

Church of The Holy Cross

8311 W. 93rd St.
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
Church Office: (913) 381-2755 FAX: (913) 381-2766
E-Mail: churchoffice@holycrossopks.org
Website: www.holycrossopks.org

Holy Cross is a diverse community, welcoming and accepting, united in Catholic faith, and committed to forming people in the image of Christ to better serve the Lord and our neighbor.

Pastor: Rev. Mike Stubbs
Hispanic Ministry: Rev. David Garavito
Rectory: 341-5618

PARISH STAFF

Pastoral Associate: Robert Bacic
Director Liturgy & Music: Rick Worms
Parish Manager: Mark Engen
Administrative Assistant: Pam Seger
Receptionists: Barb Williams & Lina Byrum

Religious Education Staff: 381-2757

Director - Pre.-Gr. 6: Julie Dresser
Session Coordinator: Carol Morris
Assistants: Michelle Rieger & Karla Melgar
Confirmation Coordinator: Sandy Schluter

Youth Ministries: 205-0825

Director: Sandy Schluter

Catechist for Hispanic Adult Formation:

Sr. Maria Orozco, S.C.L., 381-2755

El boletín *Encuentro* en español
se encuentra en la página 4.

Holy Cross Catholic School

8101 W. 95th St. 66212
School Office: 381-7408
E-Mail: gradeschool@holycrosscatholicsschool.com
Principal: Bobbie Beverlin
Secretaries: Anita Lemmon & Martha Beisser

Early Education Center: 381-7151

7917 W 95th St. 66212
E-Mail: preschool@holycrosscatholicsschool.com
Director: Penny Miller
Assistant Director: Stefanie Bridges

Advocate for Annulments:

Rebeca Richmond, 671-8722

Parish Center Manager

Allison Carney, 244-5970

MASSES:

Saturday 7:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Sunday Mass)
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Nursery - 9:00, 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m. Masses
Weekdays Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00 a.m. | Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 a.m.
Tues. 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Tues. & Thurs. (School days only): 8:15 a.m. in the school

RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Semi-annually, Fall & Spring, and by appointment

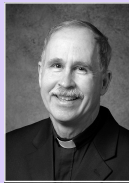
BAPTISMS: 4th Sunday each month

(Parent classes 3rd Tuesday each month. Call the office to register.)

MARRIAGES: Six months notice required. Call the office for information.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. & Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

PREGNANT? NEED HELP? All calls confidential. Gabriel Project, 913-602-0306

FROM FR. MIKE:

Dear Parishioners,

Last year, when I was in Oaxaca, Mexico, to study Spanish, I had the opportunity to attend a Posada. It began in one of the local parishes, where the figures of St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary were on display. Then everyone moved in procession outside, to walk a couple of blocks to enact St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary's journey to Bethlehem. In song, half of the crowd represents Mary and Joseph as they ask for shelter, the other half represents the innkeepers turning them away. Finally, we reached the designated spot where Mary and Joseph were successful in their request. A party ensued, with a piñata for the children and food for all. The nice weather made all this enjoyable.

This coming Saturday, the Hispanic community at Holy Cross will celebrate a Posada. Some adaptations will be necessary because of the weather, among other things. But this is an excellent way in which the Hispanic community can enrich the entire Church.

Fr. Mike

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: If you are unable to join us for our Reconciliation Service here at Holy Cross, the schedule for the area is as follows:

- Sun., Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. Curé of Ars - Leawood
Good Shepherd - Shawnee
- Mon., Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m. HOLY CROSS**
Holy Spirit - Overland Park
Holy Trinity - Lenexa
- Tues., Dec. 13, 7:00 p.m. St. Agnes - Roeland Park
Queen of the Holy Rosary-OP
Prince of Peace - Olathe
- Thurs., Dec. 15, 7:00 p.m. Ascension - Overland Park
St. Pius X - Mission
Sacred Heart - Shawnee
Divine Mercy - Gardner
- Sun., Dec. 18, 3:00 p.m. St. Ann - Prairie Village
Queen of Holy Rosary - Wea
7:30 p.m. Nativity - Leawood
- Mon., Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph - Shawnee
St. Michael - Leawood
St. Paul - Olathe (Spanish)

ST. MARY'S FOOD KITCHEN: We will be serving pasta casserole, salad and dessert to the less fortunate on Friday, Dec. 16. If you can make a casserole, please pick up a baking pan and the recipe which is provided in the Narthex. Thank you.

