

ST. MARY QUEEN OF ANGELS



415 South Windsor

Russell, KS 67665

Fr. Michael Elan	415 S Windsor	785-221-3060
Religious Ed/Parish Office	415 S Windsor	785-483-2871
Parish Center	415 S Windsor	785-483-2871
Office hours	8:30 am—12:30 pm Monday-Thursday	
Website Address	www.stmaryrussell.com	
Email:	smgoa@ruraltel.net	

PASTOR:

Fr. Michael Elan, cmi

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Beverly Nichols, Chairperson, Dave Zachman, Vice Chairman,
Gail Ogle, Stacy Moore, Sarah Hurla, Mark Ptacek,
Tammi Buhrlé, Nathan Myers, & Deb Strobel

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Dave Beagley, Chairman, Jane Cline, John Malone,
Jim Malone, & Mark Ptacek

COMMISSIONS:

Marge Schulte, Liturgy
Merlin Ney, Cemetery Board
Bruce Heier, Evangelization
Tammi Buhrlé, Family Life/Christian Service
Beverly Nichols, Stewardship
Dave Zachman, Respect Life

CYO PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL:

Brock Homeier & Madison Sohm

PARISH LEADERSHIP:

Judy Larson—Secretary
Marcia Blundon—Bookkeeper
Bonita Ney—Religious Education Coordinator

PARISH EMPLOYEES:

Bruce Heier —Custodian
Galen Schmidtberger —Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed. 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., Fri. 7:30 a.m.

Holy Day

- as announced

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We are happy to have you with us! Please call or stop by the parish office to register.

Welcome
To Our
Parish

SACRAMENTS:

Baptism—Personally contact the pastor prior to intended date.

Marriage—Personally contact the pastor at least six months prior to intended date.

Sick Calls/Anointing—Please call the parish office if someone is hospitalized or ill at home and would like us to visit with Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of the Sick.

Reconciliation — Saturday — 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

With Christ as our model,
St. Mary, Queen of Angels Catholic Church
Strives to be a welcoming community of faith,
United in our diversity,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,
Nurtured by the sacraments,
Centered around the Eucharist,
And inspired by the gospel message.

We devote our time, talent and treasures to build the Kingdom of God.
We love and serve the Lord by serving one another.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT-DECEMBER 8TH, 2024

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled. (Baruch 5:7)

Today's first reading contains a prophecy of what God would accomplish for the Jewish people as they languished in exile in Babylon. Baruch, scribe to the prophet Jeremiah, proclaims that "every lofty mountain" will be flattened and that "the age-old depths and gorges" will be filled in. So much so that the exiles would have a direct route, straight through the desert, back home (Baruch 5:7).

This was such good news! The only established road between Babylon and Jerusalem took travelers in a long northwesterly arc through the fertile land that surrounded the Syrian desert. But God was so eager to bring his people back to him that he promised to pave a new road directly through the wasteland. And even more amazing, he promised to join them on the journey, "leading Israel in joy ... with his mercy and justice for company" (Baruch 5:9)!

What a perfect way to describe the miracle of Christmas! God didn't wait for us to stumble through the wilderness of sin that separated us from him. He didn't stand on the border of the Promised Land and command us to make the treacherous journey on our own. He crossed that vast expanse to come to us. He entered this fallen world to offer us his "mercy and justice." Visiting the land of our exile, he now extends his hand and promises to lead us into his heavenly home.

Baruch tells us that God has "commanded" the mountains to flatten out and the chasms to be filled in (5:7). And when God speaks, creation obeys! No amount of pride or selfishness, no matter how tall, can withstand his command. No sin, no matter how grave, can carve a ravine too deep for him to fill. Jesus has paved a "new and living way" so that we can finally come home. (Hebrews 10:20)!

"All praise to you, Lord, for coming to our rescue!"

The Word Among Us

Date	Mass Intentions	Mass Readings
Saturday, December 7 - 5:30 p.m.	Kendall Miner	Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6
Sunday, December 8 - 10:00 a.m.	For Our Parishioners	Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6
Monday, December 9 - 7:00 a.m. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	For Our Parishioners	Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 10 - 6:30 p.m.	Kendall Miner	Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday, December 11- 6:30 p.m.	Special Int. Emma Hilger	Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday, December 12 - 7:30 a.m.	Glenn Mermis, Ann of B	Zechariah 2:14-17, Luke 1:26-38
Friday, December 13 - 7:30 a.m.	Florian (Mike) Polcyn, Ann of D	Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday, December 14 - 5:30 p.m.	Living & Deceased of Dale & Ruby Nowak	Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18
Sunday, December 15 - 10:00 a.m.	For Our Parishioners	Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

