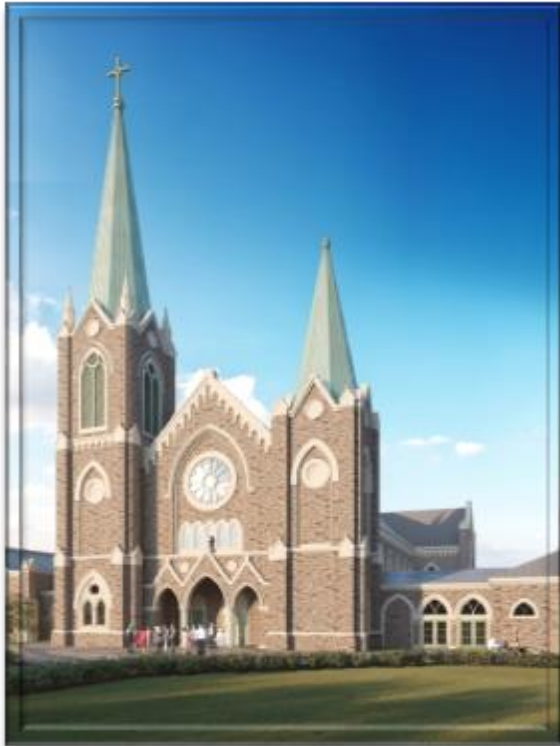


Stillwater Catholic Community

Serving St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Evangelist Parishes
Part of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma – Together, Our Faith Goes Further

We seek to spread the word of God and serve our community
and the universal Church through the Pillars of Parish Stewardship:
HOSPITALITY, PRAYER, FORMATION, AND SERVICE.

His Holiness, Pope Francis
Bishop of Tulsa, David Konderla
Fr. Ken Harder, AJV, JCL - St. Francis Pastor
Fr. Emeritus Jim Greiner
Fr. Kerry Wakulich - St. John Pastor
Fr. Lawrence Nwachukwu – Assoc. Pastor
Deacon Bart Brashears
Deacon Glenn Collum
Deacon Paul Govek
Deacon Tom Haan



Twenty-Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 17, 2017

A Blessing for Catechists

Heavenly Father, you are the source of life and love. Send down your Spirit upon these catechists. Inspire them to be not only teachers of your truth, but witnesses of your love. Give them the courage to heal. Help them to see the pain of those around them so that they may offer hope through loving gestures of support and prayer. May they be merciful to others as you are merciful. Give them the joy to proclaim the Good News of salvation. Help them see your will at work in their lives so that they may share it with others. May they, in their words and deeds, offer continual praise to the one who saves us. Give them the wisdom to teach. Help them discover the mysteries of our faith in new and exciting ways. May their curiosity inspire those who they instruct to become your loyal disciples. We pray to you, almighty Father, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ the Master-Teacher, the Healer, and the Savior, and in unity with the Holy Spirit who inspires us with knowledge, courage, and understanding. Amen.

Bulletin submissions should be directed to erin@stfrancisxavierstillwater.org by Wednesday at noon prior to the Sunday publication. Submissions are subject to editing. Graphics are appreciated and used if space permits.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

601 S. West Street † P.O. Box 909 † Stillwater, OK 74076
Phone: 405-372-6886 † Fax: 405-533-1728
Email: cindy@stfrancisxavierstillwater.org
Website: www.stfrancisxavierstillwater.org

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am & 1:00pm (Spanish)
Daily Mass: Tues., Wed. and Thurs. – 8:00am
Friday – 12:10pm
First Saturday of the Month Mass at 9:00am
Holy Days: 7:00am, 5:30pm & 7:30pm (Spanish)
Adoration: Tues. & Wed. – 8:30am &
1st Friday after 12:10pm Mass
Reconciliation: Wed. 5:30 – 7:00pm & Sat. 3:00 – 4:30pm

Vic Schutte – Director of Formation and Operations
Cindy Beckman – Business Manager
Erin Johnson – Office Assistant, Bulletin
Lori Wieder – Office Assistant, Website

Kevin Larios – Music Ministry (405) 624-2208 † klaros357@earthlink.net

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Student Center

201 N. Knoblock † Stillwater, OK 74075
Phone: 405-372-6408 † Fax: 405-372-6409 † 032176
Email: catholicpokes@gmail.com
Website: www.catholicpokes.com

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:30am, 11:30am
5:00pm (Student)
Daily Mass: Mon. 12:15pm & Wed. 12:15pm & 9pm (Student)
Tues., Thurs. & Friday – 5:15pm
Holy Days: 12:15pm & 6:30pm
Adoration: Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00pm
1st Friday after the Thursday 5:15pm Mass
Reconciliation: Sunday 9 – 9:30am & 11 - 11:30am

Kathleen Walker – Business Manager
Cathy Perry – Campus Ministry Director
Matt Bond – Campus Ministry Development Director
Marilyn Middlebrook – Music Ministry

Brandi Bishop – Parish Nurse † (405) 269-2252 † bmb29@hotmail.com
Sarah Dorman – Religious Education (PreK-5th) † (405) 372-7987 † sarah@stfrancisxavierstillwater.org
Ashleigh Martin – Youth Ministry (6th – 12th) † (405) 269-3786 † Ashleigh@stfrancisxavierstillwater.org

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)



Fr. Ken's Reflection: It is so good to be back and resume my life here. Stillwater has been my home for over 15 years, the longest I have lived anywhere. Now is the bittersweet time that I knew would come; my time to leave. As announced this past Wednesday, I will be leaving St. Francis on January 13 (I thought it was the 3rd at first). I remember that I was ordained a priest for the Diocese and serve in the way the Bishop thinks best for me, the Diocese and the Parish. Bishop Konderla has been very good to me these past months and has repeatedly showed his concern for my well-being. I trust that beyond the sadness of leaving my beloved parish here, I will continue to serve with joy. My time here has been a gift to me and I am grateful above all for having been here. I

have 4 more months, so it's not over yet.

"Wrath and anger are hateful things..." These words of Sirach from the first reading begin a lesson that is at the core of our faith. Forgiveness is something we know as part of our faith. In the great prayer of our faith, the Our Father, we ask God for many things; there is one thing we actively must do if we are to receive what we ask of God. We must forgive as we are forgiven by God. Pay attention closely to those words, our being forgiven by God is possible only if we forgive as he does; it does not admit of anything less. We know that we must forgive others, yet for all our talk, it is very difficult to forgive, why? We often use the phrase, "I'll forgive but not forget." What does that mean? I have thought about this and I present to you my thoughts. It is hard to forgive because it seems that forgiveness means that a person gets away with what they have done. In other words, forgiveness seems to be a denial of justice. Justice is a key virtue for human living. Without justice, human living falls apart. To deny justice is to destroy human living. So, is forgiveness some sort of denial of justice; does it mean that there are no consequences for the wrong actions we commit or others commit? Not at all. Just look at a crucifix and that is the intersection of justice and mercy. Forgiveness is part of the process we call reconciliation. The other part is that a person must accept forgiveness.

St. Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, implores the Christian to be forgiven. The word "forgive" contains the notion of a gift given. Like any gift, it is not enough that it be given, it must be received as well. We are to be forgiving as God is, why? God is forgiving above all for his own sake. To forgive means that the injustice we feel is not greater than ourselves, in other words, an act of forgiveness is an act of freedom. God is absolutely free, nothing we can do binds him. We too, if we are to be authentic human persons, must be free, we must not become enslaved to anger or wrath. Yet, to be forgiving does not mean that a person has been forgiven. If you read the gospels closely, you will see that the people who experienced, who received Jesus' forgiveness did so by first acknowledging their sins, their acts of injustice. Here is where justice is satisfied. To receive forgiveness, a person must be aware of the need for forgiveness, that they have done wrong. Once the failure in justice is acknowledged, then the person can receive mercy and the relationship is restored. That is what reconciliation means, a restored relationship. Now, there are consequences for injustice (sin) the person who acknowledges their injustice (sin) will also seek to make some restoration. If you think about it, it is simply not possible to meet strict justice; we cannot make up for all we have done wrong. Yet, the act of forgiveness, because it involves mercy as well as justice, Jesus was forgiving of all people, yet not all were forgiven. Those who did not acknowledge their need did not receive the gift of his mercy. My friends, forgiving and accepting the forgiveness of others is at the very core of our faith. It is not easy, it doesn't happen all at once. It is a process of life formed by an attitude born of love of God, others and our own self. Be forgiving so that you may know how to accept forgiveness. **-Fr. Ken**

Readings for the Week of September 17, 2017

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
 Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7-9/Lk 7:1-10
 Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6/Lk 7:11-17
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-6/Lk 7:31-35
 Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-5/Mt 9:9-13
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-10, 17-20/Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-5/Lk 8:4-15
 Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Parish Contributions

Fiscal Year: 7/1/2017-6/30/2018

	Weekly	To Date
St. Francis – Sept. 10	\$8,033.00	
St. Francis Automatics	\$5,440.00	
Total	\$13,473.00	\$78,540.05
St. John – Sept. 10	\$6,009.95	
St. John Automatics	\$4,700.00	
Total	\$10,709.95	\$72,270.70

Stillwater Catholic Radio (1/1/17-12/31/17)

Annual Goal: **\$4,260** Received to date: **\$3,956.90**

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PRAYER

If you would like to add or remove someone, please contact the Parish Office at (405) 372-6886. Due to space limitations, names are removed from the list after 1 month.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Jayden Andrew, John Belusko, Catherine Cabañeros, Kathryn Campbell, Pat Clemente, Dale & Elnora Dennis, Greg Deville, Fred Dick, Jack Dorman, Ed Eick, Stan Fimple, Eileen Gasche, Jack & Katie Gordy, Essy Gorrillis, Monica Held, Bob Kargel, Phyllis Lambert, Christopher Leffall, Anissa Magallanes, Gerry & Sally Messbarger, Heath Myers, Deacon Bill & Oleta Moler, Mary Nichelson, Christy Paculan, John & Jacqueline Palumberi, John Penn, Danielle Robinson, Garcia & Reynaldo Roque, Paul Schatz, Lynn Schwartz, Pat Sohrwide, Beth Stroud, Dick and Teddy Taylor, Robby Tiedt, Joyce Twine, Rosemary Weaver, Paul Westhaus, Keith Willett, John Yother, Anne and Joe Zinn, Marge Zoellner, All our Catechists, those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and those providing and receiving care from Stephen Ministry.



Please remember in your prayers all those currently serving our Country.

Please pray for the repose of all Souls.

Prepare the Way of the Lord – Tell anyone who cannot attend Mass the good news! The St. Francis 8:00am Mass will be broadcast on 94.3FM and 780AM at 9:30am each Sunday.

† Mass Intentions †

St. Francis Xavier

September 19 8:00am **Blake Larios**
 September 20 8:00am
 September 21 8:00am †**Doris Gruenbacher Dick**
 September 22 12:10pm †**Sandra Schatz** – C. Schatz
 September 23 5:00pm †**Kathryn Lovell** – Linda Lovell
 September 24 8:00am **Pro Populo**
 10:00am **For Deceased Family members and friends**
 1:00pm **For the Families of Parishioners**

St. John the Evangelist

September 19 5:15pm †**Milton Fusselman**–Annie Ortiz
 September 20 12:15pm †**Nicolas Zinn**
 September 21 5:15pm **Fr. Ken** – Perkins Family
 September 22 5:15pm **Nan Bokorny** – Perkins Family
 September 23 **No Saturday Mass**
 September 24 9:30am
 11:30am

PRAYER CONT'D.

Life Chain Sunday - Join us as we pray for an end to abortion on Sunday Oct. 1, from 2-3. We will meet in front of Chick-Fil-A. For more information contact Mary Kate Tejral, tejral@brightok.net

Pray the Rosary at Boomer Lake: The OSU Student Knights of Columbus Council #11135 invite one and all and especially the children to join us for the 11th annual praying of the Most Holy Rosary commemorating the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's Miracle of the Sun apparition. This one hour event will take place at Boomer Lake, shelter #3 Saturday October 14th at 11:45 am. Contact Greg Feher, Rally Captain at 405-747-4847 or canuck1999@yahoo.com for more information or transportation assistance.



HOSPITALITY

Join us for Coffee and Donuts, TODAY! At St. Francis after the 8am and 10am Mass. At St. John after the 9:30am Mass.

Spanish classes for Adults – Please call Luz Flores (405—880-0553) or Dr. Cida Chase (405-377-0671) for more information or to register for a class.
Beginning Class - Tuesdays from 6:15-7:15pm in Rm 5 at St. Francis/St. John School.
Introductory Class – Tuesdays from 6:15-7:15pm in Rm 6 at St. Francis/St. John School.
Intermediate Class – Mondays from 6:15-7:15pm in Rm 6 at St. Francis/St. John School.

Cursillo.... If you have made a Cursillo Weekend, we want to communicate with you about Cursillo news and weekends and to rekindle interest in Payne County to renew involvement in a movement that has changed many lives including Connie's and mine. Please email me your contact information to brashears.bart@gmail.com or call 580-628-0707.

Welcome to all! We welcome seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts and jaded cynics, the lost, the found...and especially YOU! Thank you for celebrating Mass with the Stillwater Catholic Community today! If you would like to register as a new member or you need to make updates to your contact information, please contact the Parish Office at 405-372-6886.

FORMATION

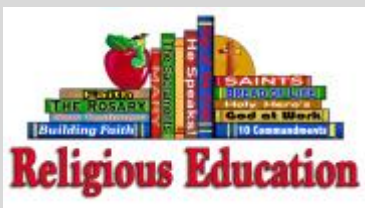
Youth Formation - Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Sarah Dorman, RE Coordinator – creprek-5@brightok.net or 405.372.7987
Ashleigh Martin, Youth Minister – catholicyouth@brightok.net or 405.269.3786

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Pre-K – 5th Grades

Religious Education classes TODAY, September 17, 2017.

Classes will take place in the St. Francis Center (across from St. Francis church) from 11:15am to 12:30pm. Registration forms are available today and online at stfrancisxavierstillwater.org.



YOUTH MINISTRY 6th – 12th Grades

Please pray for our Youth as they travel to Tahlequah TODAY for a Canoe Trip on the Illinois.
NO EDGE OR LIFE TEEN, Sept. 17!

September 24

Confirmation: 11:30am to 12:30pm
Edge: 5 to 6:30 pm at CYO House
Life Teen: 7 to 8:30pm at CYO House
Bring your friends!!!

Adult Formation

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Join us this Wednesday, Sept. 20th in St. Francis Parish Hall from 7pm to 8:45pm for the *Divine Revelation Session*. RCIA is open to all adults interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact Deacon Paul Govek at (405)377-7322.

Bible Study

Join us for the continuation of *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* at St. Francis Xavier Church in the Parish Hall, (basement of the Church) every Tuesday at 1:00pm for the afternoon study, or at 6:30pm for the evening study. Each session will be about 1 ½ hours. This half of the study will last for 12 weeks and conclude on November 21st. We welcome any new members who would like to join our study; we will begin with Chapter 13 of Matthew. For more information or to register for this study, call Terri Schutte at 260-579-6464 or via email: terri.schutte4@gmail.com.

Faith, Froth & Catholic Stuff You Should Know

Tuesdays – Once a Month at St. John
5:15 Mass, 6:00 Social, 6:30 Talk/Q&A

Oct. 10 – Love is Love? Nope Not Really
Nov. 14 – Candidates for God's Mercy

catholicpokes@gmail.com or 405-372-6408

FORMED - The Catholic Faith on Demand

Extensive online formation opportunities for you and your family.
Logon to FORMED.org with our parish membership code: e4623f.

Rediscover your Catholic Faith through the wonderful collection of Faith Formation series, Movies, Documentaries, Bible Studies, books and much more.

Baptism Preparation Class

If you are a parent or god-parent, Baptism classes are conducted by a Deacon at the St. Francis Center (602 S. West St.) on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. To register, please call the parish office at (405) 372-6886.

SERVICE

UPDATE - New Date for Dedication Mass: Our dedication Mass for the New St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church has been rescheduled for February 4, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Church Women United Dedication Day - You are invited to attend the Stillwater Catholic Women's program for Stillwater Church Women United (CWU) on Friday September 22, 2017 at 1:30PM for the observance of "Dedication Day" the event will be hosted at the First Christian Church located on 411 W. Matthews. The guest speaker is Michael Thompson, Ph.D. Endowed chