

# St. John

## BEFORE THE LATIN GATE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### CONTENTS

- 3 Welcome Back...  
Welcome Home!
- 4 In Celebration,  
We Recognize  
and Applaud  
Our High  
School Seniors
- 7 A Special Place  
to Grow: The  
Mother's Day  
Out Program

## MEET JOHANNA TAYRIEN

*Finds Abundant Blessings in a Life of Faith*

When parishioner Johanna Tayrien looks back on the 55 years of marriage she shared with her husband, Bob, before his passing in 2017, two words come to mind — “wonderful” and “adventurous.” And indeed, the couple’s life together truly did encompass those two descriptions — sometimes life was wonderful, sometimes it was adventurous, and many times, it was both!

Never one to sit still for long, Bob went from working in the oil industry to buying a resort for the couple to run. From there, the Tayriens went on to own a small restaurant before Bob decided to go back to school for a degree in horticulture and landscape architecture. Each new adventure brought its own challenges and rewards, but the one that made their married life truly wonderful came in 1991.

After reading a book on the apparitions of Mary at Medjugorje, Johanna shared it with Bob. Little could the couple have known just how much that book would change their life together.

“After Bob read the book, he said, ‘We’re going to Medjugorje,’” Johanna says. “So we went, and it totally changed our lives. We quit our jobs not knowing what we were going to do. I remember we were sitting on our couch, and Bob looked at



Johanna Tayrien



## MEET JOHANNA TAYRIEN *continued from front cover*

the image of the Divine Mercy and said, 'He knows what He'll do with us. We'll work.'"

Deeply inspired by their pilgrimage to Medjugorje, the Tayriens began making rosaries, scapulars, and other religious articles to sell at Marian conferences. At one point, the television station EWTN introduced one of the couple's scapulars with an original order of one hundred items. Demand for the scapular was so tremendous that the station's first reorder was for 7,000! The Tayriens had found their calling.

"This is a totally God-driven business," Johanna says. "Bob just made the most gorgeous rosaries you've seen in your life. When we would go back to Medjugorje — we made eight trips there — the priest always said that Bob was a master at what he did. Every loop was perfect, and he taught me to do them as well.

"In our business, patience was the biggest thing, and God just showed us everything," Johanna adds. "For example, I sew, but I could not make all the scapulars. So I started praying, and God sent me someone. One of my best friends, Nancy, has sewn all of my scapulars for the last 25 years. God has given her such grace to make all of them."

While the Tayriens' business, Two Hearts Rosaries ([twoheartsrosaries.com](http://twoheartsrosaries.com)), has touched lives around the globe, Johanna is also very much a part of life right here at St. John Before the Latin

Gate. She is active in the Rosarian group and the Women's Association. And following Bob's passing in 2017, she and a fellow parishioner started the Grieving with Great Hope Ministry in our parish.

"The grief group has turned out to be the best thing I ever did in my life," Johanna says. "We're all just really good friends. And the same with the Rosarian group and the Women's Association — all of these friendships you get through God, and it all creates a beautiful parish family friendship."

Johanna hopes that all parishioners at St. John Before the Latin Gate will come to experience the loving, welcoming parish family that awaits everyone who chooses to get involved with our many ministries and activities.

Grateful for the abundant blessings that have come her way — and the 55 "wonderful" and "adventurous" years of marriage that helped make her the person she is today — Johanna gives all the glory to God and the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

"If people would just pay attention, every day, they would see that God is close to us," Johanna says. "He's always there. If you live in the present moment — not the past or the future — you are giving that day to God, and He will help you with every decision you make. You just have to ask and be patient. I just love, love, love my faith, and I want people to know that it's full of joy."

