

VISITATION PARISH
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 5, 2025



OUR MISSION

Visitation, a community of communities, is committed to a way of life based on Christ's teaching and our Catholic tradition by being dedicated to life-long conversion in faith, healing sanctuary in our sacraments and relationships, an educational environment for our children which emphasizes Catholic values and is committed to excellence, awareness and responsiveness to the needs of our neighbors and our society.

MASSES

Sunday Masses

Saturday..... 4:00 pm
Sunday..... 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Confessions

Saturday 3:00 pm

Weekday Masses (St. Joseph Chapel)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.....6:45 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday..... 8:15 am
Saturday..... 8:15 am

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

ATTENTION 2025 LENT BOOK WRITERS!

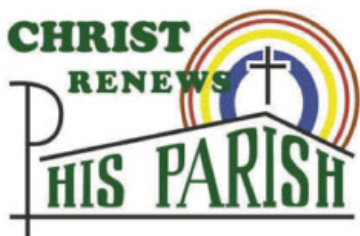
Thank you for agreeing to write a reflection for the 2025 Lent Book. This beloved Visitation tradition is a project created *by* parishioners *for* parishioners each year. If you were asked to write a reflection but have not received a letter with your assigned Scripture reading in the mail yet, please contact Teresa Albright in the parish office at teresa@church.visitation.org or 816 753-7522 x1306 as soon as possible.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD

At Home with the Word is available in the narthex for \$5. Please pay in the parish office or use the QR code on the sign for payment.

CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH SAVE THE DATE!

If you have been considering attending a Christ Renews His Parish retreat, you are in luck! The next weekend for both men and women will be on **March 1-2**. It will be a wonderful way to prepare your spiritual walk through Lent this year! If you have questions or want to register now, please contact Karen Miller at karen@church.visitation.org.



COUNSELING

We are told it is the happiest time of the year, but for many, Christmas is depressing. If it is that way for you, consider counseling. Fr. Garry Richmeier is a Licensed Professional Marriage and Family Therapist, offering family, marriage and individual counseling. He has offices in Liberty and in midtown KC, and accepts donations in lieu of set fees. For more information or to schedule an initial appointment, contact Fr. Garry at 816-415-2998 (no text) or garrycpps@gmail.com.

OUR SYMPATHY

We keep in our prayers the family of Louise Williams who died last week.

EACH WEDNESDAY ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO COME AND PRAY THE ROSARY IN THE ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL FOR THOSE ON THE PARISH PRAYER LIST.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Earl Adam	Bryan Larson
Pamela Atherton	Jeanne Lendabarker
Margaret Austin	Jolene Lynn
Bill Blanck, Sr.	Scott Martens
Marianne Carl	Tim McNamara
Mary Beth Cicchetti	Tricia Melland
Kay Dierks	Jen O'Neill
Michele Desnoes	Peggy Pruitt
Whitlow Brewer Emanuels	Ellie Rose
Bill Fuss	Kathy Scaglia
Brooke Kuechler Harris	Gary Schafer
Margaret Howard	Barbara Schulte
Joe Irwin	Aimee Sesler
William Jewell	Sandra Sharp
Erin Kallman	Special Intention
Peg Kallman	Salvador Valdeperas, Sr.
	Dave Wittrock

SICK LIST UPDATE

Contact Jenny Greene to request an individual be added to our list. We ask that you leave a contact name and number. We will follow up with each request quarterly to keep the list current and to offer additional support as needed.

MILITARY

The parish community continues to pray for parish members and their families who are serving in the armed services: Djibouti; Major Philip Martin, Fort Leavenworth, KS; Major Chris Oppenlander, Hill Air Force Base, UT; Major Gisselle Oppenlander, Hill Air Force Base, UT; Master Sergeant Louis A. Perez, Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL.

FUNERAL MEAL TEAMS

On Deck: Team # 7

On Alert: Team # 9

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Parishioners,

I am in Florida this weekend savoring some time at the beach on Cape San Blas. I'm staying at a condo and enjoying the peaceful Gulf of Mexico. My mom couldn't travel with me this time, which I regret, but I've honestly needed some quiet, solitary time in a beautiful place for a while. It's good for me. I hope to have some stories and reflections to share with you when I return!

I trust the new year is beginning well for you. I find it helpful to carry a hopeful optimism into the start of each year. All of our lives will be filled with joy, struggle, blessing, suffering and lots in between in the year ahead, but God's abiding presence gives us hope, confidence and peace. Our faith boldly assures us that all will be well, come what may. I look forward to the year ahead with you!