Gorham Mass Schedule		Stewardship of Treasure	
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9th - 6:00 p.m.		Contributions Weekend of November 30th thru December 1st, 2024	
 Prayer Requests	Please pray for Millie Dalrymple, Mark Sander, Tim Mahoney, Beau Buser-infant grandson of John and Gail Ogle, Marta Buser-mother in law to Jennifer Ogle Buser, Marty Becker, Gary Flax, Dan Branham, and all our friends and relatives who are ill or experiencing difficulties in their lives that they may know the healing presence of God.	Envelopes	\$ 1,957.00
		Maintenance Fund	\$ 2,855.00
		Loose Cash	\$ 511.00
		Votive	\$ 171.50
		LaVerne Schuster Memorial	\$ 955.00
		Thanksgiving	\$ 209.00
		Immaculate Conception	\$ 5.00
		TOTAL DEPOSIT	\$ 6,663.50

Stewardship of Time and Talent

Liturgical Ministers	Saturday, December 14th - 5:30 p.m.	Sunday, December 15th-10:00 a.m.
Hospitality	Volunteer	Adam & Tasha Jones Family
Gifts	Mike & Colleen McGreevy	Lane & Alex Mai Family
Lectors	Jeanine Heier & Nick Coady	Beverly Nichols & John Malone
Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Body: *Cindy Balthazor & Anne Coady Cup: Chris Roth, Jeanie Munsch & Craig Cline	Body: *John Farmer & Michelle Farmer Cup: Kyle Farmer, Ashlyn Farmer & Yvonne Driscoll
Altar Servers	Adam Hoch & Adison Hoch	Hayden Creamer, Adalynn Creamer & Haven Becker
Organist/Instrumental/Cantors	Curtis Sander/Kinsey Volk & Coleen Boxberger	Cheryl Seirer/Holly Creamer
Religious Ed. Teachers Preschool - First Grade	Sunday, December 8th Annika Nichols & Olivia Morgenstern	Sunday, December 15th Gracelynn Dinkel & Gracie McDonald
Counters	Sunday, December 8th Jim Malone & John Malone	Sunday, December 15th Marge Schulte & Mary Schulte

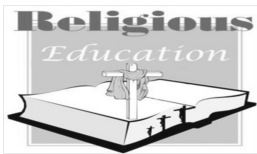
Birthday Wishes to:

Saturday	December 7th	Bonita Ney & Loretta Zweifel
Sunday	December 8th	Cheryl Seirer
Tuesday	December 10th	Helga Ziegler
Wednesday	December 11th	Andy Hurla, Coen Seirer & Carmen Vonfeldt
Thursday	December 12th	Courtney Ludwig, Judy Luding & Brantley Pfeifer
Sunday	December 15th	Patty Mead & Brooklyn McKenna



Anniversary Wishes to:

Saturday	December 7th	Dustin & Sarah Finkenbinder
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Dec. 11th	7:15 p.m. Class
Dec. 18th	7:15 p.m. Class
Dec. 25th	No Class - Merry Christmas
Jan. 1st	No Class-Christmas Break
Jan. 8th	7:15 p.m. Class
Jan. 15th	7:15 p.m. Class-1st Communion Mtg. Parents/Students
Jan. 22nd	7:15 p.m. Class
Jan. 30th	7:15 p.m. Class



Please let me know by **December 11th**, the days you are unavailable for the next schedule dates of:

Saturday, January 4th, 2025 through Sunday, February 2nd, 2025.

You can email me at: smqoa@ruraltel.net.

Thank you!



The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 9th at 7:00 p.m.



Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will meet immediately following the Third Degree meeting.

The "Little Town of Bethlehem" nativity at St. Boniface Catholic Church, Vincent will be open for visitors on **Sundays Dec. 8th, 15th, 22nd, as well as Christmas Day**. All times are **1-5pm**. Appointments can also be made at any other time by calling Carol at 785-735-9282.

This is the 98th year of the nativity, begun by the parish priest Fr. Callistus Rectenwald in 1927. Over the years, the nativity has become a worldwide representation of Christmas. Rocks from all 50 states and 105 countries surround the scene, in particular rocks from the Cave of Lourdes and the Sea of Galilee. Infant Jesus is from Spain, and Mary, Joseph and the Three Kings are from Germany. A special section of the nativity is dedicated to our veterans who could not be home for Christmas over the years, featuring rocks from Germany, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Wake Island and Christmas Island to name a few. The nativity has had special lighting effects added the last few years - a color changing rock show and a neon blue-lit sky in the background. Four trickling waterfalls, animals and shepherds dot the scene surrounding the Bethlehem Inn, and the stable made from a nearby pear tree in 1927. St. Boniface Catholic Church is located 5.5 miles south of Victoria and two miles east.



Giving Tree Ministry

RCCW will be collecting donations for the Giving Tree that will benefit our local care centers, is up in the gathering space.

