

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

August 5, 2018

Dear parishioners,

This last week, from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> I was privileged to help staff the Archdiocese's annual Quo Vadis day retreat. The Quo Vadis day retreat is a discernment retreat for young men in high school and college who are considering a priestly vocation. It gives them tools, tips, and prayers to help them discern their calling in life. The name for the retreat, Quo Vadis, is Latin for where are you going. It comes from an encounter that Saint Peter had with our Lord in Rome when the persecutions began happening in the middle part of the first century. Saint Peter was leaving Rome on the Appian Way, trying to get out of Rome to escape execution when he encountered Jesus on the road headed towards Rome. Saint Peter asked him, "Quo Vadis Domine?" "Where are you going Lord?" Jesus responded to Saint Peter, "to Rome to be crucified again." This gave Peter the courage to turn around and accept his martyrdom, his own crucifixion.

One of the things that really struck out to me is just the number of young men, from freshmen in high school to juniors in college, who were open to exploring the call to the priesthood. There were around 30 young men on retreat willing to open their hearts to the call of God, to where he might be leading them. In a way they were asking their own questions to Christ our Lord on their personal path of life. "Quo Vadis Domine?" Their response was perhaps, "To the altar to lay down my life in the priesthood." Their response could even have been, "To the altar, to join my life with yours and another in the sacrament of marriage." These young men had an openness to God's calling, knowing that either way the Lord would lead them to a rewarding and fulfilling vocation, a life filled with joy, and a life that is centered around Christ, around his love, with faith and trust in Him. Two vocations, conferred by two separate sacraments, yet both are centered on Christ, and take place in front of the altar of sacrifice, the altar where at every mass He comes to us in the form of bread and wine, transforming them into his body and blood, soul and divinity. "Quo Vadis Domine?" "To the altar, to give my life for you, because I love you."

We live in an age where authentic vocation is challenged. This is an age where young people don't see the need for marriage. An age where it can be discouraging for young men and women to contemplate, pray, consider, and seek religious life. Yet we as a Church, as people of God need young men and women to seek these vocations, to find their vocation, what God is calling them to do, so that the Church can thrive. We need young women to be free to consider the religious life, to seek the religious life, to pray for the Church, serve the people of God, bring joy to everyone they meet. We need young men to consider the priesthood, to go to seminary, to get ordained, to bring us the sacraments. We need young couples to properly discern marriage, to be joined together in marriage, man, woman, and God. We need the marriages to be fruitful, to bring life into this world, to raise families, whether through biological children and also by adopting and welcoming children into their lives and vocation that way; to raise these children in the Church so that the Church can thrive.

So as the faithful what do we need to do? We need to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, consecrated single life. Prayer is a powerful tool.

We need to pray that young men and women be open to the call and answer the call to serve the Lord in these capacities. We need to encourage the youth, encourage them by showing them the beauty and joy present in a sacramental marriage, in religious life, in the priesthood. We must also not be afraid to speak to our youth when we see qualities in them that highlight a specific vocation. If you see a young woman who you think has the qualities of a great nun, let her know. If you see a young man who you think would be a great priest, encourage him.

The Church needs her people to live out authentic vocations to thrive. As a former fundraiser for Catholic Charities I often joked that we already had enough money to successfully fund the annual appeal, it was just in the people's wallets. I think the same can be said about our future priests, monks, friars, nuns, fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, etc. We already have enough people called to the vocations we need, they are just in the pews, in our Catholic Schools, our RE programs, our public schools, our homes. We need to pray, encourage our youth to live holy and faithful lives. We ourselves need to live holy and faithful lives. Do not be afraid to approach a young couple you think should faithfully discern marriage, or a young woman you think might have a religious vocation, or a young man you think might have a priestly vocation. Do not be afraid to approach them and ask them, "Quo Vadis?" "Where are you going?"

*Will Banowsky*

Seminarian

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



## Mass Schedule

### MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018

12:10pm †Laverne Berendzen/Paul & Nancy Whitney

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018

12:10pm †Mona Leven/Michel Gray

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018

12:10pm †Rev. Joseph Mazaika/Knights of Columbus

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

9:30am †Mike Pankratz/His Family  
(St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK)

4:00pm †Ed Clark/Mary Tapp  
(Via Christi Chapel)

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

7:00am Spec. Int. Maria Villines

12:10pm †Fr. Jack Valenta/Barry Frick

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2018

9:00am †Bill Hermes/The Will

5:00pm †Wendell Ogden/Don & Colleen Schiltz

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018

8:00am †Martin Steichen/Stana & Maria Villines

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

11:00am †Deceased Members of the Bellinghausen Family

1:00pm MASS (Spanish Mass)

7:00pm †Roselynn Utech/Her Children

### Weekly Income Report

July 29, 2018

Weekly Collection	\$9,554.94
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ 1,441.00

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - - Liturgical Minister

**Training:** Fr. Carson is holding training for new and seasoned Altar Servers, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The date is **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the **ONLY** training that Fr. Carson will hold, so don't miss out, especially if you are wishing to become a Communion Minister as commissioning will be on Christ the King Sunday, November 25, 2018.