*"If people would just pay attention, every day, they would see that God is close to us. He's always there. If you live in the present moment — not the past or the future — you are giving that day to God, and He will help you with every decision you make. You just have to ask and be patient. I just love, love, love my faith, and I want people to know that it's full of joy."*

— JOHANNA TAYRIEN

## *A Letter From Our Pastor* WELCOME BACK... WELCOME HOME!

Dear Parishioners,

To those of you who have been actively participating in the life of our parish but have been forced to stay away due to the COVID-19 pandemic, welcome home!

To those of you who haven't been to church in years and decided to renew your faith, welcome back, and welcome home!

During these past few months, we have experienced some of the most challenging and unnerving times in the history of our nation and Church. As we start to emerge from the darkness of this crisis and return to Mass and parish activities and ministries, I feel blessed and excited.

Excited to see familiar faces.

Excited to see new faces.

Excited to see faces of those we haven't seen in a while but decided to come back!

In times like these, when nothing seems to make sense, I am so very glad you are here. The timing of your return is perfect, because the truth is we need Christ now more than ever.

Whether you have simply been forced to stay away while public Masses were canceled, or if you have been away from the Church



for many years, this crisis has changed us.

All of us.

We have had some extra time lately for introspection. For personal reflection. And for prayer. And perhaps during this era of isolation and social distancing, you have found yourself yearning for Christ more than ever before in the hopes of finding some meaning to all of this.

You have come to the right place.

As you walk through our doors for the first time in months — or perhaps even years — I hope you see the face of Christ in myself and in all those around you. I hope you find a welcoming parish family there to

greet you, overjoyed by your return.

As Christ tells us, from Matthew's Gospel, "For I was a stranger, you welcomed me" (Mt. 25:35).

The truth is, there really are no strangers at our parish. So as you come back home to our parish, I hope and pray you experience that same spirit of kindness and hospitality from all your fellow parishioners.

Whether you're a longtime parishioner, or someone who fell away from the Catholic Church and are now ready to become renewed in the faith, let us all remember to welcome all who enter our parish doors with open arms, smiling faces and a servant's heart.

By living out our calling as Christian stewards, we will all emerge from this dark time as a community of faith that is stronger than ever — together.

Welcome back. And welcome home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. John O'Neill  
Pastor



## In Celebration, WE RECOGNIZE AND APPLAUD OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Although the COVID-19 pandemic may have halted graduation celebrations for our Bartlesville Catholic Youth seniors, we will celebrate these students this month and take the time to applaud them for their accomplishments.

Youth Director Cassie Rebeor says she will miss these students, as they were there to help her in her first year in this position. They navigated from in-person meetings to connecting over Zoom video chat, Instagram and email.

"They are the leaders of our group, big time," Cassie says. "I will feel them being gone."

Cassie says it was difficult for the youth group teens, in ninth through 12th grades, to miss the sacraments during the pandemic.

"Our high school youth group teens strive for more," Cassie says. "They want the Eucharist. They want the Catholic faith to a level that was very new to me when I came here. It's an amazing thing to walk into. It's what we strive for."

She is excited to celebrate each of them with the rest of the congregation in July.

"A lot of these kids have been with the church since they were little ones," Cassie says. "Everyone deserves

to see them all grown up and celebrate them."

While Cassie will miss all our seniors, she is excited for what the future holds for each of them.

"I am excited for them to continue developing their adult faith," she says. "These are some great young men and women that are going to do amazing things. I am excited to see what's next and what they are going to do."

College and moving away from home can often be a trying time for young adults. Cassie is confident each of them will continue to practice their Catholic faith as they transition to college.

"Going to a Catholic school was the first initiative I took to ensure growth in my faith while in college," says Isabel Zielenski. "The strong Catholic community of Ave Maria University, will definitely be a key factor. I also plan to join clubs, such as the Mother Teresa Project, and make use of the chapel on campus. Really, with the college I chose, I will have no reason to not learn and grow in my faith."

"I'm going to a strongly Catholic university, but I also will have Catholic roommates," says Lydia Wilson. "We already have plans to go to daily Mass together as often as possible."

