

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

October 6, 2019

TWENTY- SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners:

As of this writing, its 92 degrees and windy, but I hope we're experiencing much different weather right now! Since I've been assigned here, many people have noticed and asked why I don't invite people up for a blessing at funerals. I've been told that it seems uninviting, it's nice to invite people up, and people feel left out if I don't invite them up. Let me take this opportunity to explain just a little bit about the method to my madness. Firstly, the Most Holy Eucharist is our most treasured possession, since it is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord. People have literally died for the Eucharist. If we truly believe what we teach, we should be willing to do the same. The "coming up for a blessing" practice is not at all contained in any rite whatsoever, and it was started in the 80's as a way to help people not feel "left out" in church. As a result, there have been numerous accidental first communions, thefts of the Eucharist, and awkwardness when people don't know what to do when they get up there because they didn't listen to instructions. Accidental first communions are not good for two reasons. One, they hurt the soul of the person who has received Jesus because they haven't gone to confession (1 Cor. 11:29), and the person has no idea what they have just received. That's why people who want to join the Church go through so many classes...so they know what they're doing. The theft of the Eucharist is particularly disturbing to me as a priest, and I have had to run down my fair share of people and ask for the Eucharist back after they come up, receive the Eucharist and don't know what to do with it, so they either keep it in their hands or put the Host in their pocket. Again, if we really believe that the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord, then we must take greater care of the Eucharist. I think everyone can understand the reasoning with that. However, what most people really get caught up on is the "not wanting people to feel left out" reason. Now I understand that we want to be as welcoming as possible to visitors and our Protestant brothers and sisters, and I certainly understand not wanting anyone to feel awkward or out of place in a different church. So this might sound harsh, but hear me out...I want people to feel left out. I want people to feel left out that they start to have their curiosity piqued and start to investigate the Holy Roman Catholic Church. I want them to read, pray and think about the Church. I want them to investigate why they couldn't receive communion. If they really want to feel included, then they should stop at nothing to receive our greatest treasure that we too often can take for granted. Our Lord gave us His Body as our inheritance and our nourishment and support...I want as many people as I can get to receive the Eucharist, but only after proper catechesis about what they're receiving, lest we disrespect Our Lord. This goes back to an ancient practice called the *Disciplina Arcani*, whereas if you weren't Christian you couldn't even come to Mass, and if you wanted to become Christian you had to leave halfway through after the homily for classes. If you're reading this and can't receive the Eucharist for whatever reason...hang in there. If you haven't talked to me or Fr. Zak about your situation, please do so. We want to help you! If you have talked to us and you still can't receive, be sure to make a spiritual communion and be patient and wait...your time will come. If you're reading this and you're one of our brothers or sisters in Christ, please take time

to investigate the Eucharist and our teachings on it. The Eucharist, to quote the code of Canon Law, is "the most August sacrament" and our greatest treasure. To treat the Eucharist with anything other than profound respect and honor is hurtful to Christ Himself, and possibly harmful to souls who have not properly prepared themselves. So, in summation, I don't invite people up to "get a blessing" because it was made up and is not a part of Church teaching, it risks well intentioned people having their souls harmed by accidental first communions, exposes the Eucharist for theft, and creates confusion in the communion line. You can, of course feel free to disagree with me, and there are valid points on both sides of the argument. Many people have asked, though, and those are my reasons. I hope you all have a good week and know that you're in my prayers! Please pray for me! In Christ,

Fr. Larson

Masses for the week...

