

It is "God, who is rich in mercy" whom Jesus Christ has revealed to us as Father: it is His very Son who, in Himself, has manifested Him and made Him known to us...In this way, in Christ and through Christ, God also becomes especially visible in His mercy; ~ St. John Paul II

Dear good people of Sacred Heart Halsted:

I am SO grateful to the Holy Spirit for choosing me as your next Pastor here in this GREAT Parish . It truly is a "Little Parish with a Big Heart" I am Humbled and Honored... While I will still remain and reside as Pastor of St. Mary in Newton, you will have my pastoral attention and solicitude. Fr. Max Blitz who has been my friend for many years will assist me in the Pastoral care of St. Mary in Newton and Sacred Heart in Halstead as the Parochial Vicar for both Parishes. Fr. Max will reside in Halstead. This assignment will begin on June 16<sup>th</sup> of 2020.



Just a little about myself... I was born in Wichita in October of 1975 and **yes** I am turning 45 this year. I went to Catholic grade school in St. Joseph in Wichita and moved to Florence in 1988 and Graduated from Marion High School in 1994. Then I went to Neosho Co. Community College in Chanute for one year. **THEN I GOT THE CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD FROM JESUS OUR SAVIOR...** I went to Conception Seminary College and graduated in 1998. Then I went to Theology School at the Pontifical College Josephinum and graduated in 2002. I was Ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2002 by Bishop Thomas Olmsted. I was Installed as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre in September of 2013 (*the funny clothes that I am wearing, and a group that supports Christians in the Holy Land*) I served as Parochial Vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in West Wichita 2002-2004. I served as Pastor of St. Rose in Council Grove and St. Anthony in Strong City 2004-2008, St. Teresa in Hutchinson 2008-2015, and Assoc. Chaplain to the Latin Mass Community of Wichita from 2014-2019. In 2015 I was appointed as the Pastor of St. Mary Parish and St. Mary Catholic Grade School in 2015. I am # 5 out of 8 brothers and sisters and my parents Anna and Lou Voelker reside in Florence Kansas.

What I enjoy for Fun and Recreation...

- Biking, Running, Lifting and Playing Chess
- Hanging out with Priests, friends, and Family
- Watching Action Movies (*Passion of the Christ & the Dark Knight Movies are my favorites*)
- Hanging out on the Beach, Cooking Steaks, chicken and fish on my grill...
- Making new friends and building relationships with people

Fr. Max and I are so excited to offer you our simple gifts and thank you all for the opportunity to serve all of you.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Nicholas Voelker, KHS  
Pastor of St. Mary Newton/Sacred Heart Halstead