

Parish Contributions

Fiscal Year: 7/1/15-6/30/16

~Contributions needed weekly: \$6,350~

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>To-Date</u>
December 20th	\$ 4426	\$175,399
Stillwater Catholic Radio Goal:	\$4160	\$2520

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Holiday Parish Office Hours- Office staff will observe flexible hours next week, but telephone messages will be checked daily. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, January 4th at 9:00am.

Contribution Envelopes for 2016- If you have been using the envelope system, your 2016 envelopes are located in the vestibule, filed alphabetically. If an envelope number is not assigned to you and you wish to use the system, please take a box from the unassigned group and write your name on the envelopes for identification. If you have questions, please call the Parish office at (405)372-6886.

RE Classes- Religious Education Classes resume January 3rd, 2016. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Scripture Study- There will NOT be scripture study on Wednesday, December 30th. The scripture study will resume on Wednesday, January 6th at Noon in the parish hall.

New Year's Eve Mass- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God vigil Mass will be celebrated at St. John beginning at 6:00pm.

New Year's Day Masses- St Francis will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God at 10:00am on Friday, January 1st. There will NOT be a 12:10pm Mass. St John will celebrate Mass at 12:00pm.

Eucharistic Adoration- Adoration will start at 7:00pm on Friday, January 1st and conclude with Mass at 9:00am on Saturday, January 2nd.



Christmas Flowers in memory/honor of: Ken & Barbara Norman, Richard & Marie Wieder, Carl Grover, Sr., Peter Bastion, Emil & Pauline Kastl, Julie Kastl, Fred C Veatch, Louis & Alice Grellner, William & Jean Mauterer, Mary Doris & Paul Galea, Rose Humphries, Norma Vanderpool, Charles Pfeiffer, Jack Szlemea, Beau, Dee Finnegan, Bobby Vitek, Robert Vitek, David Heid, Sr., David Heid, Jr., Clara Kerntke, Dutch Bellinghausen, Val Webb, Eleanor A DeGeorge, Rose C DiGregorio, Shirou Taguchi, Rosie B Cachwela, Jose M Cachwela Sr, Jose M Cachwela Jr, Roland Rempe, Nathan Harves, Claude & Gertrude Ozenne, Ocealine Ventris, Walter Bays, Mary & Lee Roy Nelson, Christan Thomason

*And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.*

— J n 1 : 1 4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church
601 S. West St.
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

*The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2015*



Fr. Ken's Reflection- Today we rejoice. Our celebration includes many things. Families gather at this time above all others. The anticipation of gifts, especially for children runs high. The cold outside is welcome for it means that we gather together close inside. Finally, and most importantly, we acknowledge the birth of our Savior. Now we have been taught from the earliest days to celebrate Christmas, but what does it really mean? What does it mean that God in the person of his Son came among us? We know that it means He calls us to the life of heaven, but there is more. The Son of God chose to become one of us. He embraced everything that is authentically human so that we could live our lives here in the authentic way. The only thing he did not embrace is that which leads to inauthenticity. He rejected pride, which leads a person to a false sense of self and is truly the mother of all sin. The Son of God, now called Jesus as well, lived the way we do; he grew and learned by experience. My friends, that is how our faith is done. I have seen too often people struggling under a false sense of faith. The great temptation is to reduce Christian faith to simply being good. However, we can't do that. Part of our real human experience is that we are weak at times and we do things that we know are wrong and bring us a sense of disharmony. We can feel hopeless, that we will never be better and therefore, a happy, authentic Christian life seems beyond us. Striving for good moral behavior is indeed part of our faith but it springs from something deeper; a relationship with God. That is what Christ came to bring us. Once we can accept that God loves us and knows that we struggle, then our faith can flourish. We may have weaknesses that we succumb to because they satisfy our human desires, or at least they seem to do so. All we need to do is to simply acknowledge in honesty before God that we will keep trying. God who loves us is in the midst of our struggles and through them, he gives us wisdom and true understanding of his love for us and fosters within us a deeper love for him. My friends, may the blessing of Christ whose birth as one of us give make present in your everyday life, even in the midst of sin and weakness, the loving and consoling presence of God himself. May you grow in knowledge and love of God all your days here so that you may have the fullness of that knowledge and life in the life to come

Second Collection for Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund

The annual collection for the Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund is a way for the faithful of the diocese to contribute toward their parish priests' pension in gratitude for the priestly ministry to the faithful whom they served in parishes and continue to serve in sacramental ministry. Thank you for your continued support of our priests. Please make checks payable to St. Francis.



We wish to extend a warm welcome to all visiting parishioners. If you are a former parishioner, a graduate of OSU, or new to this Parish, welcome home! May everyone have a most joyous Christmas and New Year, safe travels, warm hospitality, and countless blessings! May the presence of the Lord be felt abundantly in your lives.