The Catholic Parishes of Crawford County April 20th & 21st, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 30, 2024

World Day PRAYER Coations

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep."

Јони 10:11-18

Mass Schedules:					
Holy	<u>Cross</u>				
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Sunday 10:00 a.m.				
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Friday 8:00 a.m.					
Mass in Spanish: (every 1st & 3rd Sunday) at 11:30 a.m.					
<u>St. Francis Caracciolo</u>					
Saturday 4:00 p.m. Thursday 8:00 a.m.					
<u>St. Michael</u>					

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

- **hael** Tuesday 8:00 a.m.
- April 21 First Holy Communion Good Shepherd Sunday
- April 22 Earth day

April 26 – Holy Cross School's "Bake Sale" at Mace Supermarket

- May 1 May Crowning
- **May 1** Faith Formation 5:30 p.m.
- May 8 Faith Formation 5:30 p.m.
- May 10 Dia de las Madres (Mother's Day in the Latino Community)
- May 12 The Ascension of the Lord
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 15 Faith Formation 5:30 p.m.
- May 19 Pentecost Sunday

May 26 – Holy Trinity

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. Phone: (573) 885-3520 Fax: (573) 885-3501 Address: 415 W. School Ave., Cuba, MO 65453 Email: hccccuba@gmail.com Web: holycrosscubamo.org

Holy Cross School Office:

Phone: (573) 885-4727 Email: holycrossschoolcuba@gmail.com Principal, Melinda Osentoski:

holycross.osentoski@gmail.com

Fr. Anthony (Tony) Onyeihe:

(573) 462-6522 aonyeihe@diojeffcity.org **S. Karen Thein SSND:**

(507) 514-3226

Parish Council Members:

Jim Bathe	Mike Kempf
Jerry Dubbelde	RuthAnn Kuethe
Alice Engelbrecht	Esli Navarro
Joe Howdeshell	Diane McCameron
Don Hudson	Ruth Woodson

Finance Council Members:

Larry Howdeshell	Donna Conduitt
Teresa Leicht	Randy Baker
Marcia Paton	

School Advisory Council Members:

Aminta Abdinova	Mike Kempf
Alan Collins	Christy Moreland
Deborah Dicus	Kathy Royal

Bishop McKnight's Monthly

<u>Prayer Intention:</u> "For a greater awareness of and respect for our common home in building an authentic human ecology: May we be good stewards

of the gift of creation in defending all human life."

Mission Statement:

We, the Catholic parishes of Holy Cross, St. Francis, and St. Michael, aware of the intergenerational communities and the various cultures living in our communities, welcome all – no matter where they are on the journey of Faith. We strive to strengthen the communities of Faith by working together through prayer, works of Justice and concern for our neighbors.



Ministry Scheduler Pro Go to this link to see the schedule: www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/HolyCrossCuba

Mass Intentions for 4/22 – 4/28, 2024

23	St.M. T	ues.	8:30 a.m.	- NO	MASS		
24	H.C. V	Ved.	8:30 a.m.	- NO	MASS		
25	St.F. T	hurs.	8:00 a.m.	- NO	MASS		
26	H.C. F	ri.	8:00 a.m.	- NO	MASS		
					ner Richard E		
27	H.C. S	at.	6:00 p.m.	- Mik	te Dunakey f	þ	
28	St.M. S	un.	8:00 a.m.	- Peo	ple of the par	rish	
28	H.C. S	un. 1	0:00 a.m.	- Knig	ghts and Ladies	Auxiliary #8920 🕆	3
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Parish Collections: April 13 & 14, 2024					
Parish	Envelopes		Loose		Total
Holy Cross	\$2,586.00	+	\$787.00	=	\$3,373.00
St. Michael	\$510.00	+	\$195.00	=	\$705.00
St. Francis	\$415.00	+	\$57.25	=	\$472.25



Nikki Smith, Mary Happle, Sandy Mowry, Praver Earl Vincent, Joann Mullen, Charlie & Julie Coster, Stanley Griggs, Kathryn Phillips, Carolyn Horsefield, Joann Brewer, Helen Crombie, Joe Kuenz, Lois Stubberfield, Helen Mansfield, Eugene Kempf, Joe Southard, John Moriarity, Charlotte Vavra, Brian Enke, David Happle, Charlie Thein.

