



# APRIL 21, 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

St. Ann Catholic Church  
1503 Tracy Ave, Excelsior Springs MO 64024  
(816) 630-6659



Scan for  
online

Scan for parish  
website

Pastor Fr. Kevin Drew  
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Deacon, G. Alan Bandy

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Online giving is available  
at this secure link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stannexcelsprings>

## THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends: 4:00 PM Saturday - 8:30 AM Sunday

Daily: 8:30 AM Monday through Saturday

Adoration 7:30 AM Saturday

Confessions 30 minutes prior to every Mass

## Mass Intentions

Sat	Apr 20	4:00 pm	Michael Dirkes
Sun	Apr 21	8:30 am	Bill Greim+
Mon	Apr 22	8:30 am	Bob & Judy Mead
Tues	Apr 23	8:30 am	Walter Gladbach+
Wed	Apr 24	8:30 am	Annelies Payne+

Thur	Apr 25	8:30 am	Bob & Joan McLaughlin
Fri	Apr 26	8:30 am	Michael Drew
Sat	Apr 27	8:30 am	Father Drew
Sat	Apr 27	4:00 pm	Richard King

### OFFERING

April 14	\$ 5,715.08
Online giving (Apr 8-14)	\$ 300.00

Recessional  
Hymn; April 21  
Alleluia, Sing to  
Jesus M4

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Pingell, Stephan 'Doc' Kohl, Bill & Rosemary Cloud,  
Anna Marie Rivera, Kaylee Nichole Ross, Bryson Torres,  
Rick Schwab, Martha Gerling

## FROM FATHER DREW

Acts 8.1.8 Wednesday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter

*There broke out a severe persecution of the Church in Jerusalem.*

The persecution started after the Deacon Stephen was stoned to death. Stephen, though he wasn't very nice about it, gave his fellow countrymen the truth about Christ. The Jewish leaders did not particularly care to hear the truth, and so they killed Stephen and then went looking for his associates.

The disciples then scattered to the countryside, but the Apostles remained in Jerusalem. It took courage to do both. You see, living in exile is hardly a comfortable situation. Nor is living in close proximity with people who want to kill you.

Saul, the future St Paul, who assisted in Stephen's stoning, would have been one of those people wanting to see Christians die. Luke wrote how Saul *was trying to destroy the Church*. In government-run-amok, secret police fashion, featuring spying and paid informers, Saul kicked in the doors of homes and dragged men and women off to jail.

And what was their crime? Were they hoarding weapons and planning to overthrow the Jewish leadership? Were they guilty of racism as they claimed to be the new chosen people? No, their crime was spreading what those who today control the means of communication call "disinformation" about Jesus the Nazorean. They also claimed Christ was the fulfillment of the Jewish scriptures and prophets. And worst of all they believed He was God.

Saul, the most zealous of Pharisees, had to be left scratching his head. The more he pursued, tortured, imprisoned and did away with Christians, the more the movement grew. This of course was a part of God's plan. In very short order the scattered disciples would take the Good News to the whole world.

This is the paradox of Christianity that the spirit of the world will never grasp. Give Christianity what appears to be a mortal blow, and it lives. It spreads, because it cannot be killed. The Church is the Body of Christ, the head of which is Christ. And Christ lives forever. So, too then does his Body. What comes from God cannot be destroyed. (continued on back)

Cont. Father Drew...

St Pope Leo the Great wrote: *The religion founded by the mystery of the cross of Christ cannot be destroyed by any form of cruelty. The Church is not diminished by persecutions; on the contrary, they make for its increase. The field of the Lord is clothed in a richer harvest. When the grain which falls dies, it is reborn and multiplied* (Homily on Peter and Paul).

And so, there is the reason for our hope; for our joy and optimism amidst a world darkened by so much sin. Thank you, St Paul, for kicking in doors and persecuting followers of “the Way” who became known as Christians! That prompted disciples to scatter, to leave Jerusalem and take the message to the world. That is how we know about it! That is how we have come to know the truth – that Jesus Christ suffered for our sins, and then rose from the dead for our hope. And that is why we love our enemies. And pray for those who persecute us.

**THANK YOU** Steve and Carol Bean for sponsoring the weekly flower arrangement for the Altar on April 14th and to Debra Clark for sponsoring this weekend. This is a wonderful way to honor God. God bless you.

**CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE** Tables available to rent (\$10) for your garage sale items. For more information, contact Connie Sander 816-699-6415.

**BEHOLD KC** The Gospel calls all of us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” All are invited to BEHOLD KC: a free, public, outdoor event where we will gather as a regional community of faith from Missouri and Kansas for a historic once-in-a-generation Eucharistic celebration.

BEHOLD KC will be held on May 4, 2024, from 4 to 9:30 PM at the National WWI Museum and Memorial North Lawn.

What better chance to behold the true presence of our Lord Jesus Christ than in our own backyard? As we journey through the Eucharistic Revival, this is a special opportunity to publicly witness with your friends, family, and small groups, without the large cost of attending other big Catholic events held in different cities.

Behold KC will include a bilingual Mass, Confession, nationally-recognized praise and worship performed by Steve Angrisano, local choirs, a public Rosary, and the largest Eucharistic Adoration opportunity in our city in more than 80 years!

Please extend an invitation to your family and friends! Registration is not required but is strongly recommended. For full event details and registration, visit [beholdkck.org](http://beholdkck.org).

**THE LEGION OF MARY** here at St. Ann has now been given a name, "Tower of Ivory", one of Mary's titles in which, in her purity, she towers above everything next to her Son. The officers have been chosen and Fr. Drew will be the spiritual director. The meetings at this point will be after 8:30am Mass on Sundays. Anyone over the age of 18, men and women, are welcome to attend and grow in your own spirituality.

**FINANCE MEETING RESCHEDULED** The finance committee meeting is rescheduled for this Tuesday, April 23 at 6:00 pm.

### **Growth Update on our Spiritually Adopted Babies Month Three:**

I am quite active. Even though my mother cannot feel me yet, I can kick and flip around in my safe little world. I can move my eyes but my eyelids are closed. My cartilage is changing to bone. I can suck my thumb and I hiccup when I swallow amniotic fluid. I am now three inches long and can hear outside noises. I can close my fingers around an object and I can squint, frown and smile. I am starting to react to my environment and although I can already feel sensations like pain I really hope things stay the same—quiet, peaceful, and warm.

To listen to Fr Drew's homilies, go to the “Podcast” app on your phone. Search “Daily Homily Father Kevin Drew”. Touch that screen and listen to current and past episodes of his homilies.

Two ways to listen to the daily Mass at St. Ann, tune into Catholic Radio 1090 AM or go to [catholicradionetwork.com](http://catholicradionetwork.com). Click on “Listen Live”; aired at 11:00 AM; daily homily airs Monday-Friday at 3:50 PM.



The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse: 1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and 3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or [crayon@ombudsmankesj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankesj.org), if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Victim Assistance Coordinator, Whitney True-Francis, 816-392-0011