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# Topeka Jayhawk Club

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## ROCK CHALK MASS IN OMAHA

They say it takes a little luck to get through March Madness and into the Final Four. But there's a man at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in north Omaha who believes a little holy devotion can help, too.

Sunday (3/19), at the 10:30 Mass at his church, Father Tom Fangman, a 1985 graduate of Kansas University, led his parish in a quick rendition of KU's famed Rock Chalk Chant. "He does that during football season, too," parishioner Chuck Caniglia said. "If they're doing great, he'll go up there and act like he's gonna pray and then he'll do it."

Sunday's celebration did not catch anyone at the 110-year-old church on the northwest corner of 22nd Street and Binney by surprise. For starters, most in attendance were well aware that the second and third rounds of this year's tournament had invaded their town. Many in the pews even had on Creighton University shirts, showing support for the local team still alive in the tourney.

In addition, before the service began, one lady stepped to the front to remind everyone the Fangman's beloved Jayhawks likely were on the front of his mind. To help out, she quickly reminded everyone what the words "Rock Chalk" meant.

"Now he knows we remember his sermons," she said. Not long after that, Fangman entered the church and got right to it. Fangman invited any and all Jayhawks in the room to come up to the front to join in the chant with him... *kusports.com* and *YouTube*

## ROCK CHALK PARADES

Among other things, it seems that New Orleans is a city of parades. A short but spirited parade down Bourbon Street included two or so entries: the KU basketball band rode on one vehicle, while the spirit squad was on another.

East of NO in a hamlet in St. Bernard Parish a unique parade was staged on Sunday, the day between the Final Four games. The parade, the [Irish-Italian Parade](#), which started in 1983, is known for its marching groups that hand out flowers and its unique throws. Sure there are beads, doubloons, and moon pies; however, the real prizes are potatoes, cabbage, carrots, and if you are lucky, garlic! Parade watchers gathered it all up to stock their pantries.

In trying to get from Wal-Mart to their motorhome park, a carload of Jayhawks ended up at the tail-end of the parade behind the fire truck trying to avoid making vegetable soup. It seems that there were some Jayhawk fans along the parade route as they enjoyed cheering with the rowdy car of Jayhawks. (You had to have been there!!)

Lawrence and Mass St were within nine points of having the biggest and best parade of all. All Jayhawk fans are sure there WILL be one next year.

And lastly, the large number of Jayhawk fans in our entry in the Topeka St Patrick's Day parade was recognized with a trophy for the BEST PARTICIPATING GROUP!

## AS A MEMBER, YOU MAY ASK... *WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?*

The *Topeka Jayhawk Club* is recognized in the Jayhawk community as an influential group due to our aggressive level of involvement in several areas of giving of time and resources. Along with other money that we raise, your membership dues support various areas at KU which in turn can provide us advantages that we pass on to you.

Membership gifts: over the past years, various gifts have been chosen by the Board of Directors: a cool TJC button, a round vinyl magnet, three different license plates, coffee mug, checkbook cover, rain poncho, car flag, three different tote bags, backpack tote, shopping bags, 12 pack cooler, and an insulated water bottle.

Supplies and equipment: we have normal office supply costs such as paper and printer ink, as well as expenses for banners, posters, membership cards, and expensive postage stamps. TJC owns a printer which is used for printing this newsletter, and two laptop computers which are used by the treasurer and membership chair.

Raffle prizes: we use some money to buy raffle for raffles at the Hawk Watches, golf tournaments, bus trips, basketball luncheons, and football picnics.

Athletic scholarship: to supplement member dues, special projects were held to accumulate enough money to fund an athletic scholarship for a Topeka area athlete each year. The 2011-2012 recipient is Ian Trimble, a student athlete in track and field.

Football complex: funds were also donated to the new football complex, and we were rewarded with a conference room named in our honor.

KU Band: a former president and present Board member, Larry Tenopir, initiated the idea of helping to buy new uniforms for the KU Marching Band when the university indicated there were no discretionary funds to do this. Larry started the new uniform donation program through the *TJC* and we were the first ones to donate a uniform. We continue to give yearly to the KU band.

Billboard: the *TJC* partners with the KU Alumni Association to fund the KU billboard on I-70 west of town near the Alma rest area. This is the one that has been vandalized year after year by the purple people!

Watermelon: In August, some members gather in Lawrence after a hot practice to provide slices of watermelon to the football team.

Beads, Beads, Beads: We must buy beads for the St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Women's basketball golf tournament: for the past few years, we have sponsored a hole at the golf tournament to benefit the women's basketball team held in Lawrence.

Debate team: we donated to the National Debate champions in 2009. The champion debaters showed off their trophy as part our entry in the St. Patrick's Day Parade last year. They continue to celebrate a high national ranking in their competitions, and have been to 13 debate Final Fours.

One year we provided t-shirts to children attending the KU Relays.

A small number of extra membership gifts were donated to the Civitan Club of Topeka's charity golf tournament, TARC, and McCrite Plaza Retirement Community as raffle prizes.

In addition, we have contributed to the KU Libraries, the Kansas Honors Program, Coach Bill and Cindy Self's Assists Foundation that benefit a variety of youth initiatives in Lawrence and beyond, and to the Jala Robinson (Thomas Robinson's sis-

## Golf Tournament

Thanks to Genie Gnagi and Steven Gregoire for taking the pictures at this years event. Photos and a slideshow can be viewed and/or downloaded by going to our website, [www.topekajayhawkclub.com](http://www.topekajayhawkclub.com), and clicking on the Photos tab. Winners were: Closest to pin: Don Tuffley; Long Drive Men: Pete Desjardins; Long Drive Women: Maggie Prellwitz; Long Putts: Mike Shroyer & Bill Turner. F1 1st: Steinbock, Zientara, Martin, Wiebel; F1 2nd: Cole, Cole, Thompson, Metzler; F2 1st: Blackburn, Marshall, Blackburn, Desjardins; F2 2nd: Williamson, Williamson, Williamson, McCart; F3 1st: Wenrich, Wenrich, Wenrick, Jeffery; F3 2nd: Lowe, Hazlett, Allen, Woodbury. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all the volunteers for making this years event a huge success!