

Catholic Churches of Barber County, Kansas

Website: barbercountycatholic.org

December 21st, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge

Main Office: 620-886-3596

St. John the Apostle, Kiowa

Office: 620-825-4361

St. Boniface, Sharon

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Thoughts on Today's Liturgy

Reading 1: Is 7:10-14, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive."

Reading 2: Rom 1:1-7 "Jesus Christ, descended from David, is the Son of God."

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24 "Jesus will be born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David."

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday	20	5:00 p.m.	ML	Thanksgiving		Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday	21	8:30 a.m.	SH	Parishioners		Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday	21	10:30 a.m.	KW	Beau & Mary Forester	✠	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday	23	8:30 a.m.	ML	Charolotte Ringer	✠	Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent
Wednesday	24	5:30 p.m.	KW	Ig & Martina Flax	✠	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass
Wednesday	24	7:30 p.m.	SH	Skyler Wells	✠	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass
Thursday	25	10:00 a.m.	ML	Al Pennock	✠	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Day
Friday	26	8:30 a.m.	SH	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Traffas	✠	Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr
Saturday	27	5:00 p.m.	ML	Al Pennock	✠	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday	28	8:30 a.m.	SH	Mr. & Mrs. Julius Ditgen	✠	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday	28	10:30 a.m.	KW	John & Frances Greiving	✠	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available 30 Minutes Before Each Mass

Fourth Sunday of Advent

In the gospel, the evangelist Matthew demonstrates to us clearly that the peace of God promised humanity through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is not a facade but a reality. The result of the encounter between Mary and Angel Gabriel, which resulted in the conception of Jesus by Mary, could have brought chaos and disaster upon the marriage between Joseph and Mary; and to a larger extent could have had devastating effects on their families. But should the conception of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, bring about misunderstanding between Mary and Joseph, that would eventually destroy the peace between them. Jesus, the Prince of Peace is also the love of God to humanity. His presence in the womb of Mary evoked that strong love for Mary in the heart of Joseph which made him take the decision not to expose Mary to ridicule. God then intervened through the same angel who brought the message to Mary to explain the circumstances surrounding Mary's pregnancy to Joseph and that eventually gave the needed peace in his heart. Jesus indeed is the Prince of Peace. Those who accept him in their hearts experience true peace from God, no matter the circumstances they find themselves in. The reception of Christ in your life may sometimes distort your line of action and force you to deviate from your original plans. However, Jesus has the power to increase in you the love of God for your neighbor and grant you true peace that comes from God. When we understand who Jesus is in our lives, Emmanuel, God is with us, then we will cooperate with God in whatever he wants us to do for the benefit of humanity. Joseph is a perfect example for us.

SPECIAL MASS TIMES

St. John at 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve

St. Boniface at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve

Holy Rosary at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day & New Year's Day

Please consider praying for a loved one with a **Mass Intention**. Medicine Lodge is needing more Mass Intentions.

OCIA Retreat: Jesus is Calling my Name – January 24, 2026 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral in Dodge City (Register by Jan. 15) or February 7, 2026 at Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend (Register by Jan. 29). Both are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to noon. With registration at 8:15 a.m. Fees: \$40 per parish and \$10 per person. To register, e-mail ann@heartlandspirituality.org. The retreat is for catechumens, candidates, sponsors, and teams of the RCIA formation.

Break/Break. Gentry Heimerman and his family are hosting an evening of games, food, and prayer for college students. Arriving late and/or leaving early is fine! It is simply a chance to connect with other students from around the diocese and enjoy an evening in the spirit of Advent. Dinner provided. Please email him to RSVP and get directions. (gheimerman@dcdiocese.org) **December 22nd, 7-9:30pm, Dodge City.**

A Pilgrimage of the Heart. The Heartland Center for Spirituality invites you to embark on a transformative two-year program beginning on January 10, 2026, dedicated to restoring humanity to the likeness of Christ. For more information visit our website at <https://heartlandspirituality.org/a-pilgrimage-of-the-heart/>

Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas. Your gift – no matter the size – helps Catholic Charities remain a source of light, hope, and tangible support for our community. Donations can be made using the envelopes located at the back of the church or visit www.CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org.

Support Life, Reduce your Taxes with the Kansas Pregnancy Tax Credit. Donations to Catholic Charities programs that support pregnancy and struggling parents can be used to reduce your Kansas income tax by a 70% credit on your state taxes. For more information look for the Catholic Charities fliers available at all three parishes, visit the Catholic Charities website (www.CatholicCharitiesSWKS.org), or call Brian Withrow (620-213-0391).

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Sick and Shut-Ins:

Susan Ricke, Carol Walker, Edna Swayden, Karma Redgate, Isaac Venters, Theo Miller, Ken Ricke, Kelli Young, Lennes Rankin, Adalynn Amerin, Ralph & Myra Dick, John Eck, Juanita Ricke, Hugh Rankin, and Mary Eck.

For the Faithful Departed:

Dick Austin, Brad Mantooth, Bob and Lori Schrock, Eileen Schmidt, Charlotte Ringer, Rayann Rucker, Jacqueline Woods, Alicia J. Widdows, Kelly Capansky, Sandy Ricke, Bill Nittler, and all the souls in Purgatory. May they rest in perfect peace.

For the Military:

Triston Boor, Austin Stull, Jackson Petit, Christopher Coggins, Dylan Allison, Sheldon Hart, Michael Castaneda.

Week 4	St. Boniface	St. John the Apostle	Holy Rosary
Lector 1	Carol Ricke	Amanda Ricke	Darryl Honas
Cantor	Choir	Choir	Rodney Ringer
Lector 2	Daryl Eck	Danny Archuleta	Darryl Honas
General Intercessions	John Hern/Mason Eck	Danny Archuleta	Diane Seiler
Eucharistic Ministers	Anne Schreiner Doug Schmidt	Deb Helfrich Carl Helfrich Tammy Graves	Daryl Honas Cheri Dohrmann Leroy Seiler
Servers	Volunteers	Volunteer	Volunteer
Musician	Kathy Dohm	Nikki Brattin	Kathy Dohm
Greeters			Volunteers
Sacristan	Doug Schmidt	Deb Helfrich	Darryl Honas
Rosary	Steve Eck		Volunteer

PLEASE EMAIL BULLETIN ITEMS TO CAROL BY NOON WEDNESDAY TO: secretary@barbercountycatholic.org