

St. Francis of Assisi Church

883 Moscow Street
Munjoy, Kansas 67601

785-625-5314

office@stfrancis-church.com

www.stfrancis-church.com

*Lord make me an
instrument of peace...*



PASTOR

Fr. Damian Richards 785-628-1446
Emergency Contact 785-621-2699

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Lilly Binder 785-623-8000

FINANCE/PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON

John Moeder 785-623-1338

ART & ENVIRONMENT

Ann Pfannenstiel 785-628-8458
Jerry & Sylvia Gross 785-342-4183

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

GRAND KNIGHT

Donovan Richmeier 785-623-0417

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS PRESIDENT

Jane Younger 785-259-3374

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday - 8:00 am
Wednesday - 7:30 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sunday - 7:30 am

BAPTISMS - Preparation class
required for first time parents
and inactive Catholics.
Contact Lilly to schedule.

MARRIAGES - Couples anticipating
marriage must contact Lilly at least
6 months prior to wedding date.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Holy Family Elementary 785-625-3131
www/hfehays.org
Thomas More Prep-Marian 785-625-6577
www.tmp-m.org

Sunday, December 15, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. Dec 15	8:00 am	+Ron Ruder
Wed. Dec 18	7:30 am	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Sun. Dec 22	8:00 am	L/D John & Agnes Pfannenstiel family
Tue. Dec 24	7:00 pm	+Norbert, Betty & Brandon Leiker

SERVERS

Sun Dec 15	Cali Richmeier & Rafe Richmeier
Sun Dec 22	Makailyn Leiker & Rexton Leiker

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sun Dec 15	Lilly B, John M, Tony S, Deacon Steve
Sun Dec 22	Jenalyn L, Nathan L, Josh W, Michelle W.

LECTORS

OFFERTORY GIFTS

Sun Dec 15	Josh Waddell	Frank & Paulette Seib
Sun Dec 22	Tina Waddell	Rich & Sherri Ruder

GREETERS

Sun Dec 15	Wilbert Gross
Sun Dec 22	Linda Gross

COLLECTION TEAM

Sunday, December 15

Jerry Gross, Brian Pfannenstiel, Glenn Stramel, Randy Werth

Sunday, December 22

Jason Carter, Rich Ruder, Blake Spencer,
Brandon Zimmerman

TRAVELING CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS

Sunday, December 15	Darold & Evelyn Younker
Sunday, December 22	Jason & Rose Carter

Tithe ~ Stewardship of Treasure

Envelopes	\$2,060.00	Holy Day	
Loose	\$59.00	Envelopes	\$215.00
		Loose	\$121.00
Total	\$2,119.00	Total	\$336.00

FROM THE DESK OF CODY MARINTZER

The Difference Between Joy and Happiness

From Catholic exchange: September 27, 2004

By definition, happiness is a response to happenstance, contentment, good luck, prosperity, or good fortune. Happiness is also a reaction to pleasure; one can be happy when eating ice cream, reading a good book, receiving a promotion at work, or experiencing anything pleasurable. The antonym of happiness is "sadness." The most elucidating definition of happiness, however, is this: an emotion experienced when in a state of well-being. Emotions are generally natural responses to outside influences that we do not control or will. That means that a rich or powerful man might be happy, but not necessarily joyful. Having sufficient material goods, as philosophers and moral theologians from Aristotle onward have pointed out, is not enough to satisfy the infinite longings of the human heart. Happiness is easily taken away when the "state of well-being" ceases; in times of hardship, trial, or need, happiness seems elusive. Something more satisfying is needed than the mere pleasure or contentment associated with happiness.

Joy, in contrast, is defined as an intense and especially ecstatic or exultant happiness or the expression of such feelings. Joy has several deeper meanings than happiness, which are further clarified in Holy Scriptures. In the Bible, joy can mean:

1. The response of the soul to a great and wonderful discovery, such as truth or communion with God.

Luke 1:44 — For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 15:7 — I say to you, that even so there shall be joy in heaven upon one sinner that doth penance, more than upon ninety-nine just who need not penance.

2. A personal fullness or sense of completeness in one's entire life.

John 15:11 — These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be filled. (cf. also Jn 17:13)

3. A deep peace which comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within a person, and lasts despite hardship.

John 16:22 — So also you now indeed have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice; and your joy no man shall take from you.

