



The Serra Club of Johnson County
Region 9 District 12-2 Central Club

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www.jocoserra.org

Serran Sphere

REVERENCE FOR THE EUCHARIST: BE AMAZED!

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 19, 2022, the Catholic Bishops of the United States began a very important initiative, a nationwide Eucharistic Revival. Known also as “Eucharistic Amazement,” the spiritual initiative is meant for us to revitalize (in some cases, *discover*) our love for and, quite literally, our *amazement* in Jesus Christ, His real Presence, in the Holy Eucharist.

When we recite our weekly Thursday Rosary for Vocations, the meditation for the First Luminous Mystery, the Baptism of our Lord, speaks about the personal call to holiness we received at our Baptism. Holiness, at its core, is a close personal relationship with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It is Him.

This understanding became profoundly real for me several years ago when our oldest daughter was a high school senior. We attended a showing of Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* with the senior class. The film is breathtakingly powerful.

After the film, we accompanied the students directly to our parish church where we celebrated the Mass together. I was completely moved by the experience. As I approached Holy Communion, I couldn’t help but recall the scourging scene in the movie: Jesus’ body shredded by the flagellum wielded by the Roman soldier. The scene seemed interminable. As a doctor, I thought of it all on the cellular level. Millions/billions of cells (blood and flesh) were ripped away from his body with every scourge. Yet he rose, and walked on, and even carried His cross. I previously questioned (because my faith was shallow) how Jesus could *really be present* in that form of bread (and wine) I receive at Mass?

The scourging was sufficient for me to not only concretely, but spiritually, understand and accept that, indeed, He could be present—no, He *is present*—in every host, in every drop of the Precious Blood, *every single time I receive Him*. Of course! It’s not just *possible*, it is *reality*: Jesus comes to us, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in Holy Communion.

I wept that day as I received Communion. I simply could not hold it in. Knowing also that He endured that pain and suffering *for me personally* (oh, yes, he endured that pain and suffering *for you personally, too!*) only further solidified my belief and intensified my shame in having ever doubted the truth. Jesus became personal.

We are blessed, as Serrans, to share the Holy Eucharist together on the occasions that we do so. We are also blessed on a regular basis to come together in Holy Hours of Adoration at 11:00 AM on the First Friday of each month at Church of the Holy Spirit, and at 6:00 PM on the First Tuesday of each month at Curé of Ars. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed; it is time for us to continue to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus. Both Holy Hours are offered for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese. If you have never been to a Holy Hour (First Friday or First Tuesday) check the website calendar for details and make a commitment to attend. You will be glad you did. And so will Jesus.

Pope St. John Paul II, in his 2003 encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*,

See Eucharist, p. 3



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MEETING/EVENT DATES:

- **2/2/2023—6:00 PM,**
General Membership Meeting/
New Member Initiation —**Curé of Ars**
- **2/3/2023—11:00 AM,**
First Friday Holy Hour—**Holy Spirit Church**
- **2/7/2023—6:00 PM,**
First Tuesday Holy Hour—**Curé of Ars**
- **2/9/2023—7:30 PM,**
Thursday Rosary for Vocations—
virtual/on-line
- **2/16/2023—7:30 PM,**
Thursday Rosary for Vocations—
virtual/on-line
- **2/23/2023—7:30 PM,**
Thursday Rosary for Vocations—
virtual/on-line

Meet Aaron Waldeck



I grew up at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Shawnee, KS. I attended Kindergarten - 8th Grade there and then made my way to St. James Academy. When I look back, two moments stand out to me as most significant when I consider the years leading up to seminary, those moments when I first heard the Lord's call to consider a priestly vocation. The first was when I was a sophomore at St. James. After attending a retreat, I simply recall being prompted by God to think about becoming a priest. This was quickly swallowed up with all sorts of other pursuits that, at the time, I saw as more important. The Lord is faithful and He is certainly persistent. Over the next few years, I would briefly receive such promptings in prayer and I was quick to dismiss them. Then, at the end of my sophomore year at KU, I recall sitting at the St. Lawrence Center near the Mary icon while Fr. Beseau was celebrating mass. It was during the Liturgy of the Eucharist when I felt a tremendous desire surge up in me and at the same time almost like an invisible rope was around me, pulling me towards the sanctuary. The desire was to be as near as the sanctuary as I could, to be present at the altar, and to pursue a priestly vocation. It was this moment that was most definitive for me, when I realized I needed to take fur-

ther steps.

