

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

July 8, 2018

Dear parishioners,

When Father Carson asked me to write the article for the bulletin this week, I found myself with a little bit of writer's block. Which is always odd for me, because usually my problem isn't coming up with something to say but rather discerning what not to say when my brain decides it wants to spew words out a mile a minute. It was while discerning what to write that I figured out what I should write on, discernment!

Now when most people hear discernment it's usually in the context of a religious vocation. Someone who is considering becoming a religious sister, brother, or priest is usually referred to as a discerner. Discernment, however, doesn't just refer to figuring out if one has a religious vocation but rather touches on any decision we make in which we are looking for the Lord's guidance.

When a young man or woman is trying to decide whether their significant other is the one, they are discerning. When someone is trying to figure out whether they should take a new job and they seek to make a decision they are discerning. When I am at Los Portales and I am trying to decide between a Chimichanga or Flautas, even then I am discerning.

We have these moments in our lives where we are forced to make decisions whether big or small. Decisions that, thanks to the grace of God, we have the free will to make. Now I don't know about all of you, though I hope to get know y'all better this summer, but when I am trying to decide on a decision I usually ask as many people as possible. Sometimes I like to get someone else's perspective on the matter. Which in some instances is helpful, like when trying to decide what to order? However, there are some decisions in life where we should bring in the big guns and ask God for his advice.

It may seem straightforward to ask God for his guidance, but if I were to count the amount of times I have made a big decision and forgot to pray about it I would need to use my toes. Sometimes we feel like we have it all figured out, like we've got this and often that is true. However sometimes it feels like we need that extra bit of help and advice, and that is where discerning with God comes into play.

The easiest way to discern that I have found is simple prayer, just taking our worries and joys to God and asking for Him to send a spirit of discernment down upon us to help us take stock of the situation. As we pray for guidance, we need to remember that prayer is a dialogue and not a monologue. For me this can be a struggle because I like to talk and sometimes, even in prayer, I am talking when I should be listening.

The truth is, discernment is important, especially when the decision can be life altering or changing. Prayer should be an important step of the process. Thankfully we have many ways to go about doing so, whether it be making a Holy Hour, Lectio Divina, the Rosary, and even simple meditative prayer. There are other resources available too, such as spiritual reading, reading the lives of the Saints, and even Spiritual Direction.

Discernment can be easy and discernment can be hard, but it is worthwhile to ask the Lord for guidance. Discernment isn't just for those of us who are studying to be priests either. Moments of discernment are there for all of us, whether it be the faithful, whether it be those of us seeking a religious vocation, and even our beloved priests.

It is my hope that we can grow together as a community of prayer, loving and serving the Lord. I am not sure how many times Father Carson will ask me to write the bulletin article, but I hope to continue this discussion on discernment and prayer with y'all in this space.

Until next time,

Will Banowsky

Seminarian

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



Mass Schedule

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018

12:10pm †Rev. Msgr. William H. Reid/Knights of Columbus

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018

12:10pm Spec. Int. Norma H./Chris

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

12:10pm †Loretta Willoughby/Tim & Genny Coffman

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

9:30am †Mona Leven/Ken & Susan Horinek
(St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK)

4:00pm †Elizabeth Ingram/Rich & Mollie Koenig
(Via Christi Chapel)

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2018

7:00am †Diane Simpkins/Tina Allen

12:10pm †Regina Switzer/Linda Cremers

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018

9:00am Spec. Int. The Addicted

5:00pm †Mike Pankratz/His Family

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018

8:00am †Oley Bullard/Kathleen Billington

9:30am †MASS (St. Francis Church, Newkirk)

11:00am Spec. Int. Journey King/Larry King

1:00pm MASS (Spanish Mass)

7:00pm †Marlene Stara/House Supervisors

Weekly Income Report

July 1, 2018

Weekly Collection

\$12,845.50

Peter's Pence

\$ 1,572.00

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Week Ahead July 9-15, 2018

Monday		
Tuesday	6:30pm	SUMMER BIBLE STUDY , Byrnes Room
Wednesday	7:00am	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY , The Perk
	6:30pm	YOUTH GROUP , Byrnes Room
Thursday		
Friday	7:30am	ADORATION , Chapel
	10:30am	CONFESSION , Church
Saturday	3:30pm	CONFESSION , Church
Sunday	6:00pm	CONFESSION , Church



Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! Our contributions will be combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis provide essential relief to people in need.

