Parish Office: 432-397-2300  
Parish Fax: 432-397-2319  
Bulletin Email: stlawrence@sangeluodiocese.org  
Website: www.stlawrencecatholicchurch.com  
Hall Booking: Doug Schaefer  
doug@schaeferlivestock.com  
For Funeral Needs: In the event of a death in the family, please contact Fr. Chinna & Parish Council  
Chair Person  
Brent Gully 432-213-5271

St. Lawrence Church Ministries

Saturday, December 14- Volunteers  
Sunday, December 15 Vocational Ministry: Chris Matschek  
Readers: Doug Jost, Janet Braden  
Eucharistic Ministers: Charles Braden, Tibby Niehues  
Altar Servers: Volunteers  
Children’s Liturgy: Heather & Brad Easterling  
Wheat

Vocation Cross:  
PRAY for all Seminarians, all Bishops, Priests, Deacons & all religious life. Please also pray for more vocations to the priesthood & religious life.  
Seminarian of the Month: Upton Sewell.

December 1  
St. Lawrence – Larry Wheat Family  
St. Thomas – Billy Eggemeyer Family

December 8  
St. Lawrence – Nathan Halfmann Family  
St. Thomas – Richard Watkins Family

December Worklist


Birthdays and Anniversaries

St. Lawrence  
Birthdays: Bernadette Plagens, Chris Hirt, Mitchell Jansa, Elsa Ramirez, Landon Hoelscher, Elsie Hirt, Amber Schwartz, Holly Halfmann, Carol Hoelscher & Angelica Manguia  
Anniversaries: None

St. Thomas: Birthdays: None  
Anniversaries: None
**This Week**

**Wednesday December 11**
CCD 5:45 pm.

**Thursday December 12**
5:30 am (mamablets) St. Lawrence
4:30 pm End of Novena with dancers walking around the church grounds in Midkiff
5:30 pm Mass celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe in Midkiff

**Second Collection**
The second collection this weekend is for the Retired Religious Fund.

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
The Catholic Church traditionally recognizes this Solemnity on December 8. However, because the date fall on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity is moved to Monday, December 9, as Sunday and it’s readings take precedence. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is normal a holy day of obligation and parishioners are required to attend mass. Because it is moved to a Monday this year, mass attendance is not a requirement, although it is suggested that Mass be attended anyway.

As essential part of God’s plan for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of this son, was that she be conceived free of from Original Sin. “Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, ‘full of grace’ through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. (CCC, no. 491). In anticipation that she was to be the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary’s being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.

**New Year’s Eve Dance**
St. Lawrence will host a New Year’s Eve Dance December 31, 2019 from 8:30 pm till 12:30 am

**KC News:**
The KC Christmas party will be Wednesday, December 18 starting at 4:00 pm

**Advent Mission**
There will be an Advent Mission at St. Lawrence with Fr. John of the Holy Spirit starting Sunday December 15 thru Tuesday December 17. All talks will begin at 6:00 pm. There will be a Pence Service beginning at 6:00 pm on Wednesday December 18.

**Blood Drive:**
Please come out and support your local Blood Drive on December 11, 2019 at the Glasscock County Co-op from 7:00 am -12:00 pm. You can schedule a time by calling Lynette (432-345-2255) and leave a message. Be sure to have proper I.D., eat well the day before and drink plenty of water. THANKS FOR SAVING LIVES. One of the greatest gifts another could receive.

**Thank you**
The family of Walter Halfmann would like to give our thanks to the many people who assisted with the rosary and funeral for our dad, our grandfather, and our great-grandfather. Thank you to Father Chinna and to Deacon Floyd for their spiritual support and their meaningful funeral services. Thank you to Joyce Halfmann for her readings from Scripture. Also, thank you to Loretta Schaefer and the choir, who gave of their talents and their time for the funeral service. In addition, thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the rosary, the funeral mass, and the meal afterwards. The members of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church community are wonderful stewards of God’s Kingdom.

**Angel Tree**
It’s time to spread some Holiday Cheer. The school has created an Angel Tree. The tree is for LOCAL CHILDREN that are in need in our community. If you would like to adopt a child or donate money to the cause this season please contact the counselor, Tiffany Parker @ 432-354-2242 or email tparker@gckats.net or Perla Garcia at pgarcia@gckcnt.net by December 6.

**St. Therese Altar Society News**
The current Altar Society officers are looking for a group of five women to answer God’s call to serve as 2020 officer term. Officer positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and reporter. The new slate of officers will be inducted in at the January 13, 2020 meeting, and take over responsibility upon that time for a one-year term. Altar Society conducts a variety of job duties throughout the year, with primary focus on supporting the needs of the Church altar and sanctuary. Questions can be answered by contacting a current officer: Charlene Belew, Kim Jost, Kelly Marshall, Gena Halfmann or Kim Halfmann.
SUNDAY MEDITATIONS:

2nd Sunday of Advent

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.
(Isaiah 11:1)

Have you ever seen a Jesse Tree? It’s an ancient Advent tradition consisting of a carving, painting, or stained-glass window—even an actual tree—that portrays the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of the Messiah. Jesus is usually at the top. Many medieval Jesse Trees also included a depiction of Jesse himself lying at the base of the tree. That’s because the design comes from today’s first reading: a shoot sprouting “from the stump of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1).

Jesse was the father of King David and an ancestor of Jesus, so the branches of the Jesse Tree are meant to display Jesus’ rich and varied heritage. The Tree reminds us how faithful God was during the “long Advent” when his people waited for the Messiah. Each person and event represented on the tree depicts part of God’s plan to save his people. Prophets like Jeremiah and Isaiah often show up. So do David, Solomon, and other kings, as well as virtuous women like Ruth, Esther, and Susanna. Even if you don’t decorate a Jesse Tree in your home, the ideas behind it can help you prepare for Christmas. During Advent, it’s traditional to review stories from the Old Testament that promise the coming of the Messiah. Stories of these ancestors of Jesus illustrate God’s commitment to his plan to save us. It’s a commitment that stretched from the very beginning, through thousands of years, right up to Christmas Day. It’s a commitment too that reaches even to the present. Jesus’ birth has brought about something new and wonderful, and the Jesse Tree illustrates it: a salvation that is far more wide-reaching than we ever could have imagined.

“Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness to your promises! Thank you for making me a part of your family.”

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12