

# 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](mailto:churchoffice@holycrossopks.org)  
Website: [www.holycrossopks.org](http://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 5.

## Holy Cross Catholic School

8101 W. 95th St. 66212  
School Office: 381-7408  
E-Mail: [gradeschool@holycrosscatholicsschool.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

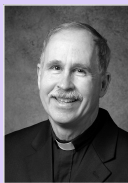
**BAPTISMS:** 4th Sunday each month

(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:**

Merry Christmas to you and your families! The greetings that we make during this time of the year, the cards that we send, all echo the song of the angels on that first Christmas night: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth." May the wishes that we extend to our relatives and friends continue the tiding of great joy that the angels brought to Bethlehem. May all that we do and say in the year 2012 reveal the presence of God in our world.

Fr. Mike

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** The remaining schedule for the area is as follows:

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)

**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.

**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.



**READINGS & FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: The Nativity of the Lord:** Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14. **Questions for Adults:** As you look back on Jesus' birth from our vantage point at the beginning of the third millennium, what do you see as Jesus' significance? What power does Jesus exert in our world compared with the power of today's Caesars? What power in your life? **For Children:** In the first reading, Isaiah calls the Messiah by different names. Can you come up with four names that describe Jesus for you?

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE:**

	December 11, 2011	Fiscal YTD
Needed	\$35,905	\$620,830
Collected	28,686	623,935
Over/(Under)	(7,219)	3,105
Special Donations	663	

**ADORATION CHAPEL:** The greatest gift of all - an hour with the Lord! 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:** Mary Ellen Alfino, Tim Eccles, Kevin Haeusser, Bob Hoffman, Ellen Jiskra, Carol Reardon, and John Rhoades.

**REST IN PEACE:** **Ted Freed, Al Rilinger, and Gregory Sustrick**, all of Holy Cross; and **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 [rbaic@holycrossopks.org](mailto:rbaic@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.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** will not take place on Christmas or New Year's Day. Children in Kindergarten through fourth grade will be invited to gather for this during the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses this Sunday. We will resume this weekly on Jan. 8th unless a leader is unavailable for a particular Mass.

## Religious Education

**NO CLASSES** on Tuesday afternoons, Dec.20th and 27th. Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year holiday season. Classes resume on Jan. 3rd, 2012.

**FAMILIES GROWING in FAITH Together** will not meet on Dec.20th & 27th. Classes resume on Jan.3rd, 2012.

### Confirmation

**Confirmation Classes** meet tonight. This is our last class for the semester. Classes will start up again on Jan.8th. Have a safe Christmas break.

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

### 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](mailto:sschluter@holycrossopks.org) or call/text 205-0825.*

**Holy Cross Highschoolers** ... We will not meet on Dec.21st or 28th due to winter break. Plan to meet up again on Jan.4th. Check facebook for any last minute events over break. Add Sandra K Schluter as a friend on Facebook for event information. Bring a snack item to add for our pantry.

**Middle Schoolers, W'SUP?** Worship, Socializing, and Prayer around U! We meet Dec.19th. This is our last meeting for this semester. 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!

### **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 **1<sup>st</sup> MONDAY of every month.** We are taking volunteers for 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!**



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**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 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. 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

## **Mass Intentions For The Week**

<b>Monday</b>	9:00 a.m. Dick Obert
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 a.m. Mildred Gough 6:00 p.m. John Baldor (Spanish)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 a.m. John Sondy
<b>Thursday</b>	6:30 a.m. Betty Hauber
<b>Friday</b>	9:00 a.m. Spec. Int. - Carol Reardon
<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 a.m. Rosa Nguyen

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:30 p.m.	Mary & John McCraner (upstairs)
4:30 p.m.	Tony Smigin (downstairs)
6:30 p.m.	Douglas Roth (Spanish)
8:30 a.m.	People of the Parish
10:00 p.m.	Robert Klewitz

### **Sunday**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 a.m.	Bunny Goetz Ingalls
2:00 p.m.	Maria Rang (Spanish)

**2011 Tax Saving Tip**Qualified 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.

**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](mailto: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.**

**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.

**Christmas Cards for Everyone**

Thanks to the generous contributions of our parishioners, Holy Cross received over \$2,000 in contributions and was able to provide 13 families with a meal to enjoy and a gift to open this Christmas. Thanks to everyone who made a donation.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is clear: don't let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Gospel of Life Update**

“The family celebrates the Gospel of Life through daily prayer, both individual and family prayer...But the celebration which gives meaning to every other form of prayer and worship is found in the family's actual daily life together, if it is a life of loving and self-giving.” (Gospel of Life #93)

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.