It was Fr. Beseau who has most influenced my vocation, primarily by his steady aid during those difficult times during my time at KU, when I felt like I had no direction and was drifting along, not really committed to one path or another. He took a number of us on retreats and hosted gatherings of the men at the rectory where we discussed life, friendship, vocation, God, and everything in between. Most impactful, however, was Fr. Beseau's love for the priesthood and priestly identity that spoke to my listless and wandering spirit. It was seeing his witness to the beauty of the priestly life that I first came to the realization that life as a priest can be more fulfilling than most ever realize, and that to give up everything and follow Jesus is the greatest adventure imaginable. The invitation to a life of adventure in Christ lit a fire in me, and the Lord has not disappointed in His promise of adventure. I have traveled to places I would have never thought possible, I've lived in Spain and Mexico for intensive courses of study, and I've met people and developed friendships that are directly the result of Jesus inviting me to follow Him wherever He goes. Many young men have asked me about my time in seminary and pursuing a priestly vocation, saying yes to the call, overcoming fears, and all that goes into this life. When I offer encouragement to them, I find myself always coming back to this truth: This life is an incredible adventure, and Jesus is with you every step of the way. God can-

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As I approach my diaconal ordination this spring, I am most looking forward to the opportunity to share with others what I have been so generously given, and all the more to participate as an instrument of Christ by being a minister of the sacrament of Baptism. I am also very much looking forward to preaching at Mass; there have been a great number of occasions during my time in seminary when I have looked at the person next to me and said "*We have to tell someone about this.*" To have the chance to share the wealth of knowledge, but also the wealth of grace that Jesus has given me, will be a great gift.

My time in the seminary has been a long road, and I am especially indebted to a particular saint, my favorite, St. Jerome. St. Jerome has taught me a great deal, especially because we share the same temperament as well as love for Scripture and the Latin language! He also taught me to surrender everything over to Jesus, even the things in my life that I would rather not hand over! Seminary has not been an easy journey, principally because it is not supposed to be. It is about taking a man and turning him into a human instrument of Jesus Christ. At our chapel here at Kenrick-Glennon, many recognize the two Latin words on the baldachin: *Conforma. Imitare*. These words are easy enough to understand...conform and imitate! What most people don't know is that they form the end and beginning of a sentence: *Imitare quod tractabis, et vitam tuam mysterio dominicae crucis conforma*. Translated: Imitate what you will celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's Cross. These are the words that every priest will hear on his ordination day, spoken to him by the bishop when the priest receives the chalice and paten, bread and wine. This is what I hope most for my life: that what the priest does, will in fact, change the priest himself into a living, breathing, *other Christ*.

Let us keep Aaron and all our seminarians in our daily prayers!

Eucharist, cont. from p. 1

(The Church from the Eucharist) invited Catholics to regain a sense of “Eucharistic amazement,” a sense that is, in today’s culture some 20 years later, likely unknown to some, if not many. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass links our time to the time of Christ’s passion, suffering and death, and inexplicably, to His resurrection. We walk the experience with Him during every Eucharistic liturgy in which we participate. This fact alone should give us reason to pause, and consider, “*Why does this NOT amaze me?*” when we find ourselves approaching Mass with a nonchalant, casual attitude.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass should be all ‘amazement,’ *all the time!* If we are not amazed, we need to examine our attitude.

To help my attitude when it’s not where I desire it to be, I think of the words of St. Thomas Aquinas in the beautiful hymn, *Adoro Te Devote* (Godhead Here in Hiding):

Godhead here in hiding whom I do adore / Masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing more. / See, Lord, at thy service low lies here a heart / Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art.

Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived; / How says trusty hearing? that shall be believed; / What God’s Son has told me, take for truth I do; / Truth himself speaks truly or there’s nothing true.

There’s more, but these two verses suffice for hours of meditation. The poetry is sublime.

Finally, a prayer for Eucharistic Revival from Our Lady of Fatima:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, nor adore, nor hope, nor love You. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. And, through the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of sinners.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!



SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAYS

February/March

Jonathan Fox.....13 Feb
Trey Nissen.....13 Feb
Jacob Cofer.....22 Feb
Zachary McGuinness...28 Mar
Alex Rickert.....31 Mar

Mark your calendar with Seminarian Birthdays and pray for the seminarian’s intention.

