

St. Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church and Academy News

June 2026

First Communion

Twenty-four children received their first Holy Communion from Fr. Daniel Muscha on Sunday, May 3, 2026. The Franciscan Sisters provided a day of recollection to the children on Saturday.



Holy Name Society

New members were inducted into the Holy Name Society on Sunday, January 11, 2026. The new members are: Michael Janacaro, Daniel Gill, Mario Haag, Greg Goode, Immer Acosta.



3110 Flora Avenue • Kansas City, MO 64109 • 816-923-0202

Priors' Corner

June 2026

Dear Friends,

Mother Church, not content to simply celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart each year, dedicates the whole month of June to Him. It is clear: she would direct our gaze to the Heart of her Divine Spouse.

"One of the soldiers opened His side with a lance, and immediately there came out Blood and water." These words, cited from the Gospel of St. John, open the morning prayer of Laudes on the feast of the Sacred Heart. Laudes is always a prayer of joy and gratitude – this day arising from the fact that Jesus poured out His Heart for us.

Jesus was "already dead" when His Heart was pierced (Gospel of St. John), and "it was man's sins that sharpened the spear's point" (Vespers hymn). Mother Church reminds us that we have all contributed to Our Lord's sufferings, but it is the "goodness and kindness of our Savior" (Titus 3:4) that she highlights: Our Savior's love for souls goes beyond all measure.

"They shall look on Him whom they have pierced," says St. John, quoting the prophet Zachary. The Hope of souls, to the end of time, is the open Heart of Jesus Christ. Contemplating our pierced Lord, we are meant to "penetrate beyond that wound to the very Heart which was wounded for love of men" (Lesson from Matins).

Thus the Sacred Heart, appearing to St. Margaret Mary, points to His Divine Heart as the answer to the woes of our world, and to our personal woes as well. He is the "Hearth in the dark of a frozen world," says Gertrude von le Fort; it is in the Sacred Heart that we can find light, and love, and life, in a world that has lost its way.

Yours, in the Sacred Heart,

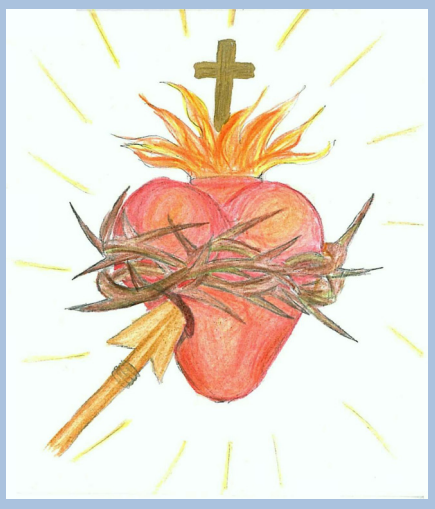
Fr. Gerard Beck

Prior

"And every eye shall see Him"

Let me behold Thy wounds forevermore,
My Lord whom I have pierced. Let them not be
Huddled in Thine omnipotence; restore
Conscience of sin, that I may clearly see
Thy love abounding. On my soul engrave
Scars of Thy triumph; let me walk with Thee
A comrade decked in honor, and no slave.
Many a cruel commander may destroy;
Only the Lord who shed His blood can save,
And weave our sorrows into robes of joy.