Peace,

Fr. Greg



ABOUT TOWN

Become a Reading Mentor

Help a student learn to read during your lunch hour!

Go to leadtoreadkc.org to apply and learn more.



Lead to Read KC is recruiting volunteers to read **once a week for 30 minutes over your lunch hour** with students in high-need elementary schools.

We are starting new classes at **Foreign Language Academy** in the Kansas City, MO school district and **Truman Elementary** in the Hickman Mills school district.

We need volunteers at other schools too. It's the easiest, most meaningful volunteer opportunity in the city.

LEAD TO READ

LEAD TO READ

CONSTRUCTION BIDDING OPPORTUNITIES



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architects*

**NN NEWKIRK
NOVAK**
CONSTRUCTION PARTNERS

Newkirk Novak Construction Partners looks forward to working with Visitation on the upcoming building improvement projects.

As plans progress and fundraising continues, we will keep the Parish informed of bidding opportunities and invite any interested trade partners to contact our team!

Newkirk Novak Construction Partners Project Contact:

Joe Brown | Visitation Project Lead

Email: joe.brown@newkirknovak.com | Phone: 913.265.6035

**MASS INTENTIONS
JANUARY 7-12**

Tuesday, January 7
6:45 am George McLiney †
8:15 am Kelsey Kivisto †

Wednesday, January 8
6:45 am Richard Connor †
8:15 am Sidney Cooke †

Thursday, January 9
6:45 am Ted Wiedeman †

Friday, January 10
8:15 am † Julie Ann Francis

Saturday, January 11
8:15am Sister Parish
4:00 pm Lee Jones †

Sunday, January 12
8:00 am People of Visitation
10:30am Kelsey Kivisto †

ALTAR SERVERS

EMMS

LECTOR

USHERS
SACR.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE JANUARY 11-12

4:00 PM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM

C. Larson T. Rodden M. Mishler	G. Greim G. Malter NOT FILLED	L. Esslinger M. Hagenhoff T. Hagenhoff
T. Egan J. Evett M. Garrett S. Garrett L. Gromowsky E. Haines M. Heckman-Crowe K. Hughes K. Larson R. Larson C. Ruiz	P. Banes M. McCann E. McCann J. McCann J. McGee H. Shinn K. Strauss A. Thompson M. Thompson M.J. Thompson A. O'Toole	A. Adams B. Adams A. Bergner K. Esslinger A. Florez E. Florez M. Florez Jennifer Goeke Joe Goeke J. Johnson T. Mayer
S. Keenan	E. Greim	D. Schoening
M. Evett A. Holewinski NOT FILLED	K. Banes F. Erlacker NOT FILLED	C. Keller K. Keller NOT FILLED
D. Pucci	E. Johnson	S. Mayer

PARISH BOUNDARIES

State Line on the West to Oak St. on the East;
47th Street on the North to Meyer Blvd on the South

PARISH OFFICE, Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
5141 Main St, Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone 816-753-7422 Fax 816-753-5505
Web Site www.visitation.org

PARISH STAFF 816-753-5155 x#
Pastor, Fr. Greg Haskamp x1302,
frgreg@church.visitation.org

Pastoral Associate, Jennifer Greene x1309,
jennifer@church.visitation.org

Pastoral Associate, Karen Miller x1308,
karen@church.visitation.org

Pastoral Associate, Teresa Albright x1306,
teresa@church.visitation.org

Director of Liturgy/Music, Alejandro Manso x1307,
alejandro@church.visitation.org

Director of Stewardship, Megan Burdolski x1305,
megan@church.visitation.org

Business/Financial Manager, Isaac Uzcanga x1313,
isaac@church.visitation.org

Parish Secretary, Joni Chichuk x1301,
joni@church.visitation.org

Ministry Scheduler/Bookkeeper, Janet Ridder x1304,
janet@church.visitation.org

Priest in Residence, Fr. Charles Rowe

BULLETIN DEADLINE Noon Monday

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick by appointment
Fr. Greg and Jennifer Greene

Eucharist to Homebound and Hospital, Jennifer Greene

Sacrament of Matrimony, Contact Jennifer Greene to begin marriage preparation.

Sacrament of Confirmation, Youth Jennifer Greene

Sacrament of Infant Baptism, Adult Confirmation and Sacraments of Initiation, *For those who wish to become Catholic.* Teresa Albright

PARISH COUNCIL 2024/25

Stephen Bowen	Kristie Larson
Bill Donath	Melissa Lising
Jim Erlacker	Steve O'Neill
Mary Gigliotti	Katie Wendel
Fr. Greg Haskamp	Kathleen Wiedeman
Megan Burdolski, Staff	

School Office
5134 Baltimore, Kansas City, MO 64112
Phone 816-531-6200Fax 816-531-8045

Principal, Dr. Melissa Wagner x3140
Secretary, Bridget Winget x3136

St. Vincent De Paul Help Line
816-753-9061

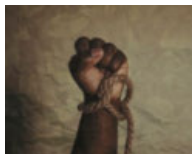
Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph
Ombudsman, Joe Crayon 816-812-2500
Victim Assistance Coordinator,
Whitney True-Francis 816-392-0011

RACIAL JUSTICE

The Visitation Racial Justice Committee strives to provide educational resources to its members and the parish as a whole. Look for more information in future bulletins about two upcoming events:

- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” Reading, Monday, January 20.
- Just Faith: Faith and Racial Healing 8-week transformative study session, starting Wednesday, January 29, at 6:30 pm, facilitated by Peg Ekerdt, Karen Miller and Linda Hughes.

Please contact Peg Ekerdt, peggyekerdt@gmail.com, Karen Miller, karen@church.visitation.org, or Linda Hughes, lchteach20@gmail.com, for more information about either event.



EXCERPT FROM “THE ABOLITIONIST HISTORY OF ‘O HOLY NIGHT’” DELANEY COYNE, *AMERICA: A JESUIT REVIEW*

The Incarnation is the great miracle of salvation history, and perhaps no song better expresses that miracle—and its continued implications - as well as “O Holy Night.” With its soaring high notes and poetic depiction of God’s light breaking through to a world cloaked in sin, the song helps us to revel in that glory. The man who translated “O Holy Night” into English, John Sullivan Dwight, believed that reflection on this miracle had the potential to confront oppression and injustice in his day. The song was introduced to the United States by a Unitarian minister, John Sullivan Dwight, remembered as the first American music critic. He translated the poem into English and released it in 1855.

Benjamin Ivry called the original French “didactic,” “as if lecturing a crowd.” In Dwight’s rather liberal translation, the text takes on new life. The French, which would directly translate to “People kneel down, wait for your deliverance,” becomes “Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!”

The most interesting part of Dwight’s translation appears in the third stanza. A literal translation of the original French goes:

*The Redeemer has overcome every obstacle.
The Earth is free, and Heaven is open.
He sees a brother where there was only a slave.
Love unites those whom iron had chained.*

Dwight translated the verse to:

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother*

*And in His name, all oppression
shall cease.*



To Dwight’s American contemporaries, this would have been a radical political statement. By 1855, it had become increasingly clear that the long series of compromises that preserved slavery in the South was untenable.

Dwight himself was an ardent abolitionist. He wrote publicly about his horror that “three or four million of our human brethren [are] in slavery” and believed that the United States was committing “moral suicide,” according to his biographer, Bill F. Fawcett. Dwight’s translation confronted listeners with the truth that Christ came to free humanity from sin, and therefore aligned the Christian witness with the abolitionist cause that sought to eliminate the evil of chattel slavery. It is thus unsurprising that “O Holy Night” gained fast favor among Northerners during the Civil War.

In “O Holy Night,” we are reminded of the promise of the Incarnation and its continuing resonance today. The Incarnation marks God’s entrance into humanity, done to fulfill the promise to “bring good news to the poor.... Proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk 4:18-19). As Christians, we must participate in this mission in the present, striving constantly to bring forth the kingdom of God. For Dwight, that called him to an abolitionist witness.

“O Holy Night” can still remind us of Christians’ duty to participate in Christ’s liberating mission. Our guest on “Hark!,” Gregory Boyle, S.J., says that he adopted the lines, “Long lay the world, in sin and error pining/until he appeared and the soul felt its worth” as a kind of mantra: “It’s a song about Christmas and it’s a song about Jesus, but how is it not the job description of anyone who is the proud owner of a pulse?”

From Dwight’s abolitionist cause to Father Boyle’s ministry with gang members, we are all called to see the worth in each soul, and to fight against a world that denigrates it. “O Holy Night” is a reminder that in Christ, we all belong to one another, slave and free.

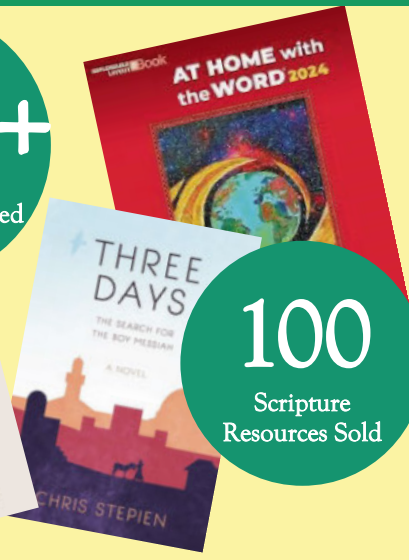
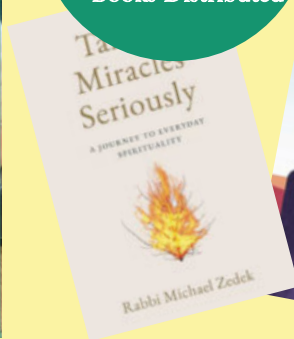
FAITH FORMATION

Thank You for Growing Your Faith With Us in 2024!

Visitation's Faith Formation Ministry Team would like to thank each of you in our parish and greater faith community for lending your voices, perspectives, and presence to the many activities we hosted throughout 2024. We look forward to continuing to gather and grow with you in 2025!



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14
LENT Small Groups



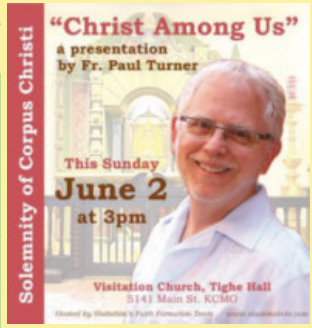
17th
Annual Lent Book written by parishioners for parishioners

vislent.blogspot.com

NEW
in 2024
A "Between Two Masses" Small Faith Sharing Group during Lent and Advent.



Over 100 attendees at our Passover Supper Series with Rabbi Michael Zedek



The Faith Formation Ministry Team hosted a presentation by Father Paul Turner on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

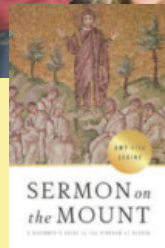


Over the Summer we offered
3 Tours of the Klein
Collection of Judaica at
B'nai Jehudah Synagogue.

45
People toured the
collection.



12
Bible Students



30 Attendees of all ages
at our 5th annual Season of
Creation Mass + Hike

All of Our Favorite
Traditions Are Coming in
2025! Up Next:

- Lent Book arriving in your mailbox for Ash Wednesday
- Look for info on Lent Small Groups forming
- Stay tuned for our Spring Supper Series event.
- An Evening Bible Study is coming this Easter Season

These "Between Two Masses" sessions focused on topics addressed in the USCCB's resource "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."



3 Moderated Discussions
ahead of the general election.



50 parishioners attended the
Fall Supper Series: Prayer
Stations and Speaker Panel.

Have a great idea for a Supper Series, Between Two Masses topic, or any other activity? Contact our Team Chair Kristie Larson kbraylarson@gmail.com We'd love to hear from you!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

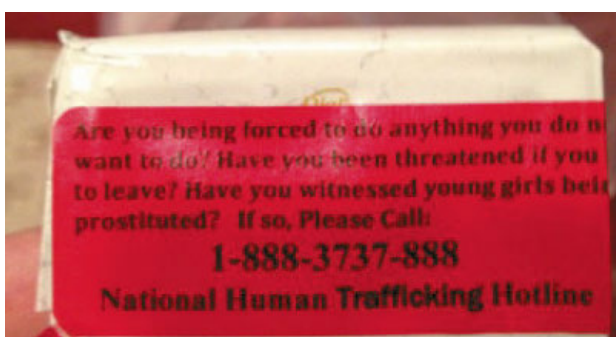
JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH!

So what exactly is Human Trafficking? And what can I do to help?

Good questions! Human Trafficking covers a LOT and first you need to be aware that it is happening in the US, even in our area. Every year, millions of men, women and children are lured by force, fraud or coercion to work as slaves or perform commercial sex acts. Any community is vulnerable and victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality. To build your awareness, go to www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign for more background. You can find out how to avoid buying products made with forced labor, and get ideas to help with this problem by checking out the US Catholic Sisters website www.alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org. It's easy to raise awareness if you wear blue on January 11 and make social posts to spread the word. You can also join us in Tighe Hall on January 26 to help label soap which will in turn be taken to local motels. Let's free the victims and end Human Trafficking.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO LABEL SOAP FOR THE SOAP PROJECT



All ages and abilities are welcome. Please join us in Tighe Hall after each Mass on Sunday, January 26 to label soap and learn about the good work being done to combat Human Trafficking by the Soap Project. The SOAP Project Outreach is a unique, hands-on opportunity that allows groups of any size to fight human trafficking locally and potentially recover victims.

Human trafficking has been reported in both poverty-stricken urban area motels as well as in suburban upscale hotels. With that in mind, we aim to educate those working in these locations on the signs of trafficking, arm them with the resources to fight it, and give victims a way out. But to do this, we need your help.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sponsored by the Visitation Knights of Columbus in partnership with the children of Visitation School

15th Annual

Front Porch Coat Drive

Drop off your donations of coats, gloves, hats, blankets and other winter items at these locations:

- Vasquez home - 5415 Baltimore
- Steinert home - 5818 Central
- Fedinets home - 433 W. 69th St.
- Dickmeyer home - 439 E. 55th St.
- Schloegel home - 6001 Morningside Dr.
- Coppage home - 808 Huntington Rd. (screened porch)



SOCIAL CONCERNS

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The six members of the Contreras family, Miguel, Karla, and children Miguel, Camila, Moises and Arlet, are beginning their third month in Kansas City. Volunteers have been driving them to medical and Della Lamb appointments, accompanying them on weekly shopping trips, tutoring them in their English language skills, and working with them on their budget.

They received a washer and dryer several weeks ago which helps so much going into the winter season.

The oldest two children, Miguel and Camila are attending school and the bus picks up and drops off close to their home. For the holidays, the family was treated to an outing to see Union Station. Thanks to school families, they also received a decorated Christmas tree and Nativity.

Members of the committee are visited with the family over the holidays, taking some treats and wrapped gifts to open on Christmas.

We are so grateful for the many hours and wonderful donations from the Visitation Community that are helping this beautiful family to acclimate to their new home in our community. We will co-sponsor them through May, 2025, and will post updates of the family in future bulletins



FOOD BASKET - DON'T FORGET!

Donations to the food basket in the narthex go directly to pantries serving those in need! So, during this season of giving bring a donation of canned goods to Mass each week! Your kindness will help spread joy to all who receive them! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sheffield Place is looking for individuals to volunteer in their children's program. Volunteers enable Sheffield Place to reach beyond the limits of our staff resources and expand service to homeless mothers and children. As a volunteer, you can make a difference in the lives of the families who call Sheffield Place "home." Available hours are between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Monday -Thursday or 9:00 am - 1:00 pm on Friday. A volunteer may work as little as one hour or as long as four hours on any weekday. For more information, please contact Karen Miller at karen@church.visitation.org.

ONE CITY CAFÉ next on Thursday, January 16 from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Please reach out to Bill Staggs for details at 816- 304-3264 or willstaggs48@gmail.com.

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse: 1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of), and 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and 3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816-812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Whitney True-Francis, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 816-392-0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

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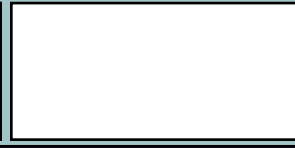
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ABOUT TOWN

Jubilee Year 2025

CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLDWIDE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



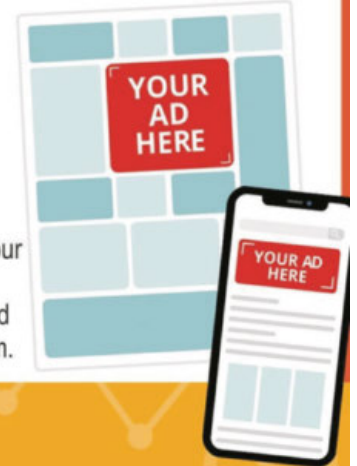
Saturday, December 28, 2024
2:30 p.m. Mass at the
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*The service will begin at
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Speaker: Marcia Tammeus

Faith & Grief Lunch

Village Presbyterian
Church

Tuesday, January 7
12:00 -1:00 pm

A Reflection on Three Losses, Father, Sister and Brother-in-Law

Cancer is not kind. Many of us have experienced the death of a loved one because of this disease. The saving grace for me was being able to say goodbye with hopes of a peaceful death for each one of them. I believe that happened, but for my sister, it took time. I learned a lot from these experiences and I believe my faith was/is strengthened for having walked alongside them in spite of my being 1500 miles away. I returned home to Vermont to do just that whenever possible.

Lunch presentations and facilitated table conversations provide a safe place to listen, remember and pray together. You may share (or not) as you are comfortable.

- All are welcome. No Charge.
- Complimentary box lunch provided for those who pre-register (free-will offerings appreciated).
- Sponsored by a collaboration of local churches, hosted by Village Presbyterian: 6641 Mission Road.

Learn More & Register

- faithandgrief.org/events
- 469-616-1795
- facebook.com/FaithandGriefKC