READINGS & FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38. **Questions for Adults:** How has God fulfilled promises to you in unexpected or unimagined ways? **For Children:** How do you know that God is speaking to you?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE:

	December 4, 2011	Fiscal YTD
Needed	\$35,905	\$584,925
Collected	31,851	595,249
Over/(Under)	(4,054)	10,324
Special Donations	672	

ADORATION CHAPEL: Advent is a time of waiting! Are you the one for whom the Lord waits during these hours? Open Hours: Sunday, 1-2pm and 9-10pm; Thursday, 1-2pm; Friday, 12midnight-1am; Saturday, 12Noon-1pm and 8-9pm. Call Anne, 649-2049.

Many people are unable to use the chapel due to allergies to fresh flowers. In the future, **all fresh flowers will be removed from the chapel** and placed in the church.

Please Pray for Those Asking for Prayers: Tim Eccles, Kevin Haeusser, Florence Happer, Bob Hoffman, Ellen Jiskra, Samantha Marcellus, Melanie Pelchat, Carol Reardon, and John Rhoades.

REST IN PEACE: Roman Madrigal of Holy Cross; **Franklin Morris**, father of John Morris; **Shirley White**, mother of Dave White; **Al Rilinger** of Holy Cross; **John Stubbs**, father of Fr. Mike Stubbs.

Do you know someone who is Catholic, but no longer joins us in worship and service? Maybe that person just needs a welcoming invitation from you to take a second look at the Catholic faith. If interested, invite your friend or family member to contact Robert Bacic for a confidential appointment. He can be reached at rba-cic@holycrossopks.org or 913-381-2755. Making an appointment does not obligate the person in any way. Holy Cross is committed to helping those who are interested return to a more active life of faith.

SUNSHINE CLUB MEMBERS We will be having our regular scheduled meeting on **Sunday, January 1st**, New Year's Day after the **9:00** mass. Hope you can join us.

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION: Each year the altar is beautifully decorated with flowers donated by parishioners in memory of their deceased loved ones. We invite you to donate \$15 for flowers for the Christmas environment. Please call the church office, 381-2755, or stop by during office hours.

Religious Education

CLASSES will meet this Tuesday from 4:30-5:45 p.m. Parents & families are invited to join us in church for an Advent prayer service, followed by a skit in the hall and refreshments in the classrooms. We will not meet on Dec.20th & 27th. Classes resume on Jan.3rd, 2012.

FAMILIES GROWING in FAITH Together will meet this Tues., Dec. 13th. After class time, we will enjoy a skit about the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego and share some seasonal food & drink. We will not meet on Dec.20th & 27th. Classes resume on Jan.3rd, 2012.

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes meet tonight. High school students meet 6-7:30pm & middle school students meet 6:30-8pm. Our next meeting for December is the 18th.

Confirmation Ceremony date set. Mark calendars for Wed, April 18th at 7pm for Holy Cross. Abbott Barnabas Senecal will preside.

Candidate Sponsor session for students to be confirmed this Spring... Please note, we will hold one more session for Candidates and their sponsors on Dec 10th. This session will be in Spanish, but we will have accommodations in English. We meet in the church hall from 3:30 to 4:45. Candidates should plan to attend with their sponsor. If the sponsor is unavailable, candidates should still attend with another adult.

Youth Ministry

For questions regarding Middle and High School Rel. Ed or Youth Ministry, Sandy can be reached quickly & easily by email at sschluter@holycrossopks.org or call/text 205-0825.

Holy Cross Highschoolers ... We meet Wednesday evenings in our Youth Room! Join us from 7-8:30pm for some faith-filled fun and friends. We will meet Dec. 21st in the youth room. We meet Dec. 14th off site. Location to be determined. Add Sandra K Schluter as a friend on Facebook for event information. Bring a snack item to add to our pantry.

Middle Schoolers, W'SUP? Worship, Socializing, and Prayer around U! We WILL NOT meet on Dec 12th. We will meet again on Dec 19th. Hope to see you there. We meet in the youth room and church hall. Please bring a bag of chips or cookies or some snack item for our pantry.

Holy Cross Parish... we need your help. Meetings and events are underway for our youth groups at Holy Cross and we could use your donations of snack items and pop. Cookies, chips, and caffeine free beverages are great donations. Oh, and did I mention chocolate? Thanks to our wonderful parishioners for all the continued support of the youth of Holy Cross. Your donations do not go unnoticed by the youth and are very much appreciated!

