



**MOST REVEREND SHAWN MCKNIGHT, S.Th.D.**  
ARCHBISHOP OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

**DECREE**  
*of Appointment*

Whereas the vacancies created by the transfer of priests must be filled for the pastoral care of the faithful and good order of the life of the Church; and whereas

Having considered the parishes in need of pastoral care and having consulted the Priest Personnel Board, the Vicar General, and the Vicar for Clergy to determine suitable candidates to serve them, I hereby decree the following

**APPOINTMENTS**

*Pastor:*

- The **Reverend Nicholas Ashmore**, formerly Pastor of St. Catherine Catholic Church and Director of the Didde Catholic Center in Emporia, KS to Pastor of Our Lady of Unity Catholic Parish in Kansas City, KS, while continuing long-distance studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America, effective 1 August 2026;
- The **Reverend Nicholas Blaha**, formerly Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS to Pastor of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wamego, KS and St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. George, KS (Flush);
- The **Reverend Nathan Haverland**, formerly Pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Topeka, KS to Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee, KS;
- The **Reverend Anthony Mersmann**, formerly Pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in Hartford, KS to Pastor of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Emporia, KS, while continuing as Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Olpe, KS, effective 1 June 2026;

- The **Reverend Scott Wallisch**, formerly Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee, KS and Co-Director for Seminarians to Pastor of Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, KS.

*Parochial Administrator:*

- The **Reverend Miguelangel Arenas, M.N.M.**, in consultation with his religious superior, from Parochial Vicar of All Saints Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS to Parochial Administrator of All Saints Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS;
- The **Reverend Colm Larkin**, from Parochial Vicar of Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, KS and Chaplain of St. Thomas Aquinas High School to Director of the Didde Catholic Campus Center in Emporia, KS and Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Catholic Church in Hartford, KS;
- The **Reverend Marco Lopez, c.s.** in consultation with his religious superior, from Parochial Vicar of Church of the Holy Cross in Overland Park, KS to Parochial Administrator of Christ the King Church and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS;
- The **Reverend Agustin Martinez**, from Parochial Vicar of St. Paul Catholic Church in Olathe, KS and further studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America to Parochial Administrator of Church of the Holy Cross in Overland Park, KS;
- The **Reverend Daniel Morris**, from Archdiocesan Vocations Director to Parochial Administrator of Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Topeka, KS, continuing as Director of Seminarians;

*Parochial Vicar:*

- The **Reverend Marco Antonio Cepeda, M.N.M.**, in consultation with his religious superior, from Parochial Vicar of St. Mary-St. Anthony Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS to Parochial Vicar of All Saints Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS;
- The **Reverend Andrew Gaffney**, from Parochial Vicar of Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Olathe, KS to Parochial Vicar of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Leawood, KS;

- The **Reverend Wilson Garnica**, from Parochial Vicar of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Shawnee, KS to Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Unity Catholic Parish in Kansas City, KS;
- The **Reverend Cesar Gomez**, from Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Unity Catholic Parish to Parochial Vicar of Church of the Holy Cross in Overland Park, KS and Assistant Master of Ceremonies;
- The **Reverend Rick Halvorson**, from work in priestly formation at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL to Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa, KS;
- The **Rev. Richard Antwi-Boasiako**, in consultation with his bishop, from ministry outside the Archdiocese to Parochial Vicar of Prince of Peace in Olathe, KS;
- The **Reverend Aaron Waldeck**, from Parochial Vicar of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Leawood, KS to Parochial Vicar of Church of the Ascension in Overland Park and Chaplain of St. Thomas Aquinas High School;

*Other*

- The **Reverend Joseph Chontos**, from Chaplaincy of the Topeka Juvenile Prison to retirement from active ministry;
- The **Reverend Gary Pennings**, formerly Pastor of Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, KS to retirement from active ministry;
- The **Reverend Michael Peterson**, formerly Pastor of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wamego, KS and St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. George, KS (Flush) to retirement from active ministry;
- The **Reverend John Pilcher**, from Senior Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa to retirement from active ministry;
- The **Reverend Abner Ables, c.s.** formerly Pastor of Church of the Holy Cross in Overland Park, KS to ministry with the Scalabrini religious community outside the Archdiocese;

- The **Reverend Peter Jaramillo**, formerly Pastor of All Saint Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS to Pastor only of St. Mary-St. Anthony Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS;
- The **Reverend Daniel Mauro**, to Assistant Master of Ceremonies while continuing as Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa, KS and Chaplain of St. James Academy;
- The **Very Reverend Oswaldo Sandoval**, formerly Pastor of Our Lady of Unity Catholic Parish to residence at Archdiocesan Residence on Minnesota Ave. and available for coverage as needed, effective 1 August 2026, while continuing as Episcopal Vicar for Hispanic Ministry in the Archdiocese;
- The **Reverend Timothy Skoch** from Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Kansas City, KS and Assistant Director of Vocations to Director of Vocations and part-time sacramental assistance at the St. Lawrence Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS, with residency at the Archdiocesan Residence on Minnesota Ave. in Kansas City, KS, while continuing as Chaplain of Bishop Ward High School;
- The **Reverend Brent Stull**, to Assistant Master of Ceremonies while continuing as Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee, KS;

These appointments will take effect on 1 July 2026 unless otherwise noted. They are to be published on the website of the Archdiocese and in the next edition of The Leaven.

Given at the Chancery in Kansas City, KS on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of Our Lord 2026.



*+ Shawn McKnight*

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 The Most Reverend Shawn McKnight, S.Th.D.  
 Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas

*Michael Hawken*

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 Very Rev. Michael Hawken, V.G.  
 Ecclesiastical Notary