

Dear parishioners,

As the school year gets into full swing, we give thanks to God for his grace and mercy in this time of transition. The excitement of a new year gives way to daily concerns and cares which may seem to dull our spiritual senses to monotony. And perhaps, like the old saying goes, familiarity breeds contempt.

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." No, it's not a call from Jesus to wage war on our family or on ourselves. He qualifies his statement immediately: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

This week, as you start to identify the little crosses in your life, maybe in your family, take solace in the feast day we celebrate on Saturday (Sep 14): the Exultation of the Cross. It commemorates 3 events. First, when St. Helen, the mother of the first catholic Roman emperor Constantine, found the cross in the Holy Land in the fourth century. Second, the dedication of the churches built on the sites of Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher. And, finally, the restoration of the relics of the Cross by the Emperor Heraclitus in the seventh century after they had been taken by the Persians.

In our own lives, however, this feast day can be a day to celebrate the great gift of the cross in our lives. How often we try and flee from the crosses of our lives: the sufferings, the struggles, the frustrations? And yet, they can be moments to exalt God's great love for us. Indeed, they open us to a deeper relationship with the one who can truly help.

Hear the words of St. Josemaria Escriva this week, and lift high the crosses in your life:

After losing those human consolations you have been left with a feeling of loneliness, as if you were suspended by a mere thread over the black emptiness of the abyss. And your cries, your shouts for help seem to be heard by nobody.

Be humble; don't seek yourself; don't seek consolation. Love the Cross — to bear it is little — and our Lord will hear your prayer. And calm will be restored to your senses. And your wounded heart will heal. And you will have peace.

In Christ,

Fr. Zak

Masses for the week...

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**
12:10pm †Ruth Metzinger/The Will
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**
12:10pm †Deceased Members of the Bellinghausen Family
- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**
8:20am †Josh Plunk/His Family
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**
9:00am People of the Parish
(St. Francis, Newkirk, OK)
4:00pm Spec. Int. The Residents of Via Christi
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019**
7:00am People of the Parish
12:10pm †Gerald Luis/Maggie Schieber
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**
9:00am People of the Parish
5:00pm Spec. Int. Mary Ramey/Sheila Rahme
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019**
8:00am †John Coffman/Tom & Rosanne Rhodes
9:30am MASS (St. Francis Church, Newkirk)
11:00am People of the Parish
1:00pm People of the Parish (Spanish Mass)
7:00pm People of the Parish

LOOKING ahead... September 9-15, 2019

Monday	6:30pm	ST. ELIZABETH GUILD, McGurk Room
Tuesday	7:00pm	RCIA, McGurk room
Wednesday	6:00pm	ADORATION, Chapel
	6:30pm	K-12 FAITH FORMATION Mass
Thursday	10:00am	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, McGurk Rm
	6:30pm	BUILDING MNTCE., McGurk room
Friday	10:30am	CONFESSION, Chapel
Saturday	8:30am	ACTS, McGurk Room & Chapel
	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	6:30pm	CONFESSION, Church

Save the Date

The 125th Anniversary celebration for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church – Newkirk will be **Saturday, October 5th** with a 5:00 p.m. Mass and meal afterwards in their Parish Hall.

Keep watching the bulletin for more details.

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.)

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, Wendel Hacker, David Courtney, Joyce Johnson, Karla Carter, Joyce Reutter, Dennis Guinn, Genevia Kitchen

Celebrating 70 years of marriage

Robert & Virginia (**Bob & Maxine**) Bahm and their large 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.

Fill the BUS!! We are planning on taking a bus to view the relics of Padre Pio at Christ The King Church, Friday September 27th. Call the Office to reserve your seat. Invite a friend to join us. *This is a once in a lifetime opportunity!* We will leave early afternoon and return after the 6:00pm Mass.

Elementary Faith Formation K-6

We always welcome new students!
Join us on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.
All children grades K-6 are welcome! Bring a friend!

Sacrament Preparation

An introduction to the Sacrament Preparation year for parents is on September 5th.
Meet in the McGurk Room at 6:30.
Call Bridgit with any questions 382-6010.

Weekly Income Report
September 1, 2019

Weekly Collection	\$12,975.17
Catholic University	\$ 1,147.00



JH/SH Faith Formation

is this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM in the Byrnes Room. Don't forget that we will meet in the

chapel to pray the rosary at 6PM.

Early Bird Ticket,

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!
Stop by the School or Church Office to place your order now.

Today's responsorial psalm is, "in every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge." Please consider helping Catholic Charities be a refuge to those in need through the Catholic tradition of service. Donate to Catholic Charities at givetocc.org or fill out a brochure in church to support the annual appeal as you are able.

The PTC will hold a meeting for Fall Fest planning in the Byrnes Room, Parish Center, on Monday, September 9 at 6:00 P.M. Those helping with this event are asked to attend if able. Fall Fest is almost here!

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>

A Calling for All Readers! 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. Please note that many 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.

FALL FEST SILENT AUCTION items are needed. You may contact Jennifer Schmidt at (414) 552-8410 for donation information. You may drop your donations off in the school office.