Christmas Cards from Printery House... are available for pickup after all masses. If you are not available after one of the masses, please contact Sandy Schluter at 205-0825 or sschluter@holycrossopks.org to arrange pick up.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES...

UPLIFT... Adults or Teens interested in serving others should reserve their space for PROJECT UPLIFT...an outreach to the homeless of Kansas City. Holy Cross Volunteers are needed the 1st MONDAY of every month. We are taking volunteers for Jan 2 and Feb 5. Call or email Sandy to sign up. We depart from Holy Cross at 4:30 pm and return around 9:00 pm. Eat dinner before you meet at HC, bring bottled water to drink, and dress appropriately for the weather! Remember, people in need are counting on us, so if you sign up, be sure to keep your commitment! Thanks!

Mission Trip 2012! All I Want for Christmas is to get to know God and His people! What a wonderful holiday gift for the young highschooler in your life... to receive this opportunity for a life-changing, faith-strengthening, friendship-lasting experience. For only \$75 deposit, you can hold a spot for Mission trip 2012. We will collect \$75 payments every two months until the \$400 trip is paid. We will also continue our fundraising efforts in 2012 to defray the costs. Submit your deposit now. The total cost of the trip increases to \$420 if deposits are paid after January 1, 2012. Our travel dates are June 23rd to 30th. We will be working with Catholic Heart Workcamp. Holy Cross is celebrating 10 years of summer mission trips for our high schoolers. This summer, we will travel to... Nashville, TN to work with agencies & communities in need.

Holy Cross School News

Entertainment Books for 2011/12 are here. Anyone interested in buying Entertainment Book for \$25 please call school office at 381-7408. Limited quantity on hand.

Please continue purchasing trash bags in school office.

Stay up-to-date with info about the school. Go to www.holycrosscatholicsschool.com where you can link to Principal's Weblog, our Facebook page & Twitter. Click "Family Login" button to see our newsletter and calendar.

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday	9:00 a.m. Betty Hauber (All School)
Tuesday	6:30 a.m. Spec. Int. - Jim Wendling 6:00 p.m. Rosa Pham (Spanish)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Spec. Int. - Trudy Compton
Thursday	6:30 a.m. David Volz
Friday	9:00 a.m. Dick Sandlin
Saturday	7:30 a.m. Dominic Ruou 5:00 p.m. John Benson
Sunday	7:30 a.m. Frank Diskin 9:00 a.m. Joe Edmonds 11:00 a.m. Danny Goodwin 2:00 p.m. People of the Parish (Spanish)

2011 Tax Saving TipQualified Charitable IRA Distributions

IRA owners who are over the age of 70-1/2 may transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Holy Cross. No tax deduction is available for this gift since it is transferred directly from the IRA, but no taxes will be imposed on the transfer as well.

HOLIDAY BUNKO PARTY: All Women of Holy Cross are invited to join us in a fun evening Monday, **December 12th**, at 7:00pm in the church hall to play BUNKO, refreshments and prizes. Please RSVP to Kathleen 642-1171 or Linda 648-4268, so that we may know how many tables to set up. There will be a \$3.00 charge at the door.

Advice and Aid Pregnancy Centers, Inc. is currently seeking a Registered Nurse (RN), licensed in the State of Kansas to assume the position of Nurse Manager. A resume with cover letter should be emailed to Brenda Estell—office@adviceandaid.com.

Please join us in praying the **ROSARY before daily Mass** every Mon.-Sat. We will **begin 20 minutes before each Mass**. On Mondays only, we will begin at 8:30am with Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions followed by the rosary. On Fridays we will pray the Rosary for Life.

Holy Cross parishioners pray the Rosary at 9:30am on the first Saturday of every month at Planned Parenthood, 4401 W. 109th St., just southeast of 435 & Roe in Fox Hill Office Park. Come join us.



Sixteen families have asked for our help this year. Please make a donation, so that 92 people can open a gift and enjoy a meal this Christmas.

Christmas Cards for Everyone is a parish effort to provide for families in need this holiday season. Cash, checks or gift cards to Kohls, Target, Walmart, HyVee or Price Chopper would be appreciated. Checks should be made out to *Holy Cross*. Also consider purchasing your gift cards through *Scrip*.

The True Meaning of Christmas is just one of the many wonderful \$3 CDs available in the kiosk at the back of church that will help you make this Advent truly special. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's books, tapes, homilies, retreats, and television series have inspired countless souls all over the world. This digitally-mastered presentation combines classic recordings of his timeless reflections on the meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus, mixed with seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite! Be sure to enjoy the special addition last track by Scott Hahn. Questions? Call Brenda Scruggs, 913-649-6442.