## “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,

*¡Felices pascuas y Próspero Año Nuevo para todos!*

Los saludos que damos durante esta época, las tarjetas que mandamos, son una resonancia de la canción de los ángeles en la primera noche de Navidad: “Gloria a Dios en las alturas y en la Tierra, paz a su pueblo de buena voluntad. Que los buenos deseos que extendemos a nuestros familiares y amigos, continúen la buena nueva que los ángeles trajeron a Belén. Que todo lo que digamos o hagamos en el 2012, revele la presencia de Dios en nuestro mundo. 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, 12/20, 6:00 p.m.: John Baldor  
 Domingo, 12/25, 2:00 p.m.: María Rang

**LECTURAS Y PREGUNTAS PARA COMPARTIR LA FE:** *Natividad del Señor*  
 Isaías 52:7-10; Hebreos 1:1-6; Juan 1:1-18.

**Preguntas para Adultos para Compartir la Fe:** Al mirar hacia atrás, desde nuestra posición ventajosa del 3er milenio, el nacimiento de Jesús, ¿qué ven ustedes como el significado de Jesús? ¿Qué poder ejerce Jesús en nuestro mundo comparado con el poder de los Césares de hoy? ¿Qué poder ejerce en sus vidas?

**Preguntas para los Niños:** En la primera lectura, Isaías llama diferentes nombres al Mesías. ¿Pueden ustedes pensar en cuatro nombres que les describen a Jesús?

#### **EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA:**

**Clases de por la Tarde: NO HABRÁN CLASES, Dic. 20 y 27. Las clases resumirán en Enero 3, 2012.**

**Familias Creciendo Juntas en la Fe: NO HABRÁN CLASES, Dic. 20 y 27. Las clases resumirán Enero 3, 2012.**

*¡Felices Pascuas y Próspero Año Nuevo para todos!*

#### **CONFIRMACIÓN:**

**Clases de Confirmación:** Nos reuniremos esta noche, Dec. 18. **NO HABRÁN CLASES hasta Enero 8, 2012.**

**Ministerio de Jóvenes:** Sandy Schluter, 205-0825, [sschluter@holycrossopks.org](mailto:sschluter@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.

**Estudiantes de Escuela Superior:** La próxima reunión será después de las Fiestas de Navidad, **Enero 4, 2012.**

Para más información vea la próxima página.

**PROYECTO UPLIFT**...llegando a los desamparados de Kansas City. Los voluntarios de Holy Cross se necesitan el **1er LUNES DE CADA MES. Estamos tomando voluntarios para el 5 de Febrero. Llamen 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.

**Retiro de Quinceañera:** El próximo Retiro se llevará a cabo **en las Oficinas del Ministerio Hispano, el 28 y 29 de Enero, 2012. Costo \$20.** La jovencita tiene que asistir los dos días para recibir el Certificado. Para inscribirse, llamen al 913/281-6644.

**Retiro de Convalidación:** Se llevará a cabo en la Oficinas del Ministerio, para parejas que están interesadas en casarse por la Iglesia. **Es necesario asistir a este Retiro de dos días:** sábado, 25 de Feb. 2012, 8:30am.-5pm., y domingo, 26 de Feb. 2012, 8am.-5pm. **Costo \$50 por pareja. NO HABRÁ CUIDADO DE NIÑOS.** Inscribanse en 913/281-6644.

**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.holycrosscatholicschool.com](http://www.holycrosscatholicschool.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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:mmmh66@bcglobal.net).

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:mdrees@catholiccharitiesks.org).

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The child to be born will  
be called holy, the Son of  
God.

—Luke 1:35

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## 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](http://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.

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**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](mailto:info@catholiccharitiesks.org).

**Saint Thomas Aquinas PLACEMENT TEST - JANUARY 7th (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](mailto:dpyle@stasaints.net). **Thank you for sharing the good news about our Catholic School community!**