

Mass Update

Dear Friends,

I debated whether or not to make note of this, given all that is unfolding in our world. Yet as I prayed with it, I came to believe that it is worth sharing—especially in times such as these, when many are longing for stillness, depth, and rootedness in prayer.

As a priest, I celebrate Mass daily. During daily Mass, I typically celebrate *ad orientem*—facing “the East”—as I am usually alone. This posture was the Church’s normative practice for nearly two thousand years. In the 1960s and 1970s, the widespread practice of celebrating *ad populum*—facing the people during the Liturgy of the Eucharist—emerged with the hope of encouraging fuller participation after a long period in which many experienced the Mass more as observers than participants. If you have worshiped with us, you know that active, prayerful participation is already very much alive in our community.

As your priest and pastor, one of my chief responsibilities is to cultivate a reverent and meaningful environment for prayer and worship. Reverence, however, should never be confused with stiffness or cold rigidity. Rather, it is an openness to mystery—an entering into the sacred action of Christ, joined with the communion of saints and the choirs of angels, in worship that transcends time and place.

Beginning this Sunday, the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be celebrated *ad orientem*. In this posture, priest and people together face the same direction, symbolically turned toward Christ, who comes to meet us. It is a subtle but meaningful way of emphasizing that the Eucharist is not about performance or personality, but about our shared offering to God and God’s self-gift to us.

My prayer is that this will prove spiritually nourishing and fruitful for our parish. We will discern its effectiveness together over time and make adjustments as needed. For many, this note may seem unnecessary; yet out of prudence and pastoral care, I wanted to ensure that our parish understands both the rationale and the intention behind this minor, but meaningful, change.

Please know that I am always happy to talk, listen, and pray with you as we continue to grow together in faith.

Peace,

Father Taylor



Welcome!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intention:

For the sacred dignity of all people

Today’s Readings:

1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Psalm: Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY HAS LAUNCHED | The social justice ministry will meet this Sunday (2/1) after Mass in the meeting room. Juliana and Ashley Onstott will be the primary contacts for this ministry. If you are interested in learning more or would like to join, please send a note to office@gskcmo.com.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR TITHE.LY | Please take two minutes to set up your online giving to support our mission and ministry at Good Shepherd by visiting gskcmo.com/donate. It is secure and easy to use. If you are donating/tithing with cash, please use an envelope so Cheryl can ensure your contributions are recorded accurately.

We currently have seven households who have set up recurring donations. Once we reach fifteen households set up on Tithe.ly (regardless of the amount), we will raffle three \$50.00 gift cards! Father also has a gift of appreciation for our entire parish in thanksgiving for your generosity.

NEW PHONE NUMBER | Our office has a new phone number. Please call 816-600-7211 to reach the office. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Father's cell at 620-931-8205.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2026 | We need to fill up our liturgical calendar with Mass intentions! A certificate will be provided upon signing up outside the chapel (or [online](#)) for you to give to the intended recipient as a gift.



HOLY HIKERS | All are welcome to join us on Saturday, February 7, for Holy Hikers. We will meet at Loose Park at 9:00a. If the temperature is unsuitable for outdoor walking (depends on sun/wind, etc), we will meet at the Nelson-Atkins (admission is free).

ASH WEDNESDAY | Ash Wednesday is February 18 this year. We will have Mass at noon and 7:00p.

EVENING PRAYER ON WEDNESDAYS IN LENT | During the season of Lent, we will not have our 6:30p Midweek Mass, but instead join the Lutherans for sung evening prayer (30 minutes) at 7:00p in the main sanctuary. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:45p in the fellowship hall.

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT? | Send a note with your announcement request to our office administrator, Cheryl, at office@gsckcmo.com. Thank you!

Weekly Reflection

Dear Friends,

Like so many of you, I have been deeply grieved by the tragedies that have unfolded in Minneapolis and by the grave injustices they reveal. What we are witnessing is not new. It is the same violence, fear, and extremism that were alive and well when Christ walked the earth—forces that resist truth and recoil from the light.

As the prophet Isaiah reminds us:

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom
a light has shone.*

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we trust in the power of that light. We believe that love is stronger than hatred, that goodness ultimately triumphs over evil, and that the darkness cannot overcome the light of God's love—even when it feels heavy and overwhelming.

In this moment, I am especially grateful that our parish continues to stand as a place of refuge, welcome, and hope. Thank you for your daily "yes" to God, and for helping to build a community where inclusion, compassion, and the sacred dignity of every person are woven into our spiritual DNA.

Mass Times | February

February 1 | Fourth Sunday in OT

11:00a Mass

February 4 | Wednesday Mass

6:30p Mass

February 8 | 5th Sunday in OT

11:00a Mass

February 11 | Wednesday Mass

6:30p Mass

February 15 | 6th Sunday in OT

11:00a Mass

February 18 | ASH WEDNESDAY

12p Low Mass, 7:00p Mass (Joint Service)

February 22 | 1st Sunday of Lent

11:00a Mass

February 25 | Wednesday Evening Prayer

7:00 p Sung Prayer Service

March 1 | 2nd Sunday of Lent

11:00a Mass

March 4 | Wednesday Evening Prayer

7:00 p Sung Prayer Service

March 8 | 3rd Sunday of Lent

11:00a Mass

PLEASE DONATE HERE ->

CONTACT INFORMATION | **OFFICE HOURS: M - TH 10:00A - 1:00P**

Pastor | Father Taylor Tracy

816-600-7211 | 620-931-8205

father@gsckcmo.com

Office Admin | Cheryl Christensen

office@gsckcmo.com

Monthly Events

First Saturday of the Month

Eucharistic Adoration 9:30a - 10:30a

Reconciliation 9:30a - 10:30a

First Sunday of the Month

Social Justice Team 12:00 - 12:30p

Weekly Events

WEDNESDAY

Holy Mass 6:30 p

SUNDAYS

Sunday School (Kids) 9:30a

Choir rehearsal 10:00a

*Fellowship following Mass



Music Director | Alayna Powell

music@gsckcmo.com

Accompanist | Ria Thomas

music@gsckcmo.com

Nursery Attendant | Beth Thatcher