Romans 15:13 — Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Ghost.

Corinthians 8:2 — That in much experience of tribulation, they have had abundance of joy; and their very deep poverty hath abounded unto the riches of their simplicity.

4. The fruit of faith, hope, and love.

Hebrews 10:34 — For you both had compassion on them that were in bands, and took with joy the being stripped of your own goods, knowing that you have a better and a last-

Even if these verses are translated in some editions with the word "happiness" instead of "joy," the deeper meaning is clear; these situations are not related to prosperity or good luck but true goodness that brings lasting peace.

The Catechism also discusses the nature of joy and happiness. Paragraph 1723 teaches us "that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or any human achievement...or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love." In other words, temporal happiness is not enough to satisfy us; we long for the "joy of the Lord" (CCC 1720). Recognizing that God is our Creator and that we rely totally on Him is a "source of wisdom and freedom, of joy and confidence" (CCC 301).



We welcome Beau Taylor Spencer, son of Blake & Kenna Spencer who will be baptized at Mass this morning.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered this morning following Mass.

Confessions & Holy Hour here at St. Francis of Assisi today, beginning at 2:00 pm.

2025 Offering Envelopes are at the entrances. Please do not begin using these until January. Thank you!

Retirement Fund for Religious – Women and men religious offer gratitude. "Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next," says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters Servants of May Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement.

BIBLE REFLECTION ~ STEWARDSHIP GOAL

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6) St. Paul reminds us that God is an abundant God – He is the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. Remember, that we are created in God's image and likeness. We, too, are made to be generous with all of our gifts as well. Placing our trust in God frees us from being a slave to possessions. It allows us to gratefully and generously share ourselves and our goods with others.



Mike Suppes, Special Intentions, Becky Robben, Maya Gottschalk, Carla Meier, Terry Hauschel, Theo Leiker, Chris Brull, Carol Carter, Parishioners in Health Care Facilities.
Drop requests in the collection basket or let Lilly know.

Please let Lilly know when the intention can be removed.

EVENTS IN THE HEARTLAND

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. St. Boniface Catholic Church is located 5.5 miles south of Victoria and two miles east.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET - The Sunflower Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will be having their annual Christmas Banquet on Sunday, Dec. 15, at Noon at the Kennedy Cafeteria. Tickets are \$20.00 a plate for a traditional German meal. This fundraiser helps the local chapter in various ways. The guest speaker is Dr. Eric Schmalz from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, professor of History and Social Studies Department Chair. His talk will be on "Germans from Russia Holiday Traditions." To purchase a meal ticket, contact Kevin at the St. Joseph Parish office, or text at 785-656-0329. Tickets must be purchased no later than Dec. 9.

Hays Catholic Young Adults

TACOS & ADORATION

FUZZY'S TACO SHOP	ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA
5:30 PM	7:00 PM

Join us for dinner at Fuzzy's Taco Shop followed by Adoration and Reconciliation with Advent reflections and music hosted by St. Nicholas of Myra. Food and drinks are on your own tab.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Family Perspective ...Bud Ozar

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give NECESSITIES to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas

Sunday, December 15, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

A note from a parishioner moving away:

I am sorry to have to write this, but it is necessary for me to move closer to my family. In 33 years, I have learned so much from the parishioners; how to make bierocks, kuchen and lots of church information. I wish it wasn't necessary to move. I will keep all of you in my heart. Pray for me.

My new address is Seyona Roda 2970 NW 91st Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64154 - (785)-650-2028

December 15, 2024 - Third Sunday of Advent

IHM - Communal Reconciliation Service. 3:00pm

Munjor - Holy Hour/Confessions, 2:00pm

December 16, 2024 - (Mon.)

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 17, 2024 - (Tues.)

St. Nicholas - Advent Adoration/Confessions, 7:00pm

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 18, 2024 - (Wed.)

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 19, 2024 - (Thur.)

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

St. Joseph - Adoration 7:00am - **7:30pm**

St. Joseph - Confessions 12:00 - 1:00pm & 4:30-7:30 pm

December 20, 2024 - (Fri.)

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 21, 2024 - (Sat.)

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 22, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 23, 2024 - (Mon.)