Anthony Esolen



25th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

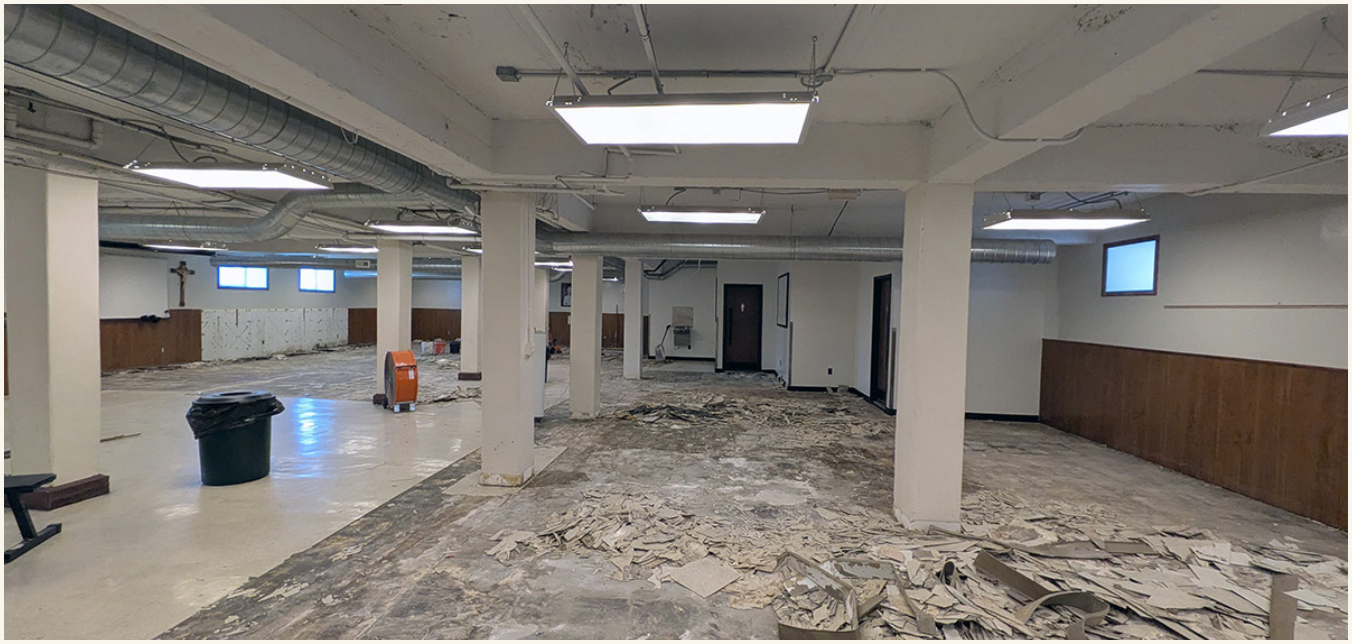
On Friday, June 12 a Solemn High Mass was offered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Fathers Steven and Dennis McDonald's priestly ordination.

The Fathers were ordained at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, Minnesota on June 23, 2001.



Parish Hall Renovations

Phase 2 of renovations to the parish hall in the Flora Avenue school building began on June 1.



Academy News

High School Boys' Trip to St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary

The high school boys visited Washington D. C. and St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Dillwyn, Virgina March 26-29. They were present for the ordinations to the minor orders on March 27, the Feast of Our Lady of Compassion, and ordinations to the subdiaconate on March 28. Ten young men were ordained to the Subdiaconate by His Excellency Bishop Bernard Fellay, including Rev. Mr. Thomas Brauner and Rev. Mr. Gabriel King of St. Vincent de Paul Church.









On February 2, William Esfeller (center left), son of Michael and Emilie Esfeller, and Charles Prather (center right), son of Dan and Donna Prather, both of St. Vincent's, took the cassock.

In your charity please pray for those who were ordained to the Priesthood on June 19, 2026.

Rev. Mr. Mason Peddemors ..... Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Mr. Joseph Caley..... Walton, KY
Rev. Mr. Colm Beglin ..... Meath, Ireland
Rev. Mr. Peter Hatty ..... St. Mary's, KS
Rev. Mr. Dominic Reen ..... Greensburg, IN
Br. Bede OSB..... Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery, NM
Br. Sebastian OSB ..... Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery, NM

And those who were ordained to the Diaconate:

Rev. Mr. Charles Okonkwo ..... Lagos, Nigeria
Rev. Mr. Timothy Nelson ..... Madison, WI
Rev. Mr. Gregory Sumantri..... Singapore, Singapore
Rev. Mr. Scott Hetrick..... Detroit, MI
Rev. Mr. Gabriel Murai ..... Trenton, NJ
Rev. Mr. Christopher Estrada ..... Boise, Idaho
Rev. Mr. Andrew Dorobek..... Kansas City, KS
Rev. Mr. Karl Pfeiffer ..... Denver, CO
Rev. Mr. Thomas Brauner..... Kansas City, MO
Rev. Mr. Gabriel King..... Kansas City, MO

St. Vincent de Paul Hawks 2025/26 Basketball

The Hawks won the Great Plains - Athletic Conference Tournament on February 17. The final score of the "nail biting" game was 61 to 59.