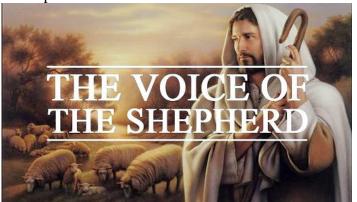
From the Gospel - John 10:11-18:

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Reflection:

There are a lot of voices out there that can only distract and scatter us. Perhaps we've paid too much attention to them at times in our lives. Through hard experience we have learned that they don't have our best interests at heart and if we listen to them, we are scattered. But the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus tells us, wants to gather us. His voice can help us keep our wits about us in an oftenmisguided world.

So, we ask ourselves:

- Can I name the "false shepherds" I have listened to?
- How did they mislead me?
- Where and how do I listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd?



AITH FORMATION:



Classes will take place from 5:30 -6:30 p.m. on May 1, May 8, and May 15 (NO classes on April 24).

On May 15 we come together not only to

conclude our year of learning and growth but also to celebrate the vibrant spirit of Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church.

First Eucharist:



Congratulations to the children who received their First Holy Communion on April 21st, coinciding with Good Shepherd Sunday. We rejoice in this milestone in their faith journey and pray for God's blessings to continue to guide them throughout their lives.

RCA RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, please contact the office, or register on line. You can also speak with Sister Karen. Register online at: https://form.jotform.com/231804591212146

Father Tony Vacation AND Retreat:



Father Tony will be away from April 22 -26 for the Diocesan Priest Retreat. There are No weekday Masses while he is away. Father Tony will also be traveling to his home country, Nigeria. He will be away

for 6 weeks from April 29 – June 6. This will be his first trip home since he came to the USA 3 years ago. More information about Mass coverages/ schedule changes will be posted at a later time.

School Bake Sale:

Holy Cross School's "Bake Sale" is at Mace Supermarket on



Friday, April 26, after school from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. If you would like to contribute to the "Bake Sale", baked goods will be accepted on Thursday, April 25th

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and the morning of the bake sale (Friday, April 26th) until 2 p.m.

Please bring your baked goods to the school office.

Save the Date:



The Altar Society Rummage Sale at Holy Cross is set for Saturday, June 1st! Start saving your "stuff" to donate. More information to follow.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations:

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is observed on



Sunday, April 21. It is also known as "Good World Day Shepherd Sunday." Its purpose is to "PRAYER by publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, VOCATIONS "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

2024 marks the 61st Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray that men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

Exciting News for Holy Cross Parish!

We are thrilled to announce that a generous donation has been made to Holy Cross Parish-an organ valued at \$10,000! This wonderful gift promises to enhance our worship experience and enrich our parish community.

While the organ itself was generously donated to the church, concerns arose regarding the cost of transportation



and insulation, which the church could not afford. Consequently, we were reluctantly considering declining the offer.

But here's where the story takes a joyful turn: a kind-hearted parishioner has graciously offered to cover all expenses associated

with the transfer and installation of the organ! We are deeply grateful for this generous gesture, which makes acquiring the organ possible for our parish. This donation is made in memory of their Aunt Virginia Drozd, who was previously Sister Patricia Marie with the order of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. She had multiple degrees, music being one. She taught music and played the organ.

With this obstacle now overcome, we believe that acquiring the organ will greatly benefit our parish. We are excited about the possibilities it brings, and we hope to find someone within our community who can play it now that this option is available to us.

The current organ at Holy Cross is in need of costly repairs, estimated to exceed \$5,000. With the arrival of the new organ, we now have a beautiful and functional instrument to enhance our worship services and music ministry. Let us give thanks for the generosity of our parishioners and the abundance of blessings bestowed upon our parish community.



World Earth Day, celebrated every year on April 22nd. This day is set to remind us of the importance of protecting our planet and its resources. It is an opportunity for people worldwide to come together and take action to protect our planet. On this day we are reminded that we all have a role in protecting the environment and can make a difference. The theme for Earth Day 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics," The theme highlights the fact that 380 million tons of plastic are produced every year!

