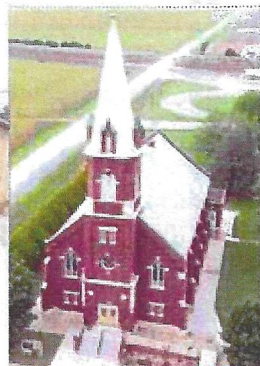


St. Joan of Arc Parish



Sacred Heart, Anthony
St. Patrick, Harper



Immaculate Conception, Danville

Our Clergy

Fr. Bhaskar Mendam
frbhaskar@gmail.com
316-351-9187

Mass Schedule

Spanish Mass:	4:00 pm	Harper
Saturday Vigil:	6:00 pm	
Sunday:	8:00 am	
	11:00 am	
Tuesday:	5:00 pm	Danville
Wednesday:	8:00 am	Harper
	5:30 pm	Anthony
Thursday:	8:00 am	Harper
Friday:	10:00 am	see bulletin

Adoration

Tuesday	4:00-5:00 pm	Danville
Wednesday:	4:30-5:30 pm	Anthony
Thursday:	7:00-8:00 am	Harper

Reconciliation:

30 minutes before Weekend Masses

Weekday: During Adoration / by Appointment

Parish Secretary: Maxine Olivier
620-491-1815

Mentor Couple: Francis & Lori
Drouhard

lorid@usd361.org

New to the Parish:

Welcome to St. Joan of Arc! If you are new to our Parish, we are glad you are here. Please contact the Parish office to fill out a parishioner registration form.

From Father Mendam: "The Lord Has Been Faithful" A Silver Jubilee Meditation on Priesthood

Fr. Bhaskar Mendam, MSFS Pastor, St. Joan of Arc Parish

"Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you." (Deuteronomy 8:2)

As I enter the **25th year of my priestly life on 9th Feb**, standing before the altar at St. Joan of Arc Parish, my heart is filled not with speeches or achievements, but with silence and gratitude. Priesthood, after all these years, feels less like something I have done and more like something God has patiently done within me.

This moment is not simply about remembering the past. It is about recognizing the gentle hand of God that has guided every step—often unseen, sometimes unexpected, always faithful—leading me from a small village in India to this sacred community in Harper County, Kansas.

Where the Seed Was Planted

I was born on April 5th, 1972 in C.N. Kota, a quiet village in Andhra Pradesh, India, into a happy, simple and faith-filled Catholic family. I am the fifth of eight children, raised in a home where faith was not explained so much as lived. Prayer was woven into daily life—before meals, in the evenings, during struggles, and especially through the family rosary, prayed faithfully together.

Our home was not wealthy by any worldly measure, but it was deeply rich in trust in God. My parents were simple and poor farmers, men and women of the soil who rose before sunrise and returned home only after the fields had taken all their strength for the day. Their hands were rough, their lives demanding, and their days often uncertain—yet their hearts were firmly anchored in God. They taught us, not through sermons, but through faithful perseverance, that life is sustained not by comfort or security, but by steady trust in God's providence.

There were seasons when the harvest was poor and resources were scarce, yet prayer was never neglected. Even when there was little on the table, there was always time for grace. Even when worries were heavy, the rosary was prayed without fail. I learned from my parents that faith is not something reserved for moments of ease, but something clung to most tightly in moments of struggle. Their lives

Upcoming Mass Schedule

Saturday 1/31/2025

4:00pm Spanish Mass Harper: People of the Parish

6:00pm Harper: +Clarence Buhrman
Irene Martin

Sunday 2/01/2025

8:00am Anthony: +Sue Moyer
Michael & Sheryl Francis
11:00am Danville: Int of Roy & Francie Lemons
Chris & Kathy Blubaugh

Monday 2/02/2026

Private: +Joe Blubaugh
Jay & Linda Head

Tuesday 2/03/2026

4:00pm Adoration Danville
5:00pm Mass Danville: L&D members of McCaslin Family
Steve & Pam McCaslin

Wednesday 2/04/2026

8:00am Harper: +Cheryl Stark
Michelle Bergman
4:30pm Adoration Anthony
5:30pm Mass Anthony: +Mary Ann Elmore
Mike & Barb Mackey

Thursday 2/05/2026

7:00am Adoration Harper
8:00am Mass Harper: Poor Souls
Blanchat Family

Friday 2/06/2026

10:00am Anthony: +Dan Bonham
Allen & Debbie Francis

Saturday 2/07/ /2026

4:00pm Spanish Mass Harper: People of the Parish
6:00pm Danville: +Josephine LaGrange
Debbie LaGrange

Sunday 2/08/2025

8:00am Harper: + Dan Bonham
Max & Yvonne Shippy
11:00am Anthony: +Kitty Happ
Steve & Cheryl Adelhardt

Liturgical Ministries:

Saturday 2/07/2025:

6:00pm Danville:

Greeters: Sam & Susan Drouhard
Rosary Leader: Larry Olivier
Lectors: Francis & Lori Drouhard
EMHC: Pat Conklin
Servers: Gracie Drouhard & Quinten Ballard
Money Counters: Lori Drouhard & Carolyn Moore

Sunday 2/08/2025:

8:00am Harper:

Greeters: Mike Mackey & Max Shippy
Rosary Leader: Loretta Kerschen
Lectors: Elaine Esparza
EMHC: Loretta Kerschen
Servers: Ayelet Garcia-Reyes & Lilly Bello

11:00am Anthony:

Greeters: Marcus & Amanda Goebel
Rosary Leader: Marilyn Downing
Lectors: Larry Mans
EMHC: Sherrie Eaton
Servers: Lexi & Emma Goebel

Saturday 2/14/2026:

6:00pm Anthony:

Greeters: Mike & Jan Lanie
Rosary Leader: Sherrie Eaton
Lectors: Virginia Downing
EMHC: Kathryn Duran
Servers: Faith & Jalyn Kohler

Sunday 2/15/2026:

8:00am Danville:

Greeters: Roger & Jill Drouhard
Rosary Leader: Francis Drouhard
Lectors: Larry Olivier
EMHC: Lori Drouhard
Servers: Clara Ballard & Chloe Cannon
Money Counters: Randy & Debbie Blanchat & Lori

11:00am Harper:

Greeters: Scott & Marcy Easter
Rosary Leader: Volunteer
Lectors: Keith Depenbusch
EMHC: Cathy LaCount
Servers: Jocie & Judd Easter

preached to me that God may not remove every hardship, but He never abandons those who place their hope in Him. Growing up as the fifth of eight children, our home was filled with noise, laughter, disagreements, and reconciliation. We learned early how to wait, how to share, and how to make room for one another. Nothing belonged to just one person—food, space, time, and even attention had to be shared. From my siblings, I learned patience in waiting, generosity in scarcity, and sacrifice without complaint. These were not lessons taught in words, but learned through daily living.

Looking back now, I see how God was already shaping my heart for priesthood within those simple walls. The rhythm of farm life, the discipline of shared responsibility, the quiet sacrifices made for one another—these became the foundation of my vocation. Long before I ever entered a seminary, my family taught me what it means to give without counting the cost, to trust when the future is unclear, and to love faithfully in ordinary, unseen ways. These lessons, born of simplicity and sacrifice, would later become essential pillars of my priestly life.

As a young altar server, I stood close to the mystery of the Eucharist long before I could fully understand it. Watching the priest elevate the Host, hearing the quiet prayers of the Mass, sensing the reverence of the moment—something stirred within me. God was already speaking, though very softly.

A Call That Grew in Silence

My schooling took place in institutions run by the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, and it was there that my vocation slowly matured. From my 9th grade onward, living in close contact with priests, observing their daily rhythm of prayer, service, and sacrifice, I began to imagine my own life given in the same way.

The call to priesthood did not arrive dramatically. It came gently—through example, prayer, and a growing inner desire to serve God and His people. After completing my high school, I shared this desire with my parents and our parish priest. Their response was one of joyful encouragement, not fear. Their faith strengthened my courage.

Guided and encouraged by my pastor, who himself a religious priest, I chose to join the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, a congregation inspired by the spirituality of gentleness, humility, patience, and love. From that day forward, my prayer became very simple: “Lord, give me a heart that belongs completely to You.”

Formation: A Long Journey of Preparation: A Reflection on the Journey of Formation

In 1990, when I crossed the threshold of the minor seminary, I did not yet understand that I was stepping into a sacred process that would quietly shape the whole of my life. I came with generosity and youthful enthusiasm, but God, in His wisdom, knew that enthusiasm alone would not sustain a lifetime of priestly service. What lay ahead was a long and patient journey of formation, one that would slowly shape my heart, discipline my desires, and anchor my life firmly in Him.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales follow an extended formation process—often ten to twelve years—not because priesthood requires extraordinary intelligence or strength, but because it demands a heart deeply rooted in God and a mind formed in truth. Formation is not about becoming someone else; it is about allowing God to purify, deepen, and mature the person one already is. It is a gradual unfolding, much like the growth of a tree whose roots must sink deep before it can withstand the storms.

The Minor Seminary: Learning the Rhythm of God

The three years in the minor seminary were my first immersion into this rhythm of grace. Life was structured, disciplined, and communal. Days began early, not with haste, but with prayer—learning to place God first before studies, duties, or personal plans. Regular times of silence taught me that God often speaks not in noise or excitement, but in stillness and fidelity.

Study was taken seriously, not as an end in itself, but as a way of honouring the mind God had given me. Community life taught lessons no classroom could provide: patience with others, forgiveness, humility, and the art of living together in peace despite differences. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, I learned that priesthood is not about standing alone, but about walking with others.

Perhaps the most enduring lesson of those years was perseverance. There were moments of joy and clarity, but also moments of doubt, fatigue, and struggle. Formation taught me that vocation is not proven by never questioning, but by remaining faithful even when questions arise. Staying, praying, and trusting—these became quiet acts of courage.

