

ST. MARY'S PARISH

703 Monroe St., Ellis, KS 67637

September 27, 2026
26th Sunday in
Ordinary Time



Phone #s

Rectory: 726-4522
School: 726-3185

E-Mail

Parish: stmary@gbta.net
SMS Principal: ppark@stmarysellis.net

Website

Parish: www.stmarysofellis.org
Diocese: <http://salinadiocese.org>

Mass Schedule

Monday 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 8:10 a.m.
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. (EGSC)
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:00 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. Cedar Bluff, May 17 - Sept. 13, 2026

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Anytime by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline

By 4:30 p.m. Wednesday

Baptism

By appointment. Contact the Pastor

Weekly Readings

September 28 - October 4

Mon: Job 1:6-22; Luke 9:46-50

Tue: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51

Wed: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Luke 9:57-62

Thu: Job 19:21—27; Luke 10:1-12

Fri: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Sat: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Luke 10:17-24

Sun: Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-43

Parish Personnel

Pastor	Fr. Dana Clark
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Emily Mattheyer
School Principal	Mrs. Patti Park
Pastoral Council President	Mr. Brian Serpan
Liturgy Chairpersons	Ruth Bollig and Alyson Johnson
School Council President	Mrs. Sarah Fischer
Home & School President	Mrs. Megan Honas
Director of Religious Education	Mrs. Judy Schuler

Marriage

Contact the pastor at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. No wedding will be scheduled without premarital instruction.

Mass Intentions

Sat	Sept 26	5:30 p.m.	Mary Wasinger+ (anniv)
Sun	Sept 27	7:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Sept 27	9:00 a.m.	Richard Geschwentner+
Mon	Sept 28	8:10 a.m.	Al Weber+ (anniv)
Tues	Sept 29	8:10 a.m.	Claudia Bailey+, James & Aileen Bailey+ Family (liv/dec)
Wed	Sept 30	8:10 a.m.	Rosie Berens+ Family (liv/dec)
	EGSC	8:10 a.m.	Betty Clark+
Thurs	Oct 1	10:00 a.m.	John Rupp+ (anniv), Theresa Rupp+, and Arlene Rupp+
Fri	Oct 2	8:10 a.m.	Rita Weber+ Family (liv/dec)
Sat	Oct 3	5:30 p.m.	Don R. Younger+ (anniv)
Sun	Oct 4	7:00 a.m.	For the Parishioners
Sun	Oct 4	9:00 a.m.	Jarret Johnson+ (anniv)

Ministries for October 3 & 4

Ministry	5:30 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Lector	Barney Boos	Megan Honas
Presentation of Gifts	Peter & Jennifer Schield Family	Mark & Sarah Eck Family
Eucharistic Minister(s)	Barney Boos Richard Bollig	Mindy Eck Peggy Seibel Paula Wasinger
Servers	Schield Brothers	Hannah & Luke James Alyvia Kraft
Cantor / Musician	Alyson Johnson Amy Staab	Guitar Choir
Ushers & Greeters	Clarence Rupp Eugene Schuster	Eric & Kristen Gaschler Family Bailey Dinkel Family

Other Ministries

7:00am Lector	October 4 (Sun)	Eldon Pfeifer
Communion to Homebound	October 2 (Fri)	Fr. Dana Clark
Ellis Good Samaritan	October 4 (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	Paula Wasinger
Rosary Leaders	October 3 (Sat) 5:30 p.m. October 4 (Sun) 9:00 a.m.	Allen Weber Josita Dreiling
Monthly Money Counters	October	Bob & Margie Mickelson

Meetings & Events

Mon	Sept 28	No School Ellis Food Box Pantry Open @ 3-6pm Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm
Thurs	Oct 1	Eucharistic Adoration: 9am-5pm
Fri	Oct 2	Feast Day of the Holy Guardian Angels EHS Homecoming Parade @ 2:30pm EHS Homecoming Crowning/Football @ 6:30/7p

Parish Announcements

- **YDisciples ABC Night:** The school year is officially in full swing with homework, activities and sports. Let's take a step back from the chaos and reconnect with Jesus. We'll gather for supper at 6:00pm in the church basement, review "How To for a Holy Hour" before heading up to the church for Adoration, Benediction and the Sacrament of Confession.