Why Change? If you wonder why the changes have been made in the words of the Mass, you will enjoy listening to Edward Sri's great presentation on the CD **A Walk Through the New Mass Translation**. You can find this and many other great CDs on the kiosk in the back of the church. Questions? Call Brenda Scruggs, 913-649-6442.

Reconciliation will be a greater experience this Advent if you first listen to the CD **Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues** by Fr. Robert Barron. This is a CD worth listening to over and over again and gets re-ordered frequently by popular demand. Get your copy from the kiosk in the back of church. Questions? Call Brenda Scruggs, 913-649-6442.

Gospel of Life Update

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb." (Psalm 137:13) Please pray to end abortion. Pray for a culture of life.

Please keep our Gabriel Project Mothers and their families in your prayers.

The Gabriel Project provides spiritual, emotional, & material help for any woman facing difficulty in her pregnancy. Please call 602-0306.

Hurting from abortion?? If you have had an abortion & are still grieving, Project Rachael can help.

All calls are confidential. (913) 621-2199.

Call Project Rachel, (913) 621-2199.



“Encuentro”

La Iglesia de Holy Cross es una comunidad diversa y acogedora, unida en la Fe Católica, comprometida en formar a la gente en la imagen de Cristo para servir mejor al Señor y al prójimo.

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL:
todos los domingos a las 2:00 p.m. y los martes a las 6:00 p.m.

MISAS EN INGLÉS:
 sábados 5:00 p.m.
 y domingos 7:30 a.m.,
 9:00 a.m. y 11:00 a.m.
 Los invitamos a participar en cualquiera de estas liturgias.

RECONCILIACIÓN:
 sábados, 3:30 a 4:30pm;
 martes, 5:30 p.m., antes de la Misa en español; y
 miércoles, 5:30-6:30pm.

MATRIMONIO: Llame a la parroquia 6 meses antes de la fecha en que desea casarse para tener una entrevista con un sacerdote.

BAUTISMO: Segundo sábado 11 a.m., y tercer domingo de cada mes después de la Misa de las 2:00 p.m. Padres y padrinos deben asistir a una clase de preparación. Favor de anotarse con anticipación, llamando a la oficina de la iglesia, 381-2755.

SERVICIOS EN ESPAÑOL: Para hablar en español, llamen a la oficina de la iglesia, **381-2755:** lunes, miércoles y jueves 2-5 pm.; martes 2-7pm. Pueden llamar también a los Sacerdotes, al 341-5618 y dejarles un mensaje.

ANUNCIOS

DEL PADRE MIKE

Queridos Feligreses,

El año pasado en este tiempo, cuando estaba en Oaxaca, México, estudiando español, tuve la oportunidad de asistir a una Posada. Empezó en una de las parroquias locales, donde las figuras de San José y la Sagrada Virgen María eran exhibidas. Cantando, todos se movieron afuera en procesión, para representar el trayecto de San José y la Virgen María a Belén. La mitad de la muchedumbre representaban a María y José, pidiendo albergue. La otra mitad representaban a los posaderos, rechazándolos. Finalmente, llegaron al lugar donde María y José tuvieron éxito con su pedido. Una fiesta siguió con una piñata para los niños y comida para todos. El buen tiempo hizo todo esto muy agradable.

Este próximo sábado. La comunidad Hispana de Holy Cross, celebrará una Posada. Algunas adaptaciones serán necesarias debido al tiempo, entre otras cosas. Pero esta es una manera excelente en que la comunidad Hispana enriquecerá a la parroquia entera. Fr.Mike

Nota: Muchas personas no pueden usar la Capilla por tener alergias a flores frescas. En el futuro, todas las flores frescas serán removidas de la Capilla y serán puestas en la iglesia.

Tenemos 6 nuevos CD's en español en el kiosco del vestíbulo. \$3/ea. ¡Gran regalo de Adviento!

INTENCIONES PARA LAS MISAS: Martes, 12/13, 6:00 p.m.: Rosa Pham
 Domingo, 12/18, 2:00 p.m.: Personas de la Parroquia

LECTURAS Y PREGUNTAS PARA COMPARTIR LA FE: 4º Domingo de Adviento
 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Romanos 16:25-27; Lucas 1:26-38.

Preguntas para Adultos para Compartir la Fe: ¿Cómo ha llenado Dios sus promesas a ustedes, de manera imaginable o no imaginable?

