

# An invitation to

# BEHOLD

On May 4, we have an opportunity to come together with our community of faith, as “one holy, catholic and apostolic Church,” in collaboration with our neighbors across the state line in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, to celebrate a public Mass followed by a time of Eucharistic adoration, procession and benediction. Many May 4 vigil Masses in the immediate Kansas City area parishes will be canceled so that our priests and laypeople can be present for BEHOLD.

In this final year of Eucharistic Revival in the United States, our local celebration will serve to rekindle our own Eucharistic amazement and love. Our love for the Mass and the Eucharist is central to our Catholic life. Quite simply, without it, there would be no Church, and we would have no life. It is hoped that it will also be an occasion to draw the inactive and those who do not yet believe into a living relationship with Christ, too.

This event was inspired by our ancestors, who on May 4, 1941, held a similar event in the same place on the occasion of the first Eucharistic Congress in Kansas City. Thousands of people gathered to “behold, the Lamb,” worship him and receive him. That generation, perhaps intuitively, knew that it would need to turn to God on the brink of a terrible world war. It’s my hope that our generation will also turn our gaze to Jesus Christ, who remains the world’s only hope and who gives himself to us completely for our life and our salvation.

So, consider this an invitation to be a part of a historic moment in the life of our Church. And bring your family and friends, including those who are not Catholic, to BEHOLD.



Most Reverend James  
V. Johnston, Jr.  
Bishop of Kansas City –  
St. Joseph

“...  
and behold,  
I am with  
you always,  
to the close  
of the age.”  
— Mt 28:20