Please pick an ornament and fill the gift wish and return the wrapped item together with the ornament attached on the outside by **Sunday, Dec. 15th**.

The donations, a blanket and a small gift will be given to each resident at Homestead, Main Street Manor and Wheatland Senior Care facilities on Dec. 18th.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Dec. 8th 8:00 a.m. -OCIA Rite of Acceptance-Gorham
10:00 a.m. -OCIA Rite of Acceptance - Russell
3-5 p.m. -Free Childcare for Parents
- Dec. 9th 7:00 a.m. -Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary-**Holy Day of Obligation Mass**
6:00 p.m. -**Mass in Gorham**
7:00 p.m. -Knights of Columbus Mtg-4th Degree Meeting following
- Dec. 11th 7:15 p.m. -CCD after Mass
- Dec. 15th 5-6 p.m. -Confession
- Dec. 18th 7:15 p.m. -CCD after Mass
- Dec. 19th 9-10 a.m. -Catholic Charities in parking lot (Thursday)
- Dec. 22nd 9:40 a.m. -Knights of Columbus Rosary before Mass
- Dec. 24th 4:00 p.m. -Christmas Eve Mass in Gorham
5:30 p.m. -Christmas Eve Mass in Russell w/Children's Program
- Dec. 25th 9:00 a.m. -Christmas Mass
MERRY CHRISTMAS



American Red Cross

Russell Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 18th

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fossil Creek Inn & Suites

Visit redcrossblood.org, call 1-800-RED-CROSS, or scan the QR Code below for your appointment to donate blood.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated this year on Monday, December 9. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. The Masses on Saturday and Sunday, even Sunday evening Masses, will be for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. There will be no Vigil Mass for the holy day on Sunday evening.

To fulfill both obligations to participate in Mass, one must attend one Mass for the Sunday and one for the holy day. In parishes where there is a Sunday evening Mass, attending that Mass CAN count for the holy day obligation, even though the readings and prayers are for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. However, it may NOT count for both the Sunday and the Holy

A lovely custom at St. Mary Queen of Angels is to provide Christmas/New Year's environment donation in memory of a loved one or as a family gift for decorating the Church at Christmas time. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for the flowers, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Parish office on or before Monday, December 16th. You may also drop your donation in the collection basket.

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



Rite of Acceptance

We welcome today within the Rite of Acceptance, **Darby Eakin, Gorham**, as Catechumenate, as she requests Baptism within the Easter Vigil Service.

Within the 10:00 a.m. Mass today in Russell, we welcome

Larry Nelson as a Candidate.

May God bless both Darby and Larry in their continued journey to celebration of Easter sacraments on **April 19th** within the Easter Vigil.



REMINDER about the **FREE CHILDCARE** this **afternoon, Dec. 8th** from **3-5 p.m.** on behalf of the St. Mary Queen of Angels Parish Council and the Respect Life Commission. This event will be held in the Parish Hall and will be supervised by the

SMQOA Parish Council members.

Drop-ins are welcome! This will give you a chance to wrap presents, shop or even just relax.

Advent Confession Schedule

Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. in Russell
Sundays at 7:30 a.m. in Gorham
Sunday, Dec. 15th at 5-6 p.m. in Russell

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Christmas Eve - Dec. 24th -4:00 p.m. in Gorham
-5:30 p.m. in Russell
Thursday, Christmas Day - Dec. 25th - 9:00 a.m. in Russell

The Advent of Rescue

Diocese Unites for Acts XXIX Advent Retreat Week Two - CAPTURED



This second week of Advent, we meditate on the second part of the *kerygma*, the bad news, that we have been captured by the Enemy, that we are under the powers of sin and death. That is to say, we meditate on the Fall and the consequences of the Fall, not just for Adam and Eve but for all of humanity, for you and for me. As we enter into this

week, let's ask the Lord for courage: to face this reality, to face our own brokenness and sinfulness, and to be convicted of our need for a Rescuer.

If done well, the meditations this week should prepare you for a good confession, a necessary step for experiencing the rescue that Jesus came to bring, and for preparing our hearts for Christmas. So don't skip writing down your answers to the questions, as that will be the basis for a good confession.

YEAR END GIVING

Christmas and the Year End giving is not only a Catholic tradition, but Christmas marks the beginning of the ultimate Gift-God's gift of his only son, Jesus Christ. Christmas, of course, celebrates the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Tradition holds that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the newborn king, beginning a tradition of gift giving to the Christmas season we enjoy each and every year. Christmas and Year End is an opportunity to make a return to God of His many blessings including our material blessings.

Maintenance Fund: The parking lot needs to be resurfaced and the Parish facility is still in need of a few repairs.

We appreciate your generosity in the past and would like to encourage you to continue your support, especially for the maintenance fund.

