

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

September 15, 2019

TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear parishioners,

As some of you may have heard, this weekend I will be gone as I travel back to Dallas to celebrate my ordination to the priesthood (now almost three months old) at the place where my vocation began, the nest of my faith: the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Dallas. Our generous pastor, Fr. Carson, has offered to help take over the weekend Masses to let me make this celebratory trip back home, and I'm very grateful for that.

In case you've never heard of the Cistercians, maybe I can take this opportunity to give a little background. The Cistercians are a religious monastic order in the church. This means that they comprise a religious community which takes vows in the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. The Cistercian order originated in the late 11th century when Abbot Robert of Molesme and two other monks, Alberic and Stephen, began their own religious community in Cîteaux, France. Robert and his two Benedictine followers desired to live a purer expression of the rule of St. Benedict, living in greater simplicity and austerity. Therefore, the Cistercians live similar lives to Benedictine monks with the mantra *ora et labora* (work and prayer), living contemplative lives invigorated by manual or intellectual work for the upbuilding of the kingdom.

The most famous Cistercian historically is St. Bernard of Clairvaux who contributed greatly to medieval scholastic theology. Pius XII's Encyclical about Bernard, *Doctor Mellifluus* (accessible at the Vatican website online), highlights his theology of the fire of the divine love. Pius encourages us today: *that divine love with which the Doctor of Clairvaux was so ardently aflame must be re-enchanted in the hearts of all men, if we desire the restoration of Christian morality, if the Catholic religion is to carry out its mission successfully, and if, through the calming of dissension and the restoration of order, injustice and equity, serene peace is to shine forth on mankind so weary and bewildered.* (DM 15)

The Cistercians today have two different expressions. More well-known, the Cistercians of the Strict Observance, also known as the trappists, traditionally live a stricter expression of the stability of the order and simplicity of life. Famous contemporary OCSO trappists include Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating. The other order of the Cistercians (OCist) works closer to the religious expression of the Benedictines, often times teaching, as do the Cistercians in Dallas. Their abbey church in the Dallas suburb of Irving, TX is pictured on the cover of the bulletin.

I was blessed to be formed for so many years by those wonderful monks. Their community was founded by Hungarian refugees fleeing communist oppression and experienced flourishing in North Dallas teaching boys a well-rounded, serious education, rooted in the Catholic faith. Their knowledge and life experiences made them

some of the best of teachers. I can still remember Fr. Matthew teaching 5th grade Latin. He would call a mistaken student up and remind us of PAIN, an acronym for first declension masculine nouns, with the appropriate mnemonic accompaniment of pulling on our hair or whacking us in the back of the head.

That's my story for the week. Look forward to seeing everyone again next weekend for Fall Fest!

In Christ,

Fr. Zak

Masses for the week...

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

12:10pm NO MASS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

12:10pm NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

8:20am †Lelah Tracy/St. Francis Guild

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

9:00am People of the Parish

(St. Francis, Newkirk, OK)

4:00pm †Dorothy Slovacek Woolery/Joan Slovacek

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

7:00am People of the Parish

12:10pm Spec. Int. Sue Rice/Del Kotarski

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

9:00am People of the Parish

5:00pm †Marvin Billington/Kathleen Billington

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

8:00am † John Coffman/Tim & Genny Coffman

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

11:00am Nellie Kirby/George & Sheila Rahme

1:00pm People of the Parish (Spanish Mass)

7:00pm People of the Parish

LOOKING ahead... September 16-22, 2019

Monday		
Tuesday	5:30pm	SCHOOL SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRNG
	7:00pm	RCIA, McGurk room
Wednesday	9:30am	ST. FRANCIS GUILD, McGurk Room
	11:30am	FINANCE COUNCIL, Rectory
	6:00pm	ADORATION, Chapel
	6:30pm	K-12 CIRCLE OF GRACE
Thursday	10:00am	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, McGurk Rm
Friday	10:30am	CONFESSION, Chapel
Saturday	8:30am	ACTS, McGurk Room & Chapel
	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
	6:00pm	FALL FEST
Sunday	6:30pm	CONFESSION, Church

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the souls of Pamela Stone, sister of Marianne Geubelle and for Virginia Krugloff, sister of Roberta Meyer. May God grant them eternal peace.

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 Bloxson, Jill Kestler, Dean Tate, Bertha Smith, Wendel Hacker, David Courtney, Joyce Johnson, Joyce Reutter, Dennis Guinn, Genevia Kitchen, Dana Stahl

St. Mary's Catholic School is looking for substitute teachers! Interested applicants should contact Sarah Hunsaker at (580) 765-4387 or you may e-mail her at: sarah.hunsaker@smsponcacity.org.

Fill the BUS!! We are planning on taking a bus to view and venerate the relics of Padre Pio at Christ The King Church, Oklahoma City, 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.

ALUMNI of all ages needed to work the Alumni booth at Fall fest on Sept 21st from 6-9. Please contact Emily Hodgson 304-2744 to sign up for a shift.

Weekly Income Report September 8, 2019

Weekly Collection \$14,473.00

YOUTH NEWS

The Circle of Grace curriculum will be presented to all 7-12th grade teens this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM. Come early and pray the Rosary at 6PM in the chapel.

St. Francis Guild will meet, Wednesday, September 18th, 9:30am in the McGurk Room. Chief Bohon will be our guest speaker speaking on the local Marijuana laws. Members and guests welcomed!

From September 25 through November 3, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. **Life Chain will be Sunday, October 6 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** This is a peaceful, prayerful support for life. Meet at Pioneer Shopping Center Parking Lot just north of Grand on 14th St.

(Please arrive at 1:50 for prayer and instruction)

Journey of Faith

Check out our latest video on the parish website: <https://www.stmarypc.com/new-here>. This week we're beginning Salvation History. Bring a friend and come and learn about God's great plan for Salvation. Bring your favorite Bible if you have one!

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

Circles of Grace Safe Environment lessons for grades K-12 will be September 18th from 6:30-8 PM. The lessons are available for parent preview. Call Lisa or Bridgit to preview the lessons.

Great News! FORMED is now available on new platforms. It will now work on Google Chrome, on a Kindle Fire, Roku, Apple TV, and more! Get the FORMED app or go to formed.org. Get your personal login and use the parish code 27JT4Q. Look on our webpage or on social media for links to great movies about current topics! Use the community tab to discuss what you watch with other parishioners! *Remember to have your browser keep you logged in for easy access.

This weekend is Catechetical Sunday

Please pray in thanksgiving for our catechists:

Kindergarten/First Grade: Karen Hull; Chandler Brown; Susan Wheeler

Second Grade: Loretta & Gary Leavitt

Third Grade: Desiree & Corbi Wathor

Fourth/Fifth Grade: John Hercyk & Tyler Steichen

Sixth Grade: Ladd Oldfield & Jerry Wirtz

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

Elizabeth Patterson, Carol Goodwin, Donna Roche, Samantha Cordell, Karen Hull, Chandler Brown, Susan Wheeler



Fall Festival

FALL FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

6:00-9:00 P.M.

Come enjoy the Carnival-like Games, Bouncy Houses, Dunk Tank, Petting Zoo, Fire Truck and Gaming Trailer! Check out the Toddler Zone and try to win at Cake-Walk!

Have a Hamburger, Bratwurst, Nachos, Popcorn, Beer, Funnel Cake and more!

Take part in our Live and Silent Auctions!

***Volunteers needed to help set-up at 9:30 A.M.**

We look forward to seeing you there!