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the HFE Activity Center

December 24, 2024 - (Tues.) Christmas Eve

Antonino - 4:00pm

IHM - 4:00pm & 10:00pm (Bilingual)

Munjor - 7:00pm

Schoenchen - 6:00pm

St. Joe's- 5:00pm, 11:30pm Choir Music, Mass at Midnight

St. Nicholas - 5:00pm

December 25, 2024 - (Wed.) Christmas Day

CCC - 9:00am

IHM - 9:00am, & 12:00pm Spanish (No evening Mass)

St. Catharine - 9:00am

St. Joseph - 7:30am, 10:30am

St. Nicholas - 9:30am

December 26, 2024 - (Thurs.)

IHM - No Masses or Confessions

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS



HOLY FAMILY ELEMENTARY

Mandy Meagher Principal

(785) 625-3131

Dec 16 Reconciliation Grades 3rd - 5th

Dec 20 Last Day of School—Half Day, dismiss at 11:00. No lunch, bus service or After School Care/

You can support HFE by recycling your aluminum cans in our trailer across the street North of the school/church in the small gravel parking lot on 19th! Simply bring by a trash bag of them to drop off anytime!



THOMAS MORE PREP- MARIAN

Chad Meitner, Principal

Melissa Schoepf, Jr. High Assistant Principal

(785) 625-6577

Dec 19 JH Last Day—Dismiss at 1 pm
HS Finals 1/2 Day Dismiss at 12 pm
Christmas at the Grotto 6—8 pm

Monarch For A Day. Thursday, January 16th 8 am - noon.

Open to any 5th - 8th grader. Lunch included & transportation provided upon request. To register contact Melissa Schoepf 785-625-6577

The end of the calendar year is fast approaching. If you are considering a year-end donation, please keep St. Francis of Assisi Parish in mind. These unexpected donations and your ongoing support are greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Shells Partially Donated by Northwestern Printers.

Mission Statement:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is built on a foundation of faith. We continue that spirit by welcoming all people to participate in our spiritual growth. As we are called to love God and be examples of his teachings, we strive for unity through fellowship and participation in all areas of the Catholic faith.

Greetings Heartland Parishes Community:

November 2024

In the interest of transparency, the Hays Catholic Schools Financial Advisory Committee wants to provide our stakeholders an update on the financial position of the Catholic schools. Our Catholic education system is a self-funded operation which graciously relies on the Catholic community to provide a faith-based learning environment that prepares our youth to be industrious, righteous citizens.

The Hays Catholic Schools system is extremely unique in how we are funded. Whether you realize it or not, nearly half of the school's funding comes directly from your stewardship. Each parish in the Heartland Parishes contributes a percentage of their ordinary income to help fund the schools. This is a testament to the importance and commitment we all share to providing a quality education while trying to keep student fees as low as possible. Moreover, if you wanted to get technical, roughly 70% of the school's funding comes from annual donations. Again, further illustrating the value our community places on Catholic education.

This update is the first in what we see as more frequent updates. To help put things in perspective, included below is summarized data from the 2019-2020 school year as well as the projections for the 2024-2025 school year. If you would like to go over these numbers in greater detail, please reach out to a member of the Financial Advisory Committee.

There is one caveat we should point out. We moved the 6th grade to TMP during this period, thus shifting expenses from Holy Family to TMP.



Hays Catholic Schools Revenue Sources									
2019-2020				2024-2025					
	Holy Family	TMP	Total		Holy Family	TMP	Total		
Parish Subsidy	\$801,747	\$1,257,226	\$2,058,973	49%	Parish Subsidy	\$729,154	\$1,268,529	\$1,997,683	42%
St. Thomas More	\$110,000	\$485,833	\$595,833	14%	St. Thomas More	\$162,500	\$487,500	\$650,000	14%
Fundraising	\$177,000	\$350,000	\$527,000	13%	Fundraising	\$247,250	\$380,000	\$627,250	13%
Student Fees	\$240,847	\$242,588	\$483,435	12%	Student Fees	\$324,800	\$439,930	\$764,730	16%
Endowment	-	\$347,066	\$347,066	8%	Endowment	-	\$403,010	\$403,010	9%
Other	\$86,125	\$96,236	\$182,361	4%	Other	\$114,475	\$151,780	\$266,255	6%
	\$1,415,719	\$2,778,949	\$4,194,668			\$1,578,179	\$3,130,749	\$4,708,928	
Operating Expense	\$1,472,323	\$2,929,296	\$4,401,619		Operating Expense	\$1,689,316	\$3,581,720	\$5,271,036	
Est. Shortfall	(\$56,604)	(\$150,347)	(\$206,951)		Est. Shortfall	(\$111,137)	(\$450,977)	(\$562,108)	
					No. of Students	293	272		
					Cost/Student	\$5,765.58	\$13,168.09		