Preguntas para los Niños: ¿Cómo saben que Dios les está hablando?

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA:

Clases de por la Tarde: Nos reuniremos este martes de 4:30-5:45pm. Padres y familiares están invitados a reunirse con nosotros en la iglesia para un servicio de oración de Adviento, seguido por un programa en el salón de la iglesia y refrescos en los salones. **No nos reuniremos Dic. 20 y 27. Las clases resumirán en Enero 3, 2012.**

Familias Creciendo Juntas en la Fe: Nos reuniremos el martes, Dic.13. Después de la clase, tendremos un programa sobre la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe a Juan Diego, además de refrescos y comidas típicos de este tiempo. **No nos reuniremos Dic. 20 y 27. Las clases resumirán Enero 3, 2012.**

CONFIRMACIÓN:

Clases de Confirmación: Nos reuniremos esta noche, Dec. 11. Escuela Superior 6-7:30pm., y Escuela Intermedia 6:30-8pm. Nuestras próxima fecha es: Dic. 18.

Ministerio de Jóvenes: Sandy Schluter, 205-0825, ssschluter@holycrossopks.org. Para preguntas sobre Escuelas Intermedia y Superior, comuníquense con Sandy Schluter.

Estudiantes de Escuela Intermedia: W'SUP (¡Worship, Socializing and Prayer around U!) La próxima reunión será Dic.19. Nunca es tarde para participar. Las reuniones se llevan a cabo en el sótano, de 7-8:30pm. Traigan una bolsa de chips o cookies para repartir.

Para más información vea el revés de esta página.

Continuación de la página anterior.

PROYECTO UPLIFT...alcanzando a los desamparados de Kansas City. Los voluntarios de Holy Cross se necesitan el **1er LUNES DE CADA MES. Estamos tomando voluntarios para el 2 de Enero y el 5 de Febrero. Llaman o email Sandy.** Nos iremos de Holy Cross a las 4:30 p.m., y regresaremos alrededor de las 9:00p.m. Cenen antes de venir y traigan agua en botellas para su consumo. ¡Vístanse apropiadamente con el tiempo! **Recuerden, las personas con necesidad cuentan con nosotros. Así es que, si firman, ¡asegúrense que van a cumplir con este compromiso!** ¡Gracias!

Ceremonia de la Confirmación: Se llevará a cabo el miércoles, Abril 18, 7:00pm., en Holy Cross. El Abad Barnabás Senecal, presidirá. Marquen sus calendario ahora.

CELEBRATION 2012 The Celebration Committee is looking for gifts to be auctioned off in the silent or LIVE auction at Celebration on January 28, 2012. If you have an item or service you can donate, please drop it off at the school office or contact Kathy Steichen, 913-648-2146.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. See the Celebration website for more details. www.holycrosscatholicsschool.com Look for the Celebration tab on the left side of the page.

VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES: Do you have some free time and enjoy meeting new people? Catholic Charities has a great opportunity for you. We are looking for someone to help staff the front desk reception at 2220 Central, KS City, KS on Wednesdays 1:00-4:00pm, and on Fridays 12:30-4:30 pm. Responsibilities include greeting clients, answering the phones, and making appointments. Training provided. If interested contact Mary Kay Drees at 913-433-2080, or e-mail mdrees@catholiccharitiesks.org.

TurnStyles Needs Store Donations: TurnStyles in Overland Park & TurnStyles in Olathe need clothing! Please bring your gently used clothing to either store. All proceeds from TurnStyles go to support your neighbors in need through Catholic Charities' programs, including Emergency Assistance and its food pantries and the Refugee and Migrant Services program. By bringing your donations to us instead of having TurnStyles pick them up, you can help us save precious expense dollars. Our stores accept donations Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Overland Park: 9750 W.87th St. (South side of the building). For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles or contact 913-648-6795 (Overland Park) or 913-909-2485 (Olathe).

Want to be a good Samaritan? There are sick people at Shawnee Mission Hospital who would like a visit & many would like to receive the Body of Christ to encourage and strengthen them. We need volunteers for the 2nd or 4th Wednesday each month at 1:00 pm. There is training and then you are able to shadow someone who has already been going, until you are comfortable going on your own. If interested, call Mary Ann Meert at 642-3954.

Donations Pick-Up Driver Needed: Interested in giving back during the holidays? The Olathe Emergency Assistance Center for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas has an immediate need from now until Christmas for a volunteer to assist on an as-needed basis with donations pickups. The truck is available through Catholic Charities. Commercial Drivers License (CDL) not required. For more info contact Mary Kay Drees at 913-433-2080, or mdrees@catholiccharitiesks.org.

