



Queen of the Holy Rosary-Wea

22779 Metcalf Road • Bucyrus, Kansas 66013
Parish and School Offices 913-533-2462
parish@qhrwea.org

August 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary,

Please find below an important letter from Archbishop Shawn McKnight regarding Father Jerry Arano-Ponce. As the Archbishop explains in his letter, the Archdiocese has received an allegation of behavior inconsistent with our safe environment policies involving Father Jerry. In accordance with archdiocesan policy, he has been temporarily removed from ministry as a precautionary measure while the matter is under formal investigation. This means he will not be celebrating Mass or performing pastoral duties during this time. Taking this precautionary measure is a step to protect all parties and should not in any way be viewed as an assertion of guilt.

I understand this news may be distressing, and I want to assure you that the Archdiocese is committed to supporting the parish through this period.

Moving forward, it's important that we avoid rumors and speculation. These only harm our community and can be especially painful for those directly involved. Our focus should be on supporting one another. Instead of fueling gossip, let's commit to prayer and asking the Holy Spirit to bring truth, healing, and unity.

If you have information or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Miami County Sheriff's Department at (913) 294-3232. You may also reach the Archdiocese confidential report line by calling or texting (913) 276-8703 or online at www.archkck.org/reportabuse.

Please read the attached letter from Archbishop McKnight carefully, and join me in prayer for all those affected by this situation.

In Christ,

Rev. John Riley

Vicar General & Chancellor



August 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary,

I wish to share with you an important matter concerning your pastor, Father Jerry Arano-Ponce. The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas has received an allegation of behavior inconsistent with our safe environment policies involving Father Jerry.

This matter is being taken with the utmost seriousness. In keeping with diocesan policy, and out of an abundance of caution to protect the well-being of all members of our community, Father Jerry has been temporarily removed from ministry. This includes celebrating Mass and performing pastoral duties, and will remain in effect pending the outcomes of formal investigations by local law enforcement and the Archdiocese. This precautionary measure is a standard step to protect all parties and should not be understood as a determination of guilt. In moments like this, we naturally want answers, but rumor and speculation serve no one and only wound the unity of our parish. For that reason, and in keeping with established practice, no further details will be shared until the matter is resolved.

As your Archbishop, I am deeply concerned for everyone impacted by this situation, for those bringing forward the allegation, for Father Jerry, and for you, the parish community. I am working to appoint a temporary pastoral administrator as soon as possible to ensure the continued pastoral care of Queen of the Holy Rosary. In the meantime, I ask for your prayers for all involved and for unity within your parish during this time of trial.

I encourage anyone who believes that they have been the victim of misconduct involving a priest, deacon, religious, employee, or volunteer to contact local law enforcement officials. You may also contact our Office for Protection and Care through the confidential report line at (913) 276-8703 or submit a report online at www.archkck.org/reportabuse.

I know this news brings pain, uncertainty, and sadness to many. In moments like this, we are called to cling more closely to Christ, trusting in his mercy and justice. Let us remain steadfast in prayer, confident that the truth will come to light through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Shawn McKnight