The Hawks ended the season with 15 wins vs. 5 losses, and the Conference Tournament with 3 wins vs. 0 losses.

The Great Plains All-Tournament team individual awards were given to George Spencer as the Most Valuable Player, and four other players were recognized for the All-Tournament Team.

Regular Season All-Star team recognition was given to four players selected for the end of season All-Star game.

Head Coach, Mr. Christopher Stockard, was recognized as the Great Plains Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.



The Wizard of Oz

Academy students performed *The Wizard of Oz* at the H&R Block City Stage Theatre at Union Station from April 12 - 26. The production was directed by Miss Rebecca Heatwole with assistant directors Miss Grace Blake and Mr. Khalid Johnson. Tickets sold out for all shows several weeks in advance.

This amazing production required many hands to make it a success. There were 56 cast members, and approximately 100 people involved (backstage help, sets, costumes, etc.). There were about 180 costumes and close to 800 individual costume pieces. Thank you to all who helped.









Academy Auction

This years auction was a very elegant event held at the Medallion Theater on Saturday, April 19. The event was catered by Meddy's. The auction was planned and organized by the Auction Committee, Mrs. Christina McMaster, Mrs. Megan Horak, and Mrs. Meghan Skevington. They were assisted by an incredible group of parent and student volunteers. Mr. Kevin Borger of Generations Realestate & Auction, generously volunteered his time as Auctioneer.

Overall the auction raised $170,000 for the academy. Donors gave $52,000 toward the Fund-A-Need project, given to help fund Phase 2 of the renovations to the parish hall in the Flora school building.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Vince and Leslie Carlisle.













iBuild Field Trip

The 6th - 12th grade boys had an enjoyable day at the iBuild Showcase at the Kansas City Convention Center on April 28.

The iBuild Showcase gives students an overview of the construction industry. They have the opportunity to join in a number of hands-on activities.

Fine Arts Festival

The sixth annual Fine Arts Festival was held on Friday, May 15 at the Mohart Center. Students artwork was displayed in the hall while student jugglers provided entertainment.

The evening included a concert featuring instrumental and choral works performed by the 7th - 12th grade students.

For those unable to attend, Michael Sestak has provided a beautiful video of the event which can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrlekea459c.

An amazing amount of artistic talent was exhibited by students from Kindergarten - 12th grades. Artwork was judged by Miss Jenny Hollinger and Miss Moira Quain. Below are the winners.



Boys' Intramurals



8th Annual North American Martyrs Wiffle Ball Tournament was won by the Gargantuan Gators



Tri-Sport Intramural Tournament was won by the Tumbles



Forty Holy Martyrs Ultimate Frisbee Tournament was one by the Canes and Cufflinks

Graduating Class of 2026

A Solemn High Baccalaureate Mass was followed by ceremonies of graduation at the Mohart Center on May 29. Fr. Joseph Brauner gave the commencement address.

The valedictorian was Quintin Dailey, and the salutatorian, Thomas Stegall. Congratulations to all our graduates.



Upcoming Events

July 9 & 21	Convent Work Days
July 18	St. Vincent de Paul Festival
August 8	Campus Clean Up Day
August 10	Fall Sports begin
August 12-14	Teachers Conferences and Recollection
August 17	Parents Back to School Meeting
August 19	First day of School
August 19	All School High Mass
October 16-18	Angelus Press Conference

Auction and graduation photos provided by Greene Light Studios.

