

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

December 16, 2018

## Dear Parishioners:

Happy Gaudete Sunday! I hope that your Advent is going well and that you are preparing to welcome the newborn Lord by watching and waiting in eager anticipation. Advent is halfway over, so don't waste this important liturgical season focusing on just material things. Remember a gift of a pure heart is the best gift you can give to God. So rejoice today, that our salvation is near at hand! St. Augustine speaks about John the Baptist decreasing himself so that Christ may increase. Let's follow his lead...let's empty ourselves of all pride and vanity so that Christ can reign in our hearts and souls.

## From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

*The Voice is John, the Word is Christ*

John is the voice, but the Lord *is the Word who was in the beginning*. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart. However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine. In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find a place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine. When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: *The word ought to grow, and I should diminish?* The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: *My joy is complete*. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts. Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out. Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. *I am not the Christ*, he said, *nor Elijah, nor the prophet*. And the question came: *Who are you, then?* He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord*, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him." *To prepare the way* means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory. If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he

acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself. He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

Have a good week, and know that you're all in my prayers!

In Christ,

*Fr. Carson*

## Mass Intentions

### for the Week



#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

12:10pm †Mary Brown/Dean & Maria Tate

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

12:10pm †Don Gray/Michel Gray

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

8:20am †Len Gawel/Oklahoma State Knights of Columbus

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

9:30am People of the Parish

(*St. Francis - Newkirk*)

4:00pm †Patrick Boyle/Del Kotarski

(*Via Christi Village Chapel*)

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018

7:00am Spec. Int. Tim & Genny Coffman/John Hercyk

12:10pm †Martha Robinson/Mother of Mercy Rosary Group

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018

8:00am †Gary Gregg/Marilyn Gregg

5:00pm †Jeanne Specht/Ramona Lantz

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:00am †Delmer Houser/Peggy O'Leary

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

11:00am †David Geubelle/Don & Colleen Schiltz

1:00pm MASS (*Spanish Mass*)

7:00pm †Deceased Members of the Nalepa Family

## Weekly Income Report

December 9, 2018

Weekly Collection

\$20,892.60

### Please Pray For those who need prayers:

Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Jeanne Glaser, Patsy Hastings, Bennie Westerman, Keith & Sue Behara, Eileen Spellman, Linda Courtney, George F. Brown, Martha Begwin, Teresa Epperson, Ted Thomas, Elaine Gray Calahan, Todd Hatchett, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Shelly Behar, Jay Underwood, Jill Kestler, Mary Knori, Mary Austin, Hannah Boyer, Logan Blakey, Asher Dailey, Betty Dimond, Tyson Rutter, Diego Blanco, Mary Boor, Mark Ramsey, Betty Pino, Kaye Cunningham, Fred Spellman, Mary Hyatt, Keith Goss, Carol Stewart, Raye Lynne Brown, Vivian Rose Graeff, Sue Odom, Barbara Spore, Jim Smith, Owen Greer, Scarlett Wimer, Alicia Aguilar, Audrey Ginn, Bill Hyatt, Regina Cadeñanes, Judy Cocci, Mike Gray, Lorraine McKain, Marcus Roggenbuck, Dakota Miller, Christopher Roggenbuck, Linda Cross, Mike & Jerry McGoldrich, Brian McCallen

Our contribution books will be closed as of December 31, 2018. If you need to finish up your pledge for the year, we would appreciate your payment by that date. Thank you.

**YOUTH NEWS:** There will be no Faith Formation this week, but all youth are encouraged to attend the Parish Mission this Monday and Tuesday at 6PM.

# GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Week Ahead

## December 17-23, 2018

Monday	6:00pm	PARISH MISSION, Church
	6:00pm	CHILD CARE, Preschool Building
Tuesday	4:00pm	PARISH MISSION, Church
	6:00pm	PARISH MISSION, Church
	6:00pm	CHILD CARE, Preschool Building
	6:00pm	CHILD CARE, Preschool Building
Wednesday	7:00am	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY, The Perk
	12:00pm	FACULTY/STAFF LUNCH, McGurk Room
	12:00pm	TREE of LOVE WRAPPING, Parish Hall
	4:00 to 6:00pm	TREE of LOVE PICK UP, Parking Lot
	6:00pm	FACULTY/STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY
Thursday		SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS
Friday		OFFICE CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS
	7:30am	NO ADORATION
	10:30am	NO CONFESSION
Saturday	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	6:00pm	CONFESSION, Church

### Advent Mission

#### "Prayer During Advent"

Our Parish Advent Mission will be presented by Mr. Jim Beckman, Executive Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The Mission will be held Monday & Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6PM in the Church. Day Care will be provided. There will also be a 4pm session Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, No Day Care for this session.

### CHRISTMAS TREE OF LOVE



**PLEASE** have your gifts in the office **NO LATER than Monday, December 17!** Your help in wrapping these gifts is most welcomed. We will begin wrapping them at 12:00pm in the Parish

Hall **THIS Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks again for your amazing generosity! *Parish & Family Life Committee*

**Rest in Peace:** Please pray for the soul of John Welsh, brother of Sr. Diane Bass. May God grant him eternal peace.

**Religious give thanks.** "This money is pure gift," writes a religious sister of the support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. "It enables us to continue providing care for our elderly sisters." Your gift to last week's collection helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continue to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

**RCIA: We will return to our studies on January 8th. Have a safe and blessed Christmas!**



### Catholic Charities

Enid Regional Office, welcomes parishioners, staff and family members to phone us for short-term counseling needs **provided in Ponca City.** Our licensed staff can provide 6 sessions at no cost to those wishing to address emotional stressors. Referrals will be provided when more specialized services are needed. Call 580-237-7352 for more information.

## Christmas Schedule

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**12:10pm Daily MASS-Chapel**

**Christmas Eve 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 6:30pm Mass-St. Francis, Newkirk**

**Carols begin at 11:30pm**

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**Christmas Day 12:00am and 10:00am**

**9:30am Mass at St. Francis**

*Oh Holy Night*

### Mary, The Holy Mother of God MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:**

**12:10pm Daily Mass-Chapel**

**6:00pm Mass, St. Mary's (Spanish)**

**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**8:00am & 11:00am, St. Mary's**

**9:30am, St. Francis**

### Celebrating 125 years of Catholic Faith in North Central Oklahoma



The first Catholic Church in Ponca City, OK was dedicated St. Felix on 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.



**Elementary Faith Formation:** Have a safe and blessed Christmas break. We will see you back on January 9th at 6:30.