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019

12:10pm Spec. Int. Fr. Deva/Darlene Reed

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

12:10pm † Laverne Berendzen/Paul & Nancy Whitney

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

8:20am † Deceased Members of the Bellinghausen Family

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

9:30am People of the Parish

(St. Francis, Newkirk, OK)

4:00pm † Len Gawel/Kay Gawel

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

7:00am People of the Parish

12:10pm † Basil Taylor/George & Sheila Rahme

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019

9:00am People of the Parish

5:00pm † Steve Duffle/Linda Bullard

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019

8:00am Spec. Int. Randy & LaVonne Lauritsen/Tom & Rosanne Rhodes

9:30am People of the Parish (St. Francis Church, Newkirk)

11:00am † Lovine Auschwitz/Jarrett & Kathleen Auschwitz

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

7:00pm People of the Parish

LOOKING ahead... October 7-13, 2019

Monday	7:00pm	KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS, KofC Room
Tuesday	7am-7pm	ELECTION DAY, McGurk Room
	7:00pm	RCIA, BYRNES Room
Wednesday	6:00pm	ADORATION, Chapel
	6:30pm	K-12 FAITH FORMATION
Thursday	10:00am	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, McGurk Rm
	6:00pm	BUILDING MAINTENANCE, Office
Friday	10:30am	CONFESSION, Chapel
Saturday	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	12:15am	SCHWERTFIGER BAPTISM, Church
	6:30pm	CONFESSION, Church

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the soul of Steve Duffle, brother of Betty Woody. May God grant him eternal rest.



Please keep Bill Horinek in your prayers as he continues his discernment journey toward becoming a permanent deacon. He has completed the rites of being a Candidate and of being an Acolyte, now on Friday, October 11th he will be installed as a Lector. And, if it is God's will, in about 2 years, Bill will be ordained a permanent deacon for St Francis of Assisi Parish.

Altar Server Training will be Sunday, October 20th at 3:00pm in the Church. **Lector Training** will be Saturday, October 26th at 10am and **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training** will be the same day at 11:00am in the Church.

Alumni

Alumni committee forming. Contact Emily Hodgson 304-2744 to sign up. We will be discussing and planning upcoming alumni events, our alumni database, and the new alumni magazine. We need alumni from all decades to make this a success!

Finally, check out the new St. Mary's Catholic School Alumni-Ponca City Facebook page, Like it, and share it with your classmates! We will be gathering information from here, as well as keeping you informed about upcoming events. We might even throw in a flashback or two!

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.



Come and hear about the fulfillment of Salvation History- Tuesday evening 7 P.M.-9 P.M. We will meet in the *Byrnes Room* this week.



Elementary Faith Formation

It's not too late to join your friends on Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. in the school.

Families can begin their Faith Formation evenings at 6:00 P.M. in the Chapel to say the Rosary.

Weekly Income Report
September 29, 2019
Weekly Collection \$8,176.08



JH/SH Faith Formation is this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM. All 7-12th grade youth are invited to attend.

Fr., Chris, and Lisa will be in the Po-Hi Commons for lunch this Wednesday so make sure to join us!

Our annual Trunk or Treat will be held on October 30th from 6-8PM. All teens are encouraged to have a trunk and hand out candy!

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, 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, 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, Joyce Reutter, Dennis Guinn, Genevia Kitchen, Dana Stahl, Bill Bridges, Lee Box



CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS

Of kay county

October 10th @ 7pm - Trivia Night

Ground Round, Ponca City

October 17th @ 7pm - Game Night

TBD - Check Facebook Group

October 24th @ 7pm - Rosary Potluck

2408 Mockingbird Ln., Ponca City

October 29th @ 7pm - PUBLIC Theology

Vortex Alley Brewing, Ponca City

THE TULSA Maker's Mark BEEFSTEAK DINNER

Benefiting the
CENTER OF FAMILY LOVE
HOSTED BY KENTUCKY'S OWN
Mr. Bill Samuels Jr., Chairman Emeritus
Maker's Mark Bourbon

VIP Cocktail Hour with
Mr. Bill Samuels Jr.
4:30-6:00 p.m.

Oct. 31, 2019

SEATING IS LIMITED
This is an exclusive opportunity for either or both events

608 E. 3rd St. Tulsa, OK 74120

\$200 PER PERSON

409 E. 1st St. Tulsa, OK 74120

\$75 PER PERSON - LIMITED SEATING

Purchase tickets or sponsorships at www.centeroffamilylove.org/tulsamakersmark or 405.263.4658.x1042