



Eviction Threat Looms with Special Session on the Horizon



Social service providers, such as Catholic Charities, are fielding more calls about people concerned that they cannot pay their rent and utility bills because of the impact of COVID-19. Tenants facing eviction proceedings could see their day in court if eviction moratoriums are lifted in the coming weeks, as some are expected to do. Missouri has received CARES Act funding to help people stay in their homes, but the money hasn't yet been distributed.

The Missouri legislature is expected to return to Jefferson

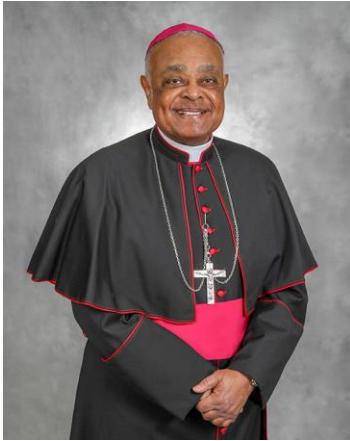
City next week to debate supplemental budget items like this, so there is some hope that this issue can begin to be addressed. Large numbers of evictions could impact the economy negatively, as people face homelessness and debts aren't paid. [For more on this issue, click here.](#)

Judge Amy Coney Barrett Confirmed to the Supreme Court



On Monday, the Senate voted to confirm Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the United States Supreme Court. Barrett was sworn in at the White House after the evening vote in the Senate. The 52-48 vote was divided almost exclusively by party, with only one Republican, Senator Susan Collins, joining the Democrats in opposing confirmation. Barrett is the sixth Catholic currently serving on the high court, joining John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Brett Kavanaugh, and Sonia Sotomayor. She joins the court in time to hear upcoming cases dealing with the Affordable Care Act and religious liberty for adoption agencies. In addition, the court will soon consider whether to review a Mississippi law that bans nearly all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Pope Francis Elevates Archbishop Wilton Gregory to Cardinal



This week, Pope Francis elevated Archbishop Wilton Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. to the status of Cardinal. Gregory, the former bishop of Belleville, Illinois, will become the first Black bishop from the United States to be given this honor. Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the USCCB, issued this statement following the appointment: "By naming Archbishop Wilton Gregory as a Cardinal, Pope Francis is sending a powerful message of hope and inclusion to the Church in the United States. As a former president of our national bishops' conference, Archbishop Gregory displayed generous and principled leadership. The naming of the first African American cardinal from the United States gives us an opportunity to pause and offer thanks for the many gifts African

American Catholics have given the Church. Please join me in praying for the continued ministry of Archbishop Gregory."

Obesity Rates Increase for Some Missouri Children



According to a recent report, 16.3 percent of Missouri children ages 10-17 are obese. That compares to the national average of 15.1 percent. The report, ["State of Childhood Obesity: Prioritizing Children's Health During a Pandemic"](#), analyzes childhood obesity and makes recommendations to prevent it. Two years ago, Missouri's childhood obesity rate was 12.7 percent.

The report states that Black and Hispanic youth have disproportionately higher obesity rates compared to white children, putting them at greater risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and other serious conditions. The report also noted disparities by income level; 21.5 percent of youth in households making less than the federal poverty level were obese.

Some policy suggestions on combating obesity during the pandemic include supporting additional food stamp benefits and allowing school meal programs the flexibility to serve meals outside the school setting. Increasing food stamp benefits would allow access to healthier food options for children.

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel Exhibition Coming to St. Louis



Starting November 6, visitors will be able to walk through the Sistine Chapel without leaving Missouri. "Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition" is coming to the America's Center in downtown St. Louis through January 10. The exhibition will feature reproductions of the Sistine Chapel ceiling paintings in their original sizes and will allow visitors to explore the artwork up close. [More information about the exhibit, along with information on purchasing tickets, can be found on the Explore St. Louis website.](#)

Remembering "Obscure" Saints on All Saints Day



Each year, we celebrate All Saints Day on November 1. [In this 2018 St. Louis Review column](#) by Archbishop Emeritus Robert Carlson, we are reminded that you do not have to be famous to become holy. Learn more about St. Amand of Flanders, the patron saint of all who produce beer, St. Theodore Guerin, who opened the first Catholic women's liberal arts college in the United States, and more!