-again)

♥ BENEDICTINE COLLEGE CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE FAMILY WEEK RETREAT

MAY 24-29, 2026 BENEDICTINE CAMPUS

COUPLES AND FAMILIES COME TO FAMILY WEEK FOR A UNIQUE
RETREAT EXPERIENCE THAT EXPLORES THE “WHY AND HOW”
OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THROUGH A CATHOLIC LENS.

QUESTIONS? PBURGHART@BENEDICTINE.EDU

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FAMILY NEWSLETTER
AND OTHER EMAIL LISTS
ON OUR FLOCKNOTE!**