The **19th annual "Support our Seminarians" Benefit Dinner** is scheduled for Fri., Jan.27, 2012. This event benefits seminarians from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, the Diocese of Kansas City-St.Joseph and Conception Seminary College. It promises to be an evening filled with fun and laughter, celebrating our Catholic faith, dining on wonderful food, and socializing with our priests and seminarians! SOS will be held at the Marriott Allis Plaza, 12th and Wyandotte, KC, MO. The ticket price is \$150.00 per person at tables of ten people. To reserve your place, or an entire table, or donate an item to the market place, please contact: Martha Hodes (913) 207-9893 or mmmh66@bcglobal.net.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped supply a gift with the tags for the families of St. Benedict's Special Children Center, and all the wonderful supplies for the Center itself. May your generosity bring you many blessings of peace for taking time

to answer Jesus' Call. *"What you do to the least of my people, that you do unto Me."* Any further donations that you might have, please contact Mary Ann Meert, 642-3954. Tricycles and ride on toys are always appreciated at the Center, and can be taken down later.

Archbishop's Quo Vadis Retreat: Quo Vadis is a short, challenging retreat held from 8pm, January 1st to 11am, January 3rd, which helps men ages 18-35 discern their ultimate purpose and vocation in life through a focused look at the Catholic priesthood. Men open to the priesthood are invited to listen to the vocational calls of the Archbishop, vocation director and seminarians. Retreat is free for those who make application before December 21st. Activities include Mass and full Catholic devotions within the Christmas season, a short pilgrimage to the Cathedral, small group discussion and recreation. Registration and more information at www.kckvocations.com.

College Students—SAVE THE DATE! Benedictine College will sponsor the 2012 Kansas Catholic College Student Convention (KCCSC). It will take place in Lawrence, Kansas, over the weekend of February 10-12, 2012. It was a great success last year as over 270 Catholic college students from 18 colleges and universities attended. It will be even bigger and better this year! Scholarships (partial and full) are available! For more details, please contact Annie Nickels at AnnieNickels@gmail.com or 719-482-4793.

Donations Pick-Up Drivers Needed: Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas has an immediate need for volunteers to assist with the pick-up of food donations for its Emergency Assistance Centers. Duties involve some heavy lifting in addition to operating a truck that is available through Catholic Charities. A Commercial Drivers License (CDL) is not required. This involves shuttling the truck to parishes for weekend food drives, pick-up of donations from schools or businesses, pick-up orders from Harvesters, and the transfer of food products between Catholic Charities pantries and storage areas. In addition to being comfortable with the operation of the truck, the volunteers need to be physically capable of frequently lifting and carrying cases of food items. For more information please contact, at 913-433-2080 or mdrees@catholiccharitiesks.org.

VIRTUS TRAINING

If you plan to volunteer, or work with our Catholic children, (Catechist, co-teacher, classroom aide, scout leader, coach, etc.) you **MUST** complete the Protecting God's Children VIRTUS program required by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. Pre-register for the session using the following instructions...

1. Go online to: www.archkck.org
2. You will see a photo on the right side titled **Virtus to Protect God's Children**. Click on the picture.
3. Click on **Register for VIRTUS training**
4. Select your organization, Kansas City in Kansas (Archdiocese).
5. This will bring a list of VIRTUS trainings in our Archdiocese. Find the one that fits your schedule.
6. Click on **Start Registration** and follow the instructions.

Call church office if you have any questions.

Use Facebook and Twitter to support Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas: Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers who are active on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter and are willing to send messages for a good cause. These volunteers will help Catholic Charities launch its new Give.Hope. Campaign - giving hope cards to those in need. If you are interested in raising hope in the next couple months, please contact 913-433-2028 or info@catholiccharitiesks.org.

Saint Thomas Aquinas PLACEMENT TEST - JANUARY 7 (correct date - previous one said the 8th!): The Placement Test (not an admissions test) at Saint Thomas Aquinas High School for prospective 8th grade students will be on Saturday, **January 7, 8:00 a.m.** Students are asked to bring two #2 pencils, a calculator, social security number and \$15 exam fee. No pre-registration required. Please arrive in the Commons before 8:00. Pizza luncheon will be served following the test. Makeup test will be January 21. If you have any questions, contact Diane Pyle, Admissions Director, at 319-2423 or dpyle@stasaints.net. **Thank you for sharing the good news about our Catholic School community!**