Stepping into the Novitiate: A Sacred Threshold

After three years, I entered the novitiate, a sacred and decisive stage in religious life. If the seminary taught me how to live, the novitiate taught me why I was living this life. It was a time intentionally set apart from ordinary ministry, a season of deep listening and interior purification.

In the novitiate, activity gave way to presence. External achievements were no longer the measure; instead, attention was turned inward. Through prolonged prayer, spiritual reading, and guided reflection, I learned to recognize God’s voice—not as something dramatic or overpowering, but as a gentle, persistent invitation calling me to trust Him more deeply.

Silence played a central role. At first, silence can feel uncomfortable, even frightening, because it brings us face to face with ourselves. Yet it was precisely in that silence that God slowly revealed His work within me—areas of strength to be nurtured, weaknesses to be surrendered, fears to be entrusted to His mercy. The novitiate taught me that true freedom is found not in self-assertion, but in loving surrender to God’s will.

To Be Continued.....

Announcements & Events

*Join Sacred Heart Altar Guild after 8am mass
Feb 1st for coffee/refreshments
hosted by Stasha McClure & Phyllis Misak
Donations are appreciated, thank you*

Sacred Heart Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday,
Feb 4th at 6 pm (following 5:30 mass), in the
church hall.

St Cecilia Altar Guild will meet Sunday
February 8th after the 8:00 AM Mass.
Please plan to attend if you can.

**If you would like to have a 2025 Tithe statement,
please contact the parish office.**

*Please leave old palms for ashes in
the back of church by Feb 8th.*

**Valentine Party and Movie for K-6 on Sunday,
February 15th, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm at St. Patrick's
church basement, Harper.**

**Enjoy Valentine treats, popcorn, beverages and the
movie "Happy Feet"! Bring a friend and have a
Sunday afternoon of friendship and fun.**

The St. Joan of Arc Knights of Columbus will be
collecting donations for our Adopt-A-Seminararian
Program after all Masses the weekend of Feb 7th &
8th. Our goal is to adopt 5 seminarians at \$500.00
each, as we have done in the past. This program is
designed to give seminarians the financial and spiritual
support they need to help them make it through
seminary and to form a bond between them, our
parishes and the Knights of Columbus family. Thank
you for being as generous as you are able.

Circle sheets for Immaculate Conception Altar Guild are
going to be in alphabetical order at the entryway of the
Danville church beginning the weekend of January 25th.
Please pick yours up. Thank you for participating in our
work in the Parish. Each and every one of you are
appreciated for all you do.

The St. Pats Dinner will be held on March 15th this
year. Sign-up sheets for the St Pats Dinner are at
the entrance of the Harper church. The sign-up
sheet will be available until January 31st. Please
write your name in the space where you would like
to work. Thank you for your stewardship in making
this dinner a success!!

Please remember in your daily prayers: Members of our Parish and Parish family: Sarah Andrews, Sharon Barton, Corky Befort, Justin Befort, Nicholas Blanchat, Kris Brewster, Ursula Cage, Shaily Calderon, Valerie Campbell, Diane Cashier, Michelle Coleman, Mary Ann Conrad, Barbara Conrady, Tracy Cox, Rob & Pattie Drake, Cami Drouhard, Brian Ede, David Esparza, Justin, Kelci & Tyce Fagan, Harriette Fox, Byron Graff, Natalie Graves, Nancy Greve, Lisa Hamon, Frank Hargett, Angela Hemberger, Becky Wedman Hernandez, Bill Hoffmann, Jim Hoffmann, Kasey Hunter, Gary Jacobs, Kent Jarnigan, June Kastens, David Konkel, Gary Konkel, Lori Konkel, Kathy Lamb, Judy Mans, LeRoy Mathews, Anita Marstall, Shirley Martin, Pam McCaslin, Paula McMullin, Larry & Susan Moritz, Bill Muckenthaler, Debra Olds, Dick Olivier, Larry Oller, Karma Redgate, Delmar Ricke, Marian Rottinghaus, Gary Shinliver, Fred Smith, Isabel, Alaia & Lincoln Townsend, Sherry Warner, Lori Wilcox, Lisa Wininger

Father Mendam will be commemorating
the 24th anniversary of his ordination at
an 8:00 am Mass on Monday Feb 9th.
Please come and celebrate with him.

PARISH GIVING

Estimate Weekly Expense: \$5,192.31
Last Week Collection: \$2,079.00
As of week 30 of Fiscal year 2025/2026
+/- YTD: (\$1,355.03)

**Thank you for your
Stewardship of Treasure!**

STAY CONNECTED

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Email: stjoanofarcharper@gmail.com

Website: [30431.sites.ecatholic.com](https://www.sites.ecatholic.com)

St.Joan of Arc Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1726999754081799>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Friday: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

BULLETIN INFO

The Weekly Bulletin of St. Joan of Arc is published in
house. All bulletin announcements and prayer requests
need to be to the Parish office by Wednesday