**We have an open time slot on the Friday Adoration schedule from 12:00-1:00 PM.** Please consider signing up and spending time each week with the Lord in Adoration. If you are concerned that you won't be able to attend every week, don't let that keep you from signing up! A substitute call list is available. Please contact Genesta King at [580-718-0838](tel:580-718-0838).

### Elementary Faith Formation News!

Please prayerfully consider helping with Faith Formation this school year. We are in need of catechists (teachers), assistants, hall monitors, substitutes, and material set-up volunteers. Please call Bridgit if you are interested or email [drestmarys@gmail.com](mailto:drestmarys@gmail.com).

### Faith Formation Sign-Ups

**August 11-12th**

**Please come downstairs after all Masses to sign up.**

**Registration forms are also available on-line and in the office.**

## The Week Ahead August 6-12, 2018

Monday	7:00pm	KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS, KofC Room
Tuesday	6:30pm	SUMMER BIBLE STUDY, Byrnes Room
Wednesday	7:00am	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY, The Perk
	6:30pm	CATECHIST ORIENTATION, McGurk
	6:30pm	7-12 RE TEACHER MEETING, Byrnes
Thursday	12:30pm	CPR TRAINING, Byrnes Room
	6:30pm	BUILDING MAINTENANCE, Office
Friday	7:30am	ADORATION, Chapel
	4:30pm-6:30pm	SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE & PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING, School & Parish Hall
Saturday	10:00am	SAN JUAN DIEGO ORIENTATION
	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	6:00pm	CONFESSION, Church

Bill (William) and Annette Sweeney, former long-time parishioners of St. Mary's, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this August 24. Their children, Paul and Jenna, would love to organize a "shower of blessings and well-wishes." If you were friends with them and would like to send a card, share fun memories, reminisce over a photo, or in general let them know what you and your family have been up to, please contact Jenna via email at [Sweeney50thAnniversary@gmail.com](mailto:Sweeney50thAnniversary@gmail.com) or telephone (303-394-1823).



There will be no youth group activities on **August 8th and 15th**.

Our annual Lock-In will be held on Friday and Saturday, **August 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> from 8PM-7AM**. This is a



super fun all night party for 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade teens, with food, music, dancing, and games! Please make plans to join us and bring an appetizer or

dessert to share.



Our **Faith Formation program** (previously known as **RE**) will begin with a social on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30-8PM.

Please plan to join us for this fun night as we reconnect with past friends and make new ones! All youth are asked to bring a snack to share.

The Minister Schedule for the months of **September, October** and **November** is being compiled. Please call the office with dates you are unavailable to serve, if you want to be put on the new schedule OR if you need to be removed from the schedule. Thank you for your stewardship!

## St. Mary's Catholic School

### To Love God and our Neighbor

From preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, St. Mary's Catholic School provides a safe and nurturing environment for your child to flourish and grow! Contact Sarah Hunsaker, Principal at (580) 765-4387 for enrollment questions. Mrs. Sarah Hunsaker, Principal, along with Fr. Carson will be hosting a **parent "orientation" Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm and 6:00pm and again on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.** This will be a very informative meeting about our upcoming school year. Parents, please plan to attend one of these orientations.



St. Mary's Catholic School 4th grade visited Rose Hill School this past school year. They learned how it was to be a student back in 1910.

**Please Pray For those who need prayers:** Mary Brown, Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Dave & Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Jeanne Glaser, Patsy Hastings, Mary McFarland, Bennie Westerman, Keith & Sue Behara, Eileen Spellman, Linda Courtney, Karla Rojas, Maribelle Rojas, Patricia Evans, George F. Brown, Martha Begwin, Teresa Epperson, Tommy Gray, Ted Thomas, Elaine Gray Calahan, Todd Hatchett, Mike Majoros, Gae Meyers, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Mike Cofer, Dawsyn Kirkes, Ramona Coutre, 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, Kenneth Cookson, Kaye Cunningham, Fred Spellman, Marilyn Tharp