Many environmental challenges face our planet including: climate change, deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. Earth Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of these issues and to encourage people to take action to address them. It is a day to celebrate our planet's natural beauty and remind ourselves of the importance of protecting it for future generations.

Refurnishing the rectory:

The Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus have taken



the initiative to furnish the rectory with essential furnishings that are currently lacking. Monetary donations are needed to purchase items such as repairing the flooring, acquiring

a living room set, and other miscellaneous furnishings. Your support in this endeavor will contribute to creating a welcoming and comfortable space for our priests, both present and future, as well as visiting clergy. If you would like to help, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity and support in making our rectory a warm and inviting home for our priests. For more information, please contact Lil Collins, Juanita Skyles, or Marsha Schramm.



Walk With Us

* * * * * * LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE IN OUR DIOCESE AND SIGN UP FOR UPDATES AT

Worship With Us

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be traveling through the diocese from July 1-5



diojeffcity.org/ eucharisticrevival





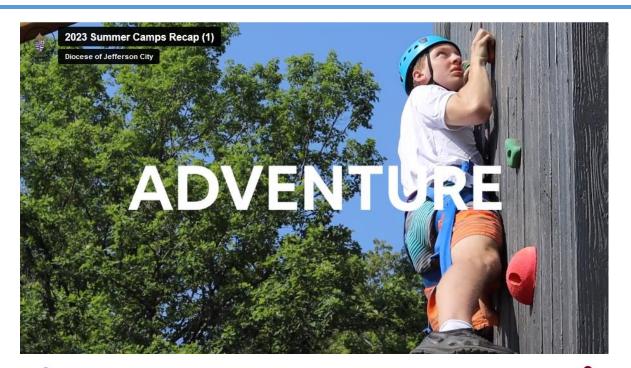
Life In The Spirit Seminar May 18th | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

St. Thomas More Newman Center | 602 Turner Ave. Scan QR code for more information or to register! Please register by May 10th!





https://diojeffcity.org/youth-camps/





https://diojeffcity.org/camplolek/



https://diojeffcity.org/youthministry/camp-maccabee/



https://diojeffcity.org/youthministry/camp-siena/

Are you new to the Parish?

If you are new to the parish, please call the office at 573-885-3520 to register or stop by so we can meet you! Has your information changed?

If you have moved, disconnected your home phone and only use a cell, or have any other household changes, please let us know so we can update our records.

Remember - if you don't tell us - we won't know!

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

If you would like to have a Mass said, the suggested amount for the stipend is \$10. Call the office to schedule a Mass Intention, or put your stipend in an envelope with the following Information:

- Your name & phone number
- Who the Mass is for
- If they are deceased
- Specific date (if any) please specify if the intention can be on a weekday or not.

Anointing of the Sick:

Due to hospitals' strict protocols, it is important to seek the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation prior to going to the hospital. Most hospitals only allow a priest to provide the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick if the patient has been placed on comfort care (hospice) or is nearing death. Please pray for the many who are ill or are home bound.

Homebound: If you would like to minister to the homebound by visiting them and bringing them Communion, please contact S. Karen 507-514-3226.

Yoga Class on Tuesdays Offered at Holy Cross:

For a small fee, Yoga Class offered on Tuesdays at B HC from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Diane 314-578-1132 or Donna 573-259-6957.

"Heavenly Cleaner" Volunteers – Please Help:

Holy Cross has a group of volunteers called "Heavenly Cleaners" that clean the church each week. They are divided into teams of 2. Each team cleans the church once a month. The team is asked to freshen up the bathrooms, vacuum the floor, dust, take out trash, and sanitize. If you would be interested in helping with this ministry of the church, please call the parish office.



Cemetery/ Columbarium:

Many people feel it can be a great help to their grieving family

members if the desires of the deceased were planned by him/herself before the time of death. Whether cremation or burial is chosen, consider Holy Cross as yours or your loved one's final resting place. Many people are not aware that the proper practice for cremation is to place the cremains in the columbarium or



bury them in the cemetery. If members of our community have the cremains of a loved one in their home, or another place other than the cemetery, they should make arrangements to give their loved ones a place to rest in the columbarium or cemetery with the proper prayers of internment.