REMINDER:

**General
Membership
Meeting**

**Thursday, Feb 2, 2023
6:00 PM**

Curé of Ars

**NOTE: Mass begins at 6:00
PM in the church
New member initiation
night**

Seven chili cooks competed for prizes in the Great Chili Cook-off at our January 2023 General Membership Meeting, during an evening of fun, fellowship, and . . . great chili!

Top honors went to Sue Shain. Pictured below left is club president, John Weber, awarding the gold medal and a new apron to Sue. Congrats, Sue!

Second and third place finishers were Rosemary Weber and Jennifer Zielinski, respectively. Pictured below right are our three “Chili Cook-off Champions”, left to right, Jennifer Zielinski, Sue Shain, and Rosemary Weber.

Congratulations to all the winners! Thanks to all for the great chili!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SERRA CLUB
OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

**2022-23
Officers**

President
John Weber

President Elect
Dale Romme

**Immediate Past
President**
Doug Leibbrandt

Secretary
Judy Rielley

Treasurer
Chuck Lillis

Vice Presidents

Vocations
Thomas and Nicole Skoch

Membership
Joane Wilkerson

Programs
Larry Ryan

Communications
Michael Skoch

Trustees
Len Chmelka
Ray Zielinski
George Len

District Governor
John Caton

***First Friday
Holy Hour
for Vocations***
11:00 AM 2/3/2023
***Church of the Holy
Spirit***

Date	Agenda	Location
February 2 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Meeting New Member Initiation Mass at 6:00 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
February 3 Friday	First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations 11:00 AM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
February 7 Tuesday	First Tuesday Holy Hour for Vocations 6:00 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
February 9 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
February 16 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
February 23 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
February 27 Monday	JOCO Serra Board Meeting 7:00 PM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
March 2 Thursday	JOCO Serra General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
March 3	First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations 11:00 AM	Holy Spirit Church Overland Park, KS
March 7 Tuesday	First Tuesday Holy Hour for Vocations 6:00 PM	Curé of Ars Church Leawood, KS
March 9 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details
March 16 Thursday	Thursday Rosary for Vocations 7:30 PM	Virtual See website calendar for details



Mark your calendar!
USCCB World Day of Prayer for Vocations
April 23, 2023

*The Vocations Committee will provide a slate of suggested
activities—stay tuned!*



SEEK₂₃ –A SUCCESS BY EVERY MEASURE



SEEK₂₃ came alive January 2–6, 2023 in St. Louis, MO, with more than 17,000 Catholics—most of them college students—participating in events throughout the week. The opening Mass (photo at right, credit FOCUS) at the Dome at America’s Center was spectacular both in its splendor and in its reverence for what we believe: the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Savior, Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Eucharist.



While SEEK, an annual gathering of Catholics from around the world, is geared toward students and young people, there were people present from all stages of life. Several conferences were focused on marriage, and many had something for mature Catholics wanting to deepen their faith.

An evening Eucharistic procession (photo left, credit Texas Catholic and right, credit Ginny Skoch) and adoration took place on Wednesday night, an experience that is moving, inspirational, and overflowing with grace for those who participate.



SERRA USA helped sponsor this year’s SEEK conference. With very similar missions, the organizations, FOCUS and SERRA, both work to bring about His kingdom on earth. As a Serran, it was great to see the Serra banner at the SEEK conference!

SEEK₂₄ returns to St. Louis, January 1–5, 2024. Anyone, regardless your position on life’s timeline, is welcomed and encouraged to attend. St. Louis is a great place to make it happen!



Mark your calendar! The 2023 **Master’s Cup** golf event is slated for **Monday, July 17, 2023**, at beautiful **Ironhorse Golf Club** in Leawood, KS. A one-of-a-kind golf event, *The Master’s Cup* brings together young men and young women discerning vocations to the priesthood and religious life, seminarians, priests and religious, for a round of golf, sharing a meal, and hearing a great witness to the faith. Make plans now to join the fun and fellowship.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ Since November 2021, the **Serra Club of Johnson County** has welcomed 36 new members!
- ⇒ Since its inception in 2021, the **Heart to Heart Scholarship Fund** has given more than \$32,000 in scholarships to young men and women in the archdiocese to help defray expenses as they discern vocations to the priesthood and religious life!
- ⇒ A human heart beating 70 times per minute beats more than 32 million times each year. And medical science cannot explain why it keeps beating.