- Parish Subsidy:** These are funds that come directly from each parish to help support the schools, which is extremely unique to Hays Catholic Schools. Remember, this is based on a set percentage of ordinary income from each Heartland Parish every year. The fluctuations in the parish subsidy are a direct result of the stewardship parishes receive, as the percentage has not changed since this model was adopted. As you can see, the total parish subsidy has decreased over the past several years.
- St. Thomas More Society:** This is the annual fundraising campaign from the Advancement Office. The goal is to try and raise \$650,000 every year to support the schools. While each year is different, trends indicate this has been the average amount the St. Thomas More Society has been able to raise.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

- **Fundraising:** This includes TMP's largest fundraiser, ACE Auction, as well as Holy Family's fundraisers, namely Cajetan Cash, the Chili Supper, and Race 4 Education.
- **Student Fees:** These are the fees paid directly by the family of each student attending Hays Catholic Schools. The current fees are as follows: \$1,440 at Holy Family and \$1,975 at TMP. Additional information regarding student fees is provided below.
- **Endowment:** TMP has its own endowment, and by law the Endowment can contribute up to approximately 5.5% of its value to help fund the schools. As this fund is supposed to last in perpetuity, this percentage must remain small. The current value of the Endowment is roughly \$8.0 million.

In an effort to increase transparency, we would like to note the net loss for the 2019-2020 school year and the projected loss for this current school year. We want you to be made aware that federal money obtained during the COVID pandemic has assisted in covering these losses over the past several years, which is not reflected in these financials. This year's losses can somewhat be covered with funds from the 2024 ACE Auction Item #160, which was also not included in these financials. The ACE Auction Item #160 was specifically earmarked for operation expenses. Separate from the Endowment, Hays Catholic Schools has about \$1.0 million in unrestricted cash to help our financial situation. However, with all else being equal, that won't last forever.

As you can see from these financials, items like the parish subsidy, fundraising, and the St. Thomas More Society have all remained essentially unchanged over these years. Specifically, they are up a total of 2.9%. Over this same time period, inflation is up 25%, which has a significant impact on what we do at the schools. To a certain degree, we have been able to beat inflation, as our expenses are only up 19% over the course of these years.

Both Holy Family and TMP have done an amazing job providing an extremely high level of education and promoting the virtues we all hold dear at a cost much more efficient than most any other school around. The cost of education at Holy Family is approximately \$5,765 per student, and \$13,168 per student at TMP. It is quite normal for the cost of education to be higher in high schools due to the increased activities, more advanced studies, and broader ranges of studies offered. When we look at the average cost of education across in the State of Kansas public school system, their K-12 average cost per student is \$17,650. The average cost of education for that same grade range is \$9,329 per student in Hays Catholic Schools.

Based on the stewardship model we have; we are able to keep student fees as low as they are. To provide you some comparison, our student fees are between 60% and 65% lower than similar Catholic schools without the stewardship model in place. This allows a greater number of our children to receive this valuable education. We would like to extend a heart-felt thank you not only to those individuals that developed this model, but also to the Heartland Parishes community who so wonderfully support our local Catholic education.

All that being said, we are doubling our efforts to create a plan ensuring Catholic education in Hays is around for a very long time to come. The reality is, more than likely, this plan will include fee increases at some point in the near future. However, this will be accompanied by a robust, income-based fee assistance model.

As you are all stakeholders in Catholic education, we will continue to provide future updates. In the meantime, remember there are many ways to help ensure we continue to provide this invaluable foundation for our youth:

- Pray for the success and endurance of our Hays Catholic Schools.
- Continue supporting your parish.
- Join and contribute to the St. Thomas More Society. Every dollar donated goes directly to our schools and children.
- Consider extending your support long into the future by including the TMP Endowment in your estate plan.
- Support our annual fundraisers.

God Bless and Go Monarchs!

Hays Catholic Schools Financial Advisory Committee