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery plots/niches are available whether burial or cremation is your choice. Contact Louis Raineri 573-259-8920 or the parish office for more information. Sacred Heart in Leasburg and Mount Calvary in Bourbon.

Baptisms & Weddings:



If you are planning a Baptism, there is a preparation

class. Please speak with Sister Karen to schedule. If you are planning a wedding, please contact Father Dan. There is a preparation that needs to be done 6 months prior to the wedding.

Funeral Dinners:



If you are interested in helping with the funeral dinners, please call the office. You will be called upon when a funeral dinner is requested. Help with bringing food, set up, or

clean up! Please consider this ministry of the church so we can provide for our grieving families.



CADA 1° Y 3° DOMINGO DEL MES. MASS IN SPANISH IS EVERY 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



Remove from charging station.

The On button is on the top

Volume Control is on the front.

After Mass, wipe off unit and return to charging station.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention APRIL

For the Role of Women "We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world."

CubaKofC Membership Invite:

The Cuba Knights of Columbus covers all of Crawford County. CubaKofC is in search of new members to help our order grow and maintain its position as the strong right hand of the Church and service to the community of Crawford County.

CubaKofC consists of the men and women volunteers. The Knights of Columbus Chapter 8920 and the Ladies Auxiliary 8920. These men and women's service helps many local organizations and individuals in need. CubaKofC helps the parishes of Crawford County and community organizations such as the food pantries, Special Olympics, and prolife organizations, as well provides community wide events such as the Kids Christmas Party.

This is a personal invitation to all men and women of our parish to come and join our CubaKofC service community. In our busy lives many people do not think they have time to add another activity. However, your commitment is to do what you can. Maybe it is helping with just one event, attending our monthly dinner social and business meeting, or helping with our Bingo fundraiser. The choice is yours, but many hands will make light work.

Help us Help Others in our parishes, school and community by inquiring into Cuba Knights of Columbus, please join us. You won't regret it. For Further information on how to join please contact District Deputy Louis Raineri at 573-259-8920 or louisraineri8920@gmail.com or Grand Rockie Radcliff at 573-885-4225.



APRIL 2024 BINGO NEWS

Thursday Nights @ 6:15 p.m. (doors open at 4) PROGRESSIVES ~ The Coverall Progressive is at a big \$6,250.00 with 15 hot balls. The Second Progressive will play out and pay \$500.00, \$750.00 or \$1,000.00.

QUEEN OF HEARTS ~ Our Queen of Hearts game for Bingo players should be over \$13,500.

MATCH ONE OF THESE ~ Bring your tally sheet from the previous week. Check the four numbers posted. Win a free gas card. Numbers are: 175760, 175786, 175888 and 175901. WEBSITE ~ Check out the KofC website <u>cubakofc.org</u>.



Altar Society meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. This organization coordinates and works on fundraising events that support our parish, school and youth group. They also help supply the liturgical needs of the parishes. All are welcome to attend and join! Please

contact Christy Moreland for more information.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL Grades: PreK – 3rd grade.

HC School is an accredited school with Missouri certified teachers. It offers a Diocesan-developed curriculum in a Christian private school setting. HC School offers Title 1 tutoring for qualifying students. HC school has small class sizes and spacious classrooms. Please contact Mrs. Osentoski for a tour or to register your child.



facebook. Holy Cross School

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL Eam Cash for Our School!

Support Holy Cross without spending anything extra!

- Turn in your Mace Supermarket Receipts. The school receives 1 point for each \$1 on the receipt. (September March)
- Turn in used **ink cartridges.** Given to Staples to recycle, the school receives \$2 for each cartridge, up to \$40 a month!
- Turn in **Best Choice UPC codes** found on the labels. Each UPC code is redeemable for 3¢ cents each.

Please deposit your Mace's receipts, Best Choice UPC codes, and ink cartridges in the collection box in the church entrance or bring to the parish office.



Are you VIRTUS certified? Do you have your background check completed? Have you signed the Code of Conduct?

If you are not sure, or answered "no" to any of these questions, let us know!

Call or email Michelle in the office to find out if you are VIRTUS compliant! 573-885-3520 or hccccuba@gmail.com

All volunteers and all school parents (both parents) must to be VIRTUS compliant prior to volunteering or your child starting school.

Please help us, keep our children safe. The training provides us the knowledge on how to recognize signs of abuse and what to do if we suspect abuse happening. If we ALL are certified and have the training, the likelihood of a child being harmed is greatly reduced.

Call the office if you would like to have an in-person VRITUS class, or go to www.virtusonline.org to register and take the 2-hour class online.

If you or a family member have experienced abused in the past, please contact our victim assistance coordinator through the Diocese, Jacqueline Baldwin at 573-694-3199.

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT Child and Youth Protection

Breaking the Silence of Abuse:

As a diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must



acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is

disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the Attorney General's clergy abuse online form. All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information, or want you to convey a message to Bishop McKnight, please encourage them to write to us at reportabuse@diojeffcity.org.



Need Support Now? If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Online Counseling Services:

Catholic Charities Counseling services is now providing professional in-person and online therapy across the Diocese of **M** Jefferson City. To learn more simply visit cccnmo.diojeffcity.org/counseling

QUILTING GROUP EVERY TUESDAY 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. AT ST. MICHAEL'S

The Crawford County Parishes quilting group meets at St. Michael in Steelville every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Currently they are working on a quilt in a frame which they are hand quilting. They also are tying lap size quilts to be given to nursing homes, shelters, and veterans. Some of the members are also crocheting blankets. Please come join them, as many hands make light work and they will be able to serve many more people with your help! Contact Lil Collins at 314-779-4541 for more information or just come down and join them! No experience is necessary!

Service Opportunity in Our Community:

Drivers are needed to drive veterans to the VA hospital in

Columbia MO. The local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) have the vehicles. Drivers do not have to be veterans. This is unpaid. You do get free meals! Call 885-1390 or 885-3680 to volunteer or for more info. Veterans needing a ride, call 885-1390 to schedule.

Ministerial Alliances and the Food Pantries:

In Cuba, the Cuba Ministerial Alliance (CMA) "runs" the food bank and cooperates with the Life Line Pregnancy Center. Holy Cross has a St. Martin De Porres envelope to help the poor. The monies collected from this fund help support the Cuba Food pantry. **Crawford Country Mobile Food Market**

3rd Thursday of each month



.. me Always looking for Begins at 10:30 a.m. at the volunteers! Cuba Food Pantry Call today to help! **Local Food Pantry Hours:**

Cuba: (573-885-6703)

Thursdays 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fridays 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Steelville: (573-775-4827)

Last 2 Tuesdays of the month hours: 2-4 p.m.

Bourbon: (573-732-4888)

Saturday 9-12pm.

Thrift shop: Mon. Tues. & Thur. 9-4p.m. and Sat. 9-12p.m.

Feed the Hungry:

Our Local food banks are in need of food. The cost of food



has gone up! To help, there is a "food basket" in the entryways of our churches. Please bring nonperishable food items and place them in the baskets. The food items will be sent to the 3 food pantries in our three towns.

Civilize it!

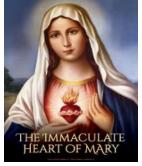
Our political discourse has become increasingly rancorous and bitter. The U.S. bishops began a campaign leading into the 2020 election to restore civility to our public and political discourse



called Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate. The Missouri Catholic Conference highlighted the campaign last year with a special episode of MCC from the Capitol

with Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski. This year, the U.S. bishops are again challenging the faithful to answer Pope Francis' call to seek "a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good." Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics encourages people to commit to seeking the truth, building bridges, and finding solutions together that promote the common good. Individuals can sign the pledge, and sign up to receive additional materials, by visiting the USCCB Civilize It webpage. www.usccb.org/civilizeit

Prayer to the Immaculate heart of Mary:



O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need. We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Bring under your mantel of protection all who provide care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

V. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

R. Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.





The God Minute is a short, daily Christian prayer that includes peaceful music, scripture and a reflection to bless your day with the Lord. It's only 10 minutes. Take a

few God Minutes each morning and see how your day rises in abundance. A Catholic devotional by the Congregation of the Mission - the Vincentians.

https://www.thegodminute.org/wix-podcast-player

Jefferson City Diocesan Women's Ministry:

The Women's Ministry of Jefferson City was established to help the women of our diocese connect with each other so that we can support each other in our spiritual journeys. We find inspiration and comfort in praying with each other, in talking with each other, and in sharing the stories of our faith journeys.



https://diojeffcity.org/womens-ministry/

For opportunities to get involved in the ministry, please contact Barb Prasad, Director of Women's Ministry at bprasad@diojeffcity.org or (573) 635-9127 ext. 222 "Like" the Women's Ministry page on Facebook to keep up with events and news, and to get to know women in your parish and deanery.

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070216385915

Please Listen to the Diocese of Jefferson City Podcast.

Prayer is how we orientate ourselves as stewards of God's gifts. In this month's podcast, we continue our discussion with Fr. Stephen Jones about the Four Pillars of Stewardship.



Podcast Topic Schedule: • Hospitality - July

- Prayer August
 - Formation September
 - Service October



These series are designed to help us deepen our understanding of the Spirituality of Stewardship as we approach the Catholic Stewardship Renewal in **October**. Listen to the podcast at https://diojeffcity.org/podcast/ or use the QR code above.

Text *Crawfordcounty* **to 84576** or Connect with us online at: HCross.flocknote.com

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your request known to God." Philippians 4:6

FOR YOUR

Preparing for a Great Marriage:

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a covenant, a contract and a bond between a man and a woman that forms a partnership for life. The marriage bond is a unique and exclusive relationship between husband and wife for the sanctification of the couple and for the procreation and Christ-centered nurturing of children in a family.

The family, with its foundation in marriage, is a fundamental unit of the Church. Marriage is also a basic social institution of human society. Marital love is at the service of the couple, the children, the community, and of the world. Because of its timeless importance, the Church teachers that marriage between two baptized Christians is a sacrament, a source of grace and a sign of God's love for the world.

Every sacrament needs preparation for its fruitful celebration. The Church wants to ensure that those entering the life-long commitment of marriage are adequately prepared for the riches and the responsibilities that are intrinsic to it. This is why the Diocese of Jefferson City has a policy for marriage preparation. It is not to make the couple "check the boxes" or "jump through hoops." In her efforts of remote, proximate and immediate preparation, the Church is not trying to make it more difficult to get married, but rather provide the best opportunity for equipping the couple to live a shared life of love, compassion and nurturing grace.



Marriage Resources:

Marriage preparation – USCCB –

www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-lifeministries/marriage-preparation

Sexuality -

www.archstl.org/marriage-family-life/ resources/sexuality

<u>Natural Family Planning</u> - www.diojeffcity.org/naturalfamily-planning-2/

<u>**Pre-Marriage Inventory**</u> is a comprehensive, userfriendly tool for lay individuals, couples or professionals who are helping couples prepare for marriage, and who become trained as FOCCUS Facilitators.

www.foccusinc.com/foccus-inventory.aspx

<u>Prepare/Enrich</u> provides training for premarital counseling, coaching, and education, investments in your couples' futures. www.prepare-enrich.com

<u>**Pre-Cana**</u> is one component of the marriage preparation options available to couples that are considering marriage within the Catholic Church. The conference itself consists of presentations by couples and individuals on topics that are a practical as well as a spiritual nature. www.diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/pre-cana-registration/

Engaged Encounter: is a weekend with other engaged couples where each couple can concentrate exclusively on one another, free of the tensions, pressures and

Engaged Encounter

interruptions, pressures and interruptions of the world. It is designed to give engaged couples the opportunity to discuss honestly their future

lives together — their strengths and weaknesses, desires, goals, ambitions, their attitudes about money, sex, family, children, their role in the church and society — in a face-to-face way. Engaged Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich your relationship with each other. All engaged couples are welcome, including interfaith couples and those entering a second marriage. For a list of available weekends, to register, or for more information, visit

www.diojeffcity.org/marriage-preparation/engaged-encounter

