

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

September 1, 2019

Dear parishioners,
 I assume you're back reading this article because of the exciting news I promised in last week's bulletin article, so I won't keep you waiting. Or will I? I don't know. I probably won't, but you never know. Speaking of knowing, did you know that the Amazon River is the largest, by volume, river in the world? It holds 20% of the world's fresh water, and the next 10 largest rivers could fit inside the Amazon. Wow! Anyways, why was I talking about that? Oh yeah! Exciting news! In looking to improve our campus, both physically and aesthetically, and to make our school look like the institution it is, namely, an amazing school where we form children's minds, bodies and souls into an *alter Christus*, I have decided to start a little bit of construction here at St. Mary's so that our church and school, but mainly our school, can have a bit of a facelift. Before I begin telling about the construction, just a note about where the money is coming from for this project and why. Many of you will remember when the endowment was started for the church and the school. In the endowment information, it said "It is the hope and dream of this parish that the donations to this foundation will expand over time to a point where the income earned will provide funding for special projects and items which would normally be difficult, if not impossible, to acquire." I feel that this is the kind of special project that the endowment was made for, and I'm excited to break ground on this project on September 27th. This project will include replacing the chain link fence with a wrought iron, brick column fence, taking down the car port and building a pavilion, building large signage where the garden and birdhouse currently are, and taking down the tin awning and building a brick enclosure around the gym entrance. I know that there has been much effort put forth in building all of these separate items, and my mere thanks can never adequately express my gratefulness for the utility that these brick and mortar projects have provided. However, if we aren't moving forward, then we will be left in the dust, and no one wants that for our beloved school. So, it is my intention, with the finance council's approval, to move forward with a couple of special projects to improve the utility and the aesthetics of the school and the campus. The first project will last from September 27th to May 15th. This is a large enough project where it can't be completed during the summer, so this project will last during the school year. Keep an eye on the bulletin and our website/social media for updates on how this project will affect parking and pick up/drop off. Wait, did you say a first project? There's more than one?! Why, yes, there is! After the fence/pavilion/sign/enclosure project is completed, and as soon as school is out, we are going to be gutting and remodeling all of the restrooms in St. Mary's school. The restrooms are from the 60's and this project is, by far, the one that I have had the most requests to start, so over this summer we will be granting your (many) requests! All of our alumni, from classes dating back to the 60's, remember these restrooms well, and while I do enjoy nostalgia, we have to keep up with our facilities if we're going to remain viable in the future. In fact, our last 8th grade class to graduate, when asked what they would do to improve St. Mary's all responded with "change the bathrooms." Obviously this will cost a bit of money, but praise God the endowment will be able to cover that as well. Again, based on what I have read, projects like these are what the endowment was made for, and I'm thankful to all of the parishioners who have generously donated to the endowment to make these projects possible. Many of you might be wondering, "Well, why are we doing these projects instead of the parish hall?" The reason is we're using our return from the OCMD campaign to pay for the parish hall, and we need to wait a couple more years for our returns to add up to where we can start. Don't worry...I haven't forgotten! The renderings of the first project are in the back of church, and I'm excited to start on this project that will

change how our campus looks, operates and feels. As always, I'm available to answer any questions you might have. Just shoot me an email! And please pray for smooth sailing for both of these projects! Know that you're in my prayers, and have a good week!

In Christ,

Fr. Carson

Masses for the week...

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019**
 12:10pm †Theresa Bohon/Tom & Rosanne Rhodes
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**
 12:10pm †James Foley/Michel Gray
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**
 8:20am Spec. Int. Unknown Benefactor
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**
 9:00am †Gerald Luis/Shirley Luis
(St. Francis, Newkirk, OK)
 4:00pm †Bill Stingley/Charlene Stingley
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019**
 7:00am †Mary Haney/Stam & Maria Villines
 12:10pm †Ginger Reinert/Joe & Alma Reinert
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019**
 9:00am People of the Parish
 5:00pm †Harry Berendzen/Paul & Nancy Whitney
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019**
 8:00am †Zulema Rendon/David Rendon
 9:30am MASS *(St. Francis Church, Newkirk)*
 11:00am †Lelah Tracy/Sheila Rahme
 1:00pm People of the Parish *(Spanish Mass)*
 7:00pm People of the Parish

LOOKING ahead... September 2-8, 2019

Monday	LABOR DAY - OFFICES CLOSED - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	7:00pm RCIA OPEN HOUSE, Parish Hall
Wednesday	9:30am BIRTHDAY BRUNCH, McGurk Room
	6:00pm ADORATION, Chapel
	6:30pm K-12 FAITH FORMATION Mass
Thursday	10:00am WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, McGurk Rm
	6:30pm SACRAMENT PREP, McGurk room
Friday	9:00am STAFF MEETING, McGurk Room
	10:30am CONFESSION, Chapel
	6:00pm CONFIRMATION RETREAT, Meet in the main parking
Saturday	3:30pm CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	6:30pm CONFESSION, Church



St. Elizabeth Guild: First meeting, Monday, September 9th, 6:30pm in the McGurk Room. All women of the parish welcome to join our fun group! We will line out plans for the year. (We only meet 4 times/year.)

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today's responsorial psalm says that a home for the poor is made through God's goodness and charity. Help all people experience God's goodness by helping **Catholic Charities** continue to serve others through the Catholic tradition of service. Donate to Catholic Charities at givetoc.org or fill out a brochure in church to support the annual appeal as you are able.

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, Kaye Cunningham, Vivian Rose Graeff, Barbara Spore, Alicia Aguilar, 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 Bloxson, Jill Kestler, Dean Tate, Bertha Smith, Wendel Hacker, David Courtney, Joyce Johnson, Karla Carter, Joyce Reutter, Dennis Guinn, Genevia Kitchen, Charlotte Sebring

A Calling for All Readers! Embark on an exploration of the Catholic Faith, guided by the great minds of Catholic literary giants. Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 9th for an introduction to St. Mary's new faith study, "A Catholic Novel". This study aims to deepen our understanding of the Faith and our personal relationship with Jesus through the beauty of literature. As an added benefit, the study exposes the covert world of Catholic writers and their works. We will read a chosen novel and gather once approximately every six weeks to discuss the spiritual themes it reveals and how they relate to our own faith journeys. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres provided. Please note that many of the novels contain adult themes, therefore the study is reserved for readers aged 18 years and older. Please contact Reba at Justin.reba.bush@gmail.com or 580-716-7944 with any questions. We hope you will join us for this "novel" experience.

Celebrating 70 years of marriage

Robert & Virginia (Bob & Maxine) Bahm and their extended family will celebrate an early 70th Wedding Anniversary on September 14th. We wish to invite friends to an open house from 2:00 - 5:00pm for visiting and refreshments. Please join them at Camp McFadden, 9137 E Hartford, Ponca City, OK, Saturday, September 14th!

Journey to Faith (RCIA)
 Join us for our first theme of 2019: Prayer.
 Tuesday, September 10
 7-9 P.M.
 McGurk Room
 More information and video links can be found at: <https://www.stmarypc.com/new-here>

The tour of the relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, better known as Padre Pio, will be at **Christ the King on Friday, September 27, 2019**. The relics of Saint Pio available for public veneration include:

- o His glove
- o The crusts of his wounds
- o Cotton gauze bearing his blood stains
- o A lock of his hair
- o His mantle
- o His handkerchief soaked with his sweat only hours before he died

Pilgrims will have the opportunity to touch their religious articles to the reliquaries; however, Padre Pio's mantle will be available for viewing only.

IF you would like to go BUT don't want to drive, call Maria in the Parish Office. If we get enough interested we will reserve a bus to take us. Leaving the parking late morning or early afternoon.

Event Schedule

- o Veneration: 9am-5:30pm
- o Confessions: 10am-5pm
- o Mass with Archbishop Coakley: 6pm



All 7-12th grade teens should make plans to join us for **Faith Formation** this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM. Come early and pray the rosary in the chapel at 6PM!

The Confirmation retreat is this Friday through Sunday at camp OLOG. This retreat is for all 9-11th grade youth interested in starting the 2-year Confirmation program. We will leave the church parking lot at 6PM on Friday and return Sunday afternoon. Any teen interested should RSVP to Lisa if they have not already done so.

Early Bird Tickets
 Please join us
Saturday,
September 21, for Fall Fest 2019!!
 Order your tickets NOW to save \$ and get 6 tickets for the price of 5 (\$2.50)!!
 Tickets are \$.50 at the gate!
 See the order form in the bulletin and return it to the School or Church Office.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Elementary Faith Formation
 Bring a friend and *Discover! God's* love and plan for us.
 Wednesdays, 6:30 P.M.- 8:00 P.M.
 Meet in the school.