If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give, you may go online and visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence for more information.

St. Mary's Catholic School is accepting enrollment for Pre-K through 8th grades for the 2018-2019 school year. Please stop by the school office and speak with the school principal, Sara Hunsaker or the secretary, Leanna Rexford or you may call 765-4387 for more information. *Scholarships available.*

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS: Please join Fr. Carson at Sun 'n Fun Thursday, July 19th for a fun evening of appreciation for your service at our Masses. **There is no cost to you.** Parents, you are invited for a cookout dinner of hamburgers & hotdogs at 7PM at the park pavilion. If you would like to help Fr. Carson chaperone this evenings' events we ask that you call the office at 765-7794. Please meet at Sun 'n Fun from 4pm-8pm. Letters with permission Forms were mailed. We need your forms in the office no later than July 17th if you plan on going!

Please Pray For those who need prayers:

Mary Brown, Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Maggie Hahn, Dave & Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Ester Scobee, Jeanne Glaser, John Coffman, Patsy Hastings, Brooks Ditmore, Mary McFarland, Vickie Johnston, Vince Mattione, Reed Alward, Bennie Westerman, Keith & Sue Behara, Shari Beck, Eileen Spellman, Candy Bowlin, Ginger Younger, Dawn Oscarson, Darrel Neely, Lisa Sloan, Mary Kassen, Keith Goss, Linda Courtney, Karla Rojas, Maribelle Rojas, Vincent Farruggia, Patricia Evans, Karen Larimer, George F. Brown, Eva Boberg, Chris Bulling, Sid Kothe, Martha Begwin, Lucille Fleming, Edmund Young, Carol Wilson, Travis Beekman, Holly Kerr, Rachel Stephenson-Spellman, Robert Brown, Genevia Kitchen, Andy Chaney, Palka Wladyslaw, Linda Gray, Connie Smith, Melissa Smith, Christy Vice, Melissa Swords, Pake Clinesmith, Teresa Epperson, Benita Vap, Tommy Gray, Sue Rozell, Ted Thomas, Elaine Gray Calahan, Todd Hatchett, Mike Majoros, Gae Meyers, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Mike Cofer, Dawsyn Kirkes, Ramona Coutre, Kathe Jo Johnson, Lois Frisch, Denver Gearhart, Terry Stewart, Judy Waters, Lynda Howard, Joel Rivera, Marian Jeter, Jaycee Colclasure, Shelly Behar, Gabriel Dietz, Jay Underwood, Jill Kestler, Carol Evans, Allen Arthurs, Mary Knori, Mary Austin, Hannah Boyer, Jesus Cvarrillo, Logan Blakey, Asher Dailey, Betty Dimond, Terri Bechtel, Ramona Lantz, Phil McCartney, Tyson Rutter, Martha Robinson, Diego Blanco, Mary Boor, Mark Ramsey, Nathan Bickle, Betty Pino

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the souls Virginia Coats, sister of Donna Glaser, for Ron Haney, brother-in-law of Mary Haney and for Joe Lechtenberg. May God grant them eternal peace.



Friendship Feast is this Tuesday from 4:30-6PM at First Christian church. With summer travels we are sometimes short on volunteers, so please let Lisa know if you are available to help!



JH/SH Youth Group is this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM in the Byrnes room. Steubenville participants will pick up their shirts at this time and we will make rosary bracelets.

Please keep our 49 youth and chaperones in your prayers next weekend as they travel to Missouri for the annual Steubenville youth conference from July 13-16th.

Celebrating 125 years of Catholic Faith in North Central Oklahoma

The first Catholic Church in Ponca City, OK was dedicated St. Felix in May 27, 1894. We would like to gather many stories in regards to our Catholic Faith in Ponca City that were told to you by your parents or that you yourself have experienced and compile these in a book for our celebration. Memories of the School or Church are welcomed and needed. Also, if you would like to join the committee that is being put together to organize this celebration please contact Maria in the Parish Office at (580) 765-7794. Watch the bulletin as more information will be shared.