

Dear parishioners,
My mom was so excited this week when she saw the first day of school photo on Facebook with myself, Fr. Carson, and Ms. Hunsaker. She reposted it and shared it with emojis and emotions enough to make a young man blush. And I'm tan. So that's no easy task.

Moms and dads love this: first day of school photos! Mom has asked me every year in college and seminary to send her a first day of school picture, and every year I begrudgingly ask a friend of mine to take a photo of me so I can text it along. And as much as I love my mom, I never really understood why she cared so much.

I was reflecting on that this week again as school started up here at St. Mary's. And whether it's your children or your grandchildren (or even you yourself) going to grade school or high school or college, the beginning of the school year's probably on your mind too! "What's the new year going to be like? What will my children accomplish this year? What new challenges will I face?" Now, as I cross to the other side of the academic equation (no longer a student myself), I see how meaningful these questions can be. They fill us with hope for a brighter future built up by our children.

The scene that came to mind in reflecting on the first day of school is Mary and Joseph finding the child Jesus. It's the fifth Joyful Mystery of the Holy Rosary from the Gospel of Luke (2:41-52), and therein we see two parents who experience many of the same emotions you might be experiencing as the school year begins.

Mary and Joseph were busy for the festival, and they lost the child Jesus (v. 42-44): While hopefully no children have been physically lost at the close of the summer (!), you might notice a preoccupation with the details of the new school year (clothes, school supplies, lunch boxes, etc.) But where are your children emotionally and spiritually?

Mary and Joseph find Jesus answering the questions of the teachers, and they are astonished (v. 46-49): Often times we fall into the error of nostalgia. We fear how our relationships change with others as we grow up, and this, of course, can be a major fear of parents. I think Mary and Joseph might have experienced some of that fear too in seeing their baby boy grow up. Jesus confronts the teachers and begins to reveal himself to the world. How do they respond? How do you respond when your children grow up before your eyes?

Mary and Joseph do not understand, but Christ grew up and was obedient to them. Mary pondered all these things in her heart (v. 50-52): Kids, make sure you're obedient to your parents, and parents, make sure you pray for your kids. No matter what! Mary and Joseph's

response to their son is one of love, not because he is God, but because he is theirs. And as Mary pondering of Christ makes her a better mother, so too does prayer make all parents better parents! How do you pray and how do you pray for your children?

I'm so excited to be with everyone for a new school year! May God immensely bless us all as this year begins, no matter where school is for you.

In Christ,

Fr. Zak

Masses for the week...

- MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019**
12:10pm †Tom & Leonard Dennison/Wayne & Travis Hazen
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019**
12:10pm †Martin Gavin/Michel Gray
- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019**
8:20am †Lelah Tracy/Maggie Schieber
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019**
9:00am People of the Parish
(St. Francis, Newkirk, OK)
4:00pm †Fr. McSherry/Fr. Carson
- FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019**
7:00am †Mary Haney/Stan & Maria Villines
12:10pm †Frances Oldfield/Ladd & Sue Oldfield
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019**
9:00am People of the Parish
5:00pm †Theresa Bohon/Sue Rice
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019**
8:00am Spec. Int. Tim Coffman/Trey & Deb Beard
9:30am MASS (St. Francis Church, Newkirk)
11:00am † Marcus Roggenbuck/Kathleen Billington
1:00pm Spec. Int. Jorge A Gamboa V/Nubia Gamboa/People of the Parish (Spanish Mass)
7:00pm People of the Parish



Elementary Faith Formation K-6
Welcome back to Faith Formation!
Join us for our first class on Wednesday, August 21st. Meet your class in the school building, and get ready to Discover! our faith. We have new programs for our children this year and we are excited to Discover! with you! All children grades K-6 are welcome! Bring a friend! Contact Bridgit at 580-382-6010 with questions.

LOOKING ahead... August 19-25, 2019

Monday	6:00pm	FALL FEST MEETING, McGurk Room
Tuesday		
Wednesday	8:20am 6:30pm	CAZES BAPTISMS, Church K-12 FAITH FORMATION
Thursday		
Friday	10:30am 8:00pm	CONFESSION, Chapel YOUTH LOCK-IN, Gym
Saturday	7:00am 3:30pm	END YOUTH LOCK-IN CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	6:30pm	CONFESSION, Church

Historical Church Tour with Fr. Carson
Bring a friend and learn about the beautiful artwork, windows, and sacred objects in the church. Tuesday, August 27th, 7 pm. All are welcome. This is a public event. Invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Weekly Income Report August 11, 2019

Weekly Collection	\$13,947.50
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All 7-12th grade youth are invited to join us this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM for a Faith Formation social. Please bring your completed consent forms and a snack to share!

The annual high school lock-in is this Friday at 8PM and will end at 7AM on Saturday. All 9-12th grade teens should make plans to join us for a night of fun and fellowship! Don't forget to bring a snack to share!

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, Eileen Spellman, Linda Courtney, George F. Brown, Martha Begwin, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Asher Dailey, Tyson Rutter, Betty Pino, Kaye Cunningham, Vivian Rose Graeff, Sue Odom, Barbara Spore, Alicia Aguilar, Dakota Miller, Brian McCallen, Janet Wilson, James Hess, Gabriel Dietz, Ed O'Neill, Don Raulston, Angi Jones, Marlene Taylor, Thomas Taylor, Brent Roberson, Jillian Beekman, Joe Badley, Sandy Hudack, Pamela Cline, Sherry Burgell, Ben Delapaz, Tom Courtney, Mary Knori, Nick Patterson, Jr., Helen Bloxsom, Jill Kestler, Dean Tate, Bertha Smith, Bill Bridges, Beverly Phillips, Wendel Hacker, David Courtney, Joyce Johnson, Karla Carter, Joyce Reutter, Dennis Guinn, Genevia Kitchen

Abuse of Minors Pastoral Response Hotline
(405) 720-9878

For the safety of children and the healing of victims, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City provides an Abuse of minors Pastoral Response Hotline. The Archdiocesan Assistance Coordinator, who will offer to meet with the caller in person, if the caller so desires, will answer calls to this number. Calls are confidential with the following exceptions:

- Any allegation of sexual abuse concerning those who currently are minors must be reported to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (800-522-3511) as required by Oklahoma State Law and Archdiocesan policy
- Any allegation of sexual misconduct must be shared with the proper archdiocesan authorities.

R.C.I.A. Tuesday, September 3rd, 7:00pm will be a meet & greet in the Parish Hall for all interested in the Journey of Faith Class. Do you know anyone who is interested in our Catholic Faith?

WHO TYPICALLY ATTENDS RCIA?

- Friends interested in the Catholic Church,
- Anyone who has not gone to Church but is looking for a Faith Experience,
- Inactive Catholics who wish to return to the Sacraments,
- Those separated from the Sacraments for any reason, e.g. not married in the Church or re-married,
- Adults who have missed Confirmation,
- The Curious,
- Active Catholics wishing to increase their understanding of the Catholic Faith on an adult level,
- etc...

Contact Bridgit Coleman at (580) 382-6010.

Women's Bible Study: "Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance" by Jeff Cavins begins Thursday, September 5th at 10 am in the McGurk Room. Call to reserve a book or register online at <https://study.ascensionpress.com/location/ponca-city-ok-st-mary-church> Group book rates available for orders through August 23rd by calling Bridgit at 382-6010. Scholarships are available.