*continued on page 5*

"I am going to attend Mass, and Oklahoma State University has a great on-campus Catholic youth group and ministry," says Anna Terrell.

Each of our seniors shared a little about themselves, their future plans and their faith.

### Sadie Culver

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-Graduation Plans: I will be attending Oklahoma State University in the Fall to study Marketing.

Favorite Saint: St. Cecilia

### Elena Fries

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Rogers State for nursing and continue track and cross country. Advice: Make the most of the time you have.

### Jarrold Gray

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-Graduation Plans: Work in a welding shop.

Favorite Saint: St. Michael.

### Anna Jones

*Seton Home School and Tri-County Tech*

Post-Graduation Plans: Study Early Childhood Education.

Favorite Bible Verse: "I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

### Lydia Knollmeyer

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-graduation Plans: Attend the University of Texas at Dallas to major in mechanical engineering and play volleyball.

Advice: Be sure and do what you love! Time is too precious to waste on useless things.

### Joseph Korte

*Wesleyan Christian School*

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend college and meet new friends.

Advice: Love your friends, and they will love you.

### Jeffrey LaFrancois

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-Graduation Plans: Attending TU with a major of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Favorite Saint: St. George

### John Mann

*Bartlesville High School*

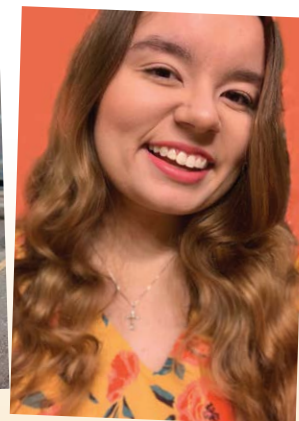
Post-Graduation Plans: Move to Florida and go to UCF.

Favorite Saint: St. Isidore of Seville

*continued on page 6*



*Gloria Castillo*



*Sadie Culver*



*Elena Fries*



*Jarrold Gray*



*Trent Horineck*



*Anna Jones*



*Lydia Knollmeyer*



*Joseph Korte*



*Jeffrey LaFrancois*



## WE RECOGNIZE AND APPLAUD OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

*continued from page 5*

### **Anna Leigh Terrell**

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend Oklahoma State University to major in psychology and become a counselor.

Advice: High school doesn't last forever. Please take nothing for granted. Cherish your friendships, spend time with the people you love, and ALWAYS tell them you love them.

### **Lydia Wilson**

*Homeschool*

Post-Graduation Plans: Attend University of Dallas to Major in biology and pre-nursing.

Advice: My best piece of advice for both faith and daily life is find friends who make you a better person and make them your chosen family.

### **Isabel Anne Zielenski**

*Bartlesville High School*

Post-Graduation Plans: Continue soccer and academic career at Ave Maria University in Florida.

Advice: You can make the most authentic, faith-filled and pure relationships with the Catholic Youth. If you are vulnerable and honest, these people will soon become your family that you

pray to God you'll have forever. These friends will always drive you to strive for greatness, but more importantly, support you when you can't. So, if you want to better yourself during your high school years, stay active, go on the trips and create a Catholic tribe.

**Gloria Castillo, Trent Horineck, Ryan King, Zek Maddock** and **Chris Ward** also graduated from Bartlesville High School.



*Zek Maddock*



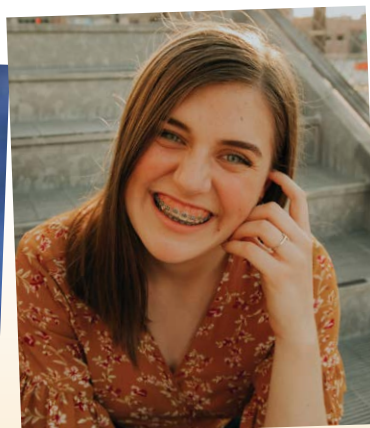
*John Mann*



*Anna Leigh Terrell*



*Chris Ward*



*Lydia Wilson*



*Isabel Anne Zielenski*

## A SPECIAL PLACE TO GROW:

# The Mother's Day Out Program

The early years of a child's education are often some of the most important. Above any particular skills they may learn, children in preschool are absorbing the fundamentals of *how* to learn, and hopefully, with that, discovering a love of learning. And here at St. John Before the Latin Gate, we hope that the children in our Mother's Day Out preschool program discover not only a love for learning, but also a love for God.