Come Sing With St. Mary's Youth Choir! We are inviting students who are in the 3rd grade or older, who love to sing to come join the St. Mary's Youth Choir on Sunday, October 11 at 9:00am Mass! ***There will be a required practice on Sunday, October 4th at 2:00pm in the church. Please RSVP to Nancy C. by calling or texting 785-726-1096 by October 1st so she can make sure enough music is ready.*** We are hoping to offer 2-3 Youth Choir Masses this school year, so if this month doesn't work for you, be watching for the next opportunity.

- **Blessing of the Pets:** On Monday, October 5th, you are invited to join St. Mary's School students for their annual pet blessing at 2:30pm in the Circle Drive! Bring your pet (or favorite stuffed animal) to be blessed!

Parish Prayer List

Please Remember in Prayer

Congratulations! **Clayton Schwarz & Hailey Dinkel**, who were married here on September 19, 2026.

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Denice Allen, Juanita Augustine, Baby Noah & Parents, Emma Brouk, Preston Browning, Roman Carroll, Ed Collins, Marilyn Denning, Fr. Richard Daise, Dianne Durler, Joe & Arlene Erbert, Sr. Doris Flax, Gary Flax, Bob Gabel, Debbie Haas, Edna Hejny, Steve Hejny, Nathan Hively, Nathan Honas, Gilbert Kinderknecht, Agneta Kuhn, Kevin LaBarge, Shawna LaBarge, Martin & Debbie LaBarge, Norma Lang, Marge Metzler, Riley Moore, Elizabeth Newton, Cheryl Noles, Ramona Patten, Shirley Pitner, Kelly Sanderson, Bernie & Laura Schoenberger, Leonard Schoenberger, Cathy Sherfick, Carlia Slipsy, Keric Smith, Lee Stueve, Tanner Sullivan, Jill Urban, Shirley Wagner, Dale Wasinger, Leon Wiesner, Brandy Womack, and the residents of EGSC.

***If any one has names they would like added to the list, they may call the rectory at 726-4522.***

## *Notes from the Pastor*

**FYI.** Next Saturday, October 3, I'll be performing a wedding at St. Andrew's Church in Wright, KS for a friend. The pastor there is Fr. Ted Stoecklein, a classmate of mine in seminary. We were actually ordained on the same day. It will be nice to touch base with him again. Fr. Nick from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hays will be covering confessions and Saturday 5:30pm Mass.

**Respect for Life.** During the month of October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates *Respect Life Month*. Next Sunday, October 4, is designated as *Respect Life Sunday*. This year's theme is, "Mary, Mother of Life," demonstrating how the life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. During October, we will include bulletin inserts focusing on Respect for Life. Also, there will be respect for life pamphlets and material on "What's on the Table" in the back of the church. We ask Mary's intercession in helping us to recognize the gift of human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.

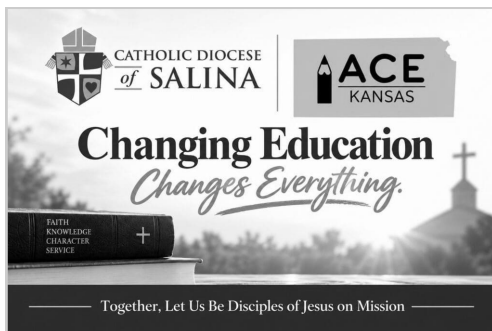
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## *Parish Organizations*

- **St. Mary's Bible Study:** Our study group has just begun the next session of our Catholic church history--we'd love to have you join us! We will be digging in to the first several hundred years after Christ's death and resurrection, with all the drama, intrigue, persecutions, saints and sinners galore! You are welcome to jump in now or ANY time, we'll be happy to help you catch up! We gather at 10:30am on Sundays in the church basement. For more info, please contact the Parish Office.
  - **Invitation to Rosary Rally:** On October 13, 1917, Our Lady performed the Miracle of the Sun, witnessed by 70,000 people at Fatima, including atheists, communists and anti-Catholics (leading many to convert). To honor this miracle, which occurred around noontime, and to show Our Lady we hear her request to stop offending God by our sins, we are hosting a public rosary rally Tuesday, October 13 at 4:00pm at Ellis Memorial Park. We know our sins have caused America to suffer a societal collapse - and we know we must urgently stop sinning if we hope to enjoy God's blessings and avert His wrath. He will hear us, if we pray through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. In *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis de Montfort said: "Public prayer is more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."
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## *Diocese of Salina News*

- **Anniversary Masses in Salina and Hays:** These Masses honor all couples celebrating their 1st wedding anniversary and all other anniversaries ending in 0 or 5 and any anniversaries over 70 years! This year's Anniversary Masses will be held on Sunday, October 11th at 2:00pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Salina and Sunday, October 25th at 2:00pm at St. Nicholas of Myra in Hays. You can learn more and register by going to <http://salinadiocese.typeform.com/to/chEKTqxS>.
- **Memorial Masses for Parents who have lost a child:** This Mass is for any parents who have lost a child. We will join together in prayer, remembrance and hope on Sunday, October 18th at 2:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina. This Mass will count towards Sunday obligation and there will be reception following the Mass. If you'd wish to attend, please register by visiting <https://salinadiocese.org/event/mass-for-parents-who-have-lost-a-child/>.



**Support Catholic Education & Receive a 75% Kansas Tax Credit.** Turn your Kansas tax dollars into support for Catholic education! Through the Diocese of Salina's partnership with ACE Scholarships, qualifying donations to the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program may receive a 75% Kansas income tax credit. Even better, **donors can designate the Catholic school in our diocese they wish to support.** Donors are encouraged to act soon. The program has a \$10 million statewide annual cap, and once the available credits are claimed, no additional gifts can qualify for the state tax credit this calendar year. **A New 100% Federal Tax Credit beginning January 1, 2027.** The new federal Education Freedom Tax Credit will allow individual taxpayers to receive a 100%

federal income tax credit for qualifying cash contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations, up to \$1,700 per taxpayer each year. This is a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit. The following website ([salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/a-new-opportunity-to-support-catholic-education/](https://salinadiocese.org/news-and-updates/a-new-opportunity-to-support-catholic-education/)) or QR Code will take you to a page on the Diocesan website that explains the opportunities for giving. The bulletin insert was taken from that web page. There is, also, an excellent video on the web page that explains the opportunities.



## School Announcements

**Monday, September 28:** No School! Teacher In-Service Day

**Tuesday, September 29:** EHS Athletes Come for Lunch

**Friday, October 2:** EHS Homecoming!

- **EHS Athletes:** We are excited to host the EHS Athletes for lunch at St. Mary's School during Ellis High School Homecoming Week!
- **EHS Homecoming!** A permission slip was sent home to give permission for students to walk from St. Mary's School to the parade and back. The EHS Homecoming Parade begins at 2:15pm. Students and Staff are allowed to wear their orange and black or Railer apparel (following school dress code) on Friday, October 2nd.



**Annual Pet Blessing on Monday, October 5 at 2:30pm** in the School Circle Drive! Bring your pet (or favorite stuffed animal) for a special blessing celebration of the Feast of St. Francis.

### **AND the TOP SELLERS of this year's Fall Fundraiser are...**

1st: Mason & Ava M.

2nd: Noah S.

3rd: Emma & Kolt W.

Top Chocolate Sales Winner: Tristan J.

### **THANK YOU to**

ALL St. Mary's Students, Families and Friends for a successful fundraiser raise over \$20,500 selling chocolate bars, pizza and trash bags!

## Community Announcements

- **Ellis Community Wide Clean Up is October 5:** Those who wish to participate must have items out before 8:00am on October 5th (but please do not begin making our pick-up piles before October 2nd). We ask that you please **separate your items by type (see categories to the right)**. If you have any questions concerning the Clean Up, call the Ellis Public Works Dept. at 785-726-4741 or 1741.



**Ellis Food Pantry Open September 28 & Taking Christmas Box Reservations:** The Ellis Food Box Pantry will be open on Monday, September 28th from 3:00-6:00pm! **This is our October Distribution.** Food Boxes are FREE to those who may benefit from them! They will also be taking reservations for Christmas Food Boxes at this time! To get your name on the Christmas lists, contact Rita (785-650-4225) or Millie (785-726-1127).



**Youth Scholarship Opportunities:** The VFW Department of Kansas encourages our Posts, members, families, teachers and community partners to help spread the word about this year's *Patriot's Pen* and *Voice of Democracy* scholarship competitions! This year's theme is: *"What a Veteran Taught Me About America."* The Patriots Pen scholarship is for students grades 6-8; a written essay contest (300-400 words, sharing your thoughts on this year's patriotic theme). National awards up to \$5,000. The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 and is an audio essay competition (record a 3-5 minute original audio essay) Compete for more than \$2 million in scholarship. National First Place Scholarship is \$35,000. Submit your completed entry to your local VFW Post by October 31, 2026. These programs give Kansas students an opportunity to share their voices, reflect on the impact of our nation's veterans, and compete for scholarships at the local, state, and national levels. For more information about these scholarships and requirements, visit: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>.

| Municipal Waste                                                    |               | Metals (White Goods)                                                  |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fabrics                                                            | Couches       | Washers                                                               | Wagons                                |
| Lamps                                                              | Carpet & Pad  | Dryers                                                                | Refrigerators (only remove if tagged) |
| Furniture                                                          | Foam Products | Metal Buildings                                                       | Lawn Mowers                           |
| Upholstery & Plastic Chairs                                        |               | Metal Doors                                                           | (with Gas & Oil removed)              |
|                                                                    |               | Piping                                                                | Metal Containers                      |
|                                                                    |               | Lawn Chairs                                                           | Bed Frames & Springs                  |
|                                                                    |               | Swing Sets                                                            | Lawn Equipment                        |
|                                                                    |               | Bicycles                                                              |                                       |
|                                                                    |               | Open Barrels                                                          |                                       |
|                                                                    |               | Tin                                                                   |                                       |
| Trees                                                              |               | Non-Collectable Items*                                                |                                       |
| NO LONGER THAN:<br>4' in length & 6" in diameter                   |               | Explosives                                                            | Batteries                             |
| Place in alley—will be removed as soon as possible at a later date |               | Glass                                                                 | Tires                                 |
| Construction & Demolition                                          |               | Thinners                                                              | Paints/Coatings                       |
| Bricks & Masonry Materials                                         |               | Drain Openers                                                         | Strippers                             |
| Any Wood Products (including Pallets)                              |               | Flammable Materials                                                   |                                       |
| Wallcoverings                                                      |               | Asbestos Materials                                                    | Buildings                             |
| Drywall                                                            |               | Concrete or Rocks                                                     |                                       |
| Electric Wiring                                                    |               | Hot Tubs or other Large Items                                         |                                       |
| Non-Asbestos Insulation                                            |               | Medical Waste (Needles, Syringes, etc.)                               |                                       |
| Roofing Materials                                                  |               | * E-Waste can be taken directly to the Ellis County Transfer Station. |                                       |
| Plumbing Fixtures (Stools, Sinks, Tubs)                            |               | * Household Hazardous Waste Station is open                           |                                       |
| Wire Fencing or Wire                                               |               | Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am to 4:45 pm                                          |                                       |
|                                                                    |               | Sat. 9:00 am to 3:45 pm                                               |                                       |
|                                                                    |               | 785-628-9460                                                          |                                       |



***"The Rosary is a priceless treasure inspired by God."*** St. Louis De Montfort  
***Please join us in praying the Rosary for America!***

**Tuesday, October 13, 2026 | Ellis Memorial Park | 4:00pm**

***This a whole family event. Bring your rosary, lawn chair and/or blanket.***

In case of inclement weather, we will meet at Leonard's house!

Watch St. Mary's Church Facebook page for updates.

***"You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary."*** The Mother of God

# From the Diocese



October is a favorite for many people, especially the cooler temperatures after we endured oven-like temperatures for a long period of time. What I especially like during October are some of our favorite saint feast days, such as St. Therese of Lisieux (Oct. 1), St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4) and St. John Paul II (October 22). However, I want to share a couple of compelling stories of two other saints.

The first is Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (Oct. 6). Like many people these days, she lived a life of constantly changing circumstances. Her birth name was Eulalie. She grew up on a family farm in Quebec and enjoyed school, horseback riding, and spending time visiting Jesus in the Eucharist. When she was eighteen her mother died. She grieved immensely. Her brother was a priest, and she went to live with him. Not only did she help with housekeeping but became a catechist and liturgy coordinator.

Eventually, the bishop invited her to found a religious community that provided education and catechesis for poor children. She resisted at first because of her poor health and felt she wasn't qualified. Her "yes" led to her to become a saint. What is God calling us to do? God doesn't necessarily call the qualified but equips us

when we say "yes."

The other saint is Chiara Badano (Oct. 29). She was born in 1971. Her parents felt immense gratitude because they prayed for eleven years to have a child. As a teenager, she enjoyed sports and dancing with her friends, although she was challenged by failures in school. When she was seventeen, she was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. She struggled with the diagnosis, but after she had surrendered her pain to the Lord, the cancer strengthened her bond with Jesus. She even said, "For you Jesus. If you want it, I want it, too!" Knowing that death was near, she prepared to meet Jesus face to face. Like a bride about to meet her spouse, she asked to be buried in a wedding dress. Do we see suffering as a punishment or an opportunity to unite ourselves with Jesus?

*+ Gerald J. Veneke*



## NEIGHBORS NEAR & NEIGHBORS FAR:

### World Mission Month

World Mission Month is a global celebration in which Catholics everywhere join efforts in support of 1,124 mission territories.

#### To Give:

Anytime during the month of October, place an envelope in your Parish Collection labeled "World Mission Sunday"



## —Upcoming-Events—

### — 10/2-3

**Joyful Women's Retreat**  
Hays

### — 10/4

**Fall Festival**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
Salina

### — 10/8-10

**Seminary Visit**  
St. John Vianney Seminary

### — 10/9-11

**Silent Discernment Retreat  
for Women**  
Kansas City, Missouri

### — 10/11

**Anniversary Mass**  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Salina,  
2p.m.

### Fall Festival

St. Edward's, Belleville, 4-7p.m.

### — 10/18

**Mass for Parents of  
Deceased Children**  
Sacred Heart Cathedral,  
Salina, 2:30p.m.

### — 10/20

**Ladies of St. Andrew's Ham  
Loaf Dinner**  
5-7p.m.

### — 10/25

**Anniversary Mass**  
St. Nicholas of Myra, Hays, 2p.m.

### — 10/30-11/1

**Silent Ignatian Retreat for  
Women**  
Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life,  
Victoria

*Together, let us be disciples of Jesus on mission!*

## DOCERE: "TO TEACH"

## DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

When someone is a 'doctor of the church' it does not mean they helped people who were physically sick. The word 'doctor' comes from the Latin word '**docere**', which means "**to teach**." So, doctors of the church are the great teachers of our faith!

### TERESA OF ÁVILA

Saint Teresa of Ávila, also called Saint Teresa of Jesus, is one of four doctors of the church who are girls. We celebrate her on October

15<sup>th</sup>. She taught us a lot about prayer, comparing our souls to beautiful castles!



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, also called Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, is another of the four girl doctors! Her feast day is October 1<sup>st</sup>. She taught us about the "Little Way": doing little, everyday acts of love to become a saint.



### THERÈSE OF LISIEUX



### GUARDIAN ANGELS



We celebrate our guardian angels on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They protect and guide us from the day we are made until the day we die. We don't know their names, but we can use this prayer to ask them to help us!

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me here,  
Ever this day [night] be at my side,  
To light and guard, to rule and guide.  
Amen

### HALLOWEEN

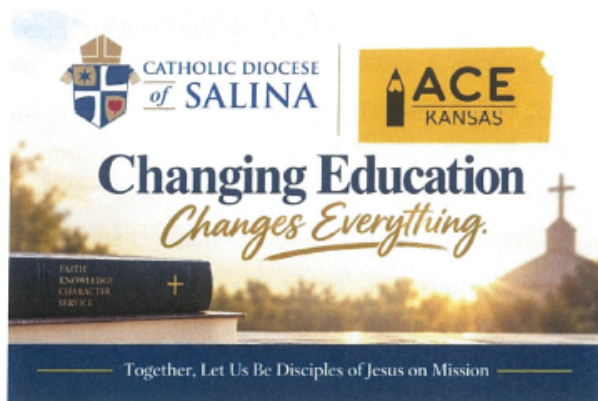


Did you know Halloween has Catholic roots? Scan the QR code to learn more about how it intertwines with our faith!



# A New Opportunity to Support Catholic Education

By Geoff Andrews, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Catholic Diocese of Salina



One of the great blessings of serving our Catholic schools is seeing the generosity of people across the Diocese of Salina.

For generations, parishioners, parents, grandparents, alumni, businesses and friends have made sacrifices to ensure Catholic schools remain strong and accessible. They understand that Catholic education is about more than preparing young people for college or a career. We partner with parents to form young men and women who know Jesus Christ, understand their God-given dignity and are prepared to use their gifts in service to others.

Today, we have an exciting opportunity to make that generosity go even further.

The Catholic Diocese of Salina has entered into a partnership with ACE Scholarships, a nonprofit Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that will help connect donors with students and families seeking access to Catholic education.

One of the things we especially liked about ACE is its ability to keep the connection between donors and their local Catholic schools. Donors can choose which Catholic school in the Diocese of Salina they would like their contribution to support.

Whether someone has a special connection to a Catholic school in Salina, Hays, Manhattan, Beloit, Colby, Junction City or one of our other communities, ACE provides a way for that generosity to support scholarship opportunities connected to the Catholic school they know and love.

And there are now two important tax-credit opportunities for donors to understand.

## The Kansas 75% Tax Credit — Available Now

Kansas already provides a tremendous incentive for individuals and businesses who support qualified students through a Scholarship Granting Organization.

Eligible contributions through the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program can qualify for a 75% Kansas state income tax credit.

For example, a qualifying \$10,000 contribution could result in a \$7,500 Kansas state income tax credit.

For donors who already have a heart for Catholic education, this provides an opportunity to make a significant investment in students and families while receiving a substantial state tax benefit.

There is also an important reason not to wait.

Kansas has a statewide cap of \$10 million in tax credits available through the program each year. As of this writing, approximately \$7.5 million of that cap has already been utilized.

Once the statewide cap is reached, additional contributions will no longer qualify for the 75% Kansas tax credit for this year.

If you have been considering a contribution, now is the time to begin that conversation.

## A New 100% Federal Tax Credit Begins January 1

Beginning January 1, 2027, something entirely new will become available.

The new federal Education Freedom Tax Credit will allow individual taxpayers to receive a 100% federal income tax credit for qualifying cash contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations, up to \$1,700 per taxpayer each year.

This is a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit.

For example, an individual who makes a qualifying \$1,700 contribution to an approved SGO could potentially receive a \$1,700 credit against his or her federal income tax liability.

Think about the possibilities this creates for Catholic education.

Rather than scholarship support relying primarily on a relatively small number of major donors, this new opportunity could allow hundreds—or even thousands—of parishioners, alumni, parents, grandparents and other supporters across our diocese to participate.

A \$1,700 contribution by itself can make a difference.

Hundreds of \$1,700 contributions can transform what is possible for our schools and families.

Bishop Gerald Vincke has designated ACE Scholarships as the sole Scholarship Granting Organization for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salina for participation in the new federal tax credit program.

We made that decision intentionally. ACE has the infrastructure and experience necessary to administer scholarship programs and navigate the compliance requirements associated with them. Just as importantly to us, their model allows donors to indicate the Catholic school they wish to support.

## **Your School Will Have Its Own ACE Page**

Soon, each Catholic school in the Diocese of Salina will have its own dedicated ACE Scholarships landing page.

These webpages will make it easier for donors to learn about the tax-credit opportunities and support the Catholic school that is most meaningful to them.

But donors interested in the 75% Kansas tax credit should not wait for those individual school pages to be completed.

You can begin the process today.

Donors interested in participating now—or simply wanting to learn more—can contact:

**AJ Kuhle** President, ACE Scholarships Kansas & Missouri [akuhle@acescholarships.org](mailto:akuhle@acescholarships.org) (303) 501-0464

AJ and the ACE team can help donors understand the giving process and ensure contributions are appropriately designated to support the Catholic school in the Diocese of Salina that the donor chooses.

## **More Than a Tax Credit**

Tax credits can get complicated. Every donor's financial circumstances are different, and we encourage individuals to visit with their tax professional or financial advisor about their specific situation.

But behind all the percentages, tax forms and regulations is something much simpler.

There is a child.

There is a family that wants a Catholic education for its children but worries about whether it can afford one.

There is a teacher who wants to share the Gospel while helping a student discover his or her God-given gifts.

There is a pastor working to ensure that Catholic education remains an important part of the evangelizing mission of his parish.

There is a small rural Catholic school whose presence helps keep a parish and community vibrant.

And there is a donor who has been blessed with resources and wants to make a difference.

Our partnership with ACE helps connect those people.

That is what excites me most about what lies ahead.

The 75% Kansas tax credit provides an outstanding opportunity today. The new 100% federal tax credit, up to \$1,700 per taxpayer, provides another extraordinary opportunity beginning January 1, 2027.

My hope is that Catholics and friends of Catholic education throughout our diocese will learn about these programs and prayerfully consider whether participating makes sense for them.

We often talk about stewardship as returning to God a portion of what He has entrusted to us. These programs give us another creative way to practice that stewardship while investing in the formation of the next generation.

Ultimately, this isn't about tax credits.

It is about opening doors.

It is about giving parents greater access to Catholic education.

It is about strengthening our Catholic schools, parishes and communities.

And most importantly, it is about helping more young people encounter Jesus Christ through the gift of Catholic education.

Whether through the Kansas program today or the federal program beginning in January, we have an opportunity to turn generosity into something lasting—an investment in students, families and the future of Catholic education across the Diocese of Salina.

Together, let us continue forming disciples of Jesus on mission.

*Individuals considering a contribution should consult their tax or financial advisor regarding their eligibility and individual tax circumstances.*