"The difference between our program and others is that it's more of a family atmosphere here," says Teka Buesser, the founder and director of the program, who also works in the classroom as a teacher. "They're like my kids when they're there. I think the kids feel that and know it's a special place for them."

Designed for infants through 4-year-olds, our Mother's Day Out program is held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:15 a.m. until 2:15 p.m., in the house across the street from St.

John's. Children can attend one day a week, or all three, year-round. The classes are divided by age, with classrooms for infants, toddlers, 2-year olds, and one for 3 and 4-year olds.

"People like that we are smaller," Teka says. "It's not a big program in a big building."

The children learn various skills and topics, based on their age group, all in preparation for beginning kindergarten. They focus on particular subjects, such as colors and shapes, but also on some of the broader skills such as sitting still, conflict resolution, following direction, and more.

"We get them ready for school," Teka says. "I love when I see things starting to click with these kids — I love seeing them absorb everything."

"Everything they'll gain from coming there will benefit them down the road — socializing with other kids, learning to adjust to other adults and new people in their lives," she adds. "That's our end goal, to get them



*Mother's Day Out is an opportunity for children to learn skills necessary for beginning school.*

ready to go to school — but in the process, we get all that other stuff in there."

Sharing the faith with  
*continued on back cover*

If you would like more information about our Mother's Day Out program, please visit [www.stjohn-bartlesville.org/mother-s-day-out](http://www.stjohn-bartlesville.org/mother-s-day-out) or contact Director Teka Buesser at 918-214-8494 or [mdo@stjohn-bartlesville.org](mailto:mdo@stjohn-bartlesville.org). Teka is also looking for people with sewing skills to help with projects throughout the year. If you're interested in helping our program in this way, please contact Teka.



715 S. Johnstone Ave. | Bartlesville, OK 74003  
Office: (918) 336-4353 | [www.stjohn-bartlesville.org](http://www.stjohn-bartlesville.org)

## THE MOTHER'S DAY OUT PROGRAM *continued from page 7*

the children is also an important aspect of the program. Teka shares a Bible story each week, and even the families who aren't Catholic regularly ask her for prayers.

"We have children who are unchurched, those from a variety of other churches, and Catholics," Teka says. "We're open to everybody. Our mission is to reach out to the families in love and bring some God into their life."

"Someone once told me, 'You may be the only God

they ever see,'" she adds. "I have that responsibility."

Teka encourages parents to consider giving their children the opportunity to spend time learning, growing and preparing for school in our Mother's Day Out program.

"I tell parents, 'Don't feel guilty because you need a break,'" Teka says. "You need time to energize, whether you go to the store or go home and read a book, or clean your house. This is their special place — they'll benefit from being here."

Our Mother's Day Out program has been closed due to the pandemic and will be reopening soon. Please check our parish website, [www.stjohn-bartlesville.org](http://www.stjohn-bartlesville.org) for updates.

### ..... LITURGY SCHEDULE .....

**Saturday:** 5 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. (en Español)

**Tuesday:** 7 a.m. (chapel) | **Wednesday:** 5:15 p.m. (church) | **Thursday:** 7 a.m. (chapel), 7 p.m. (en Español)

**Friday:** 8:15 a.m. (church during school year/non-school days in chapel)

**Reconciliation:** Saturday: 4-4:45 p.m. | Sunday: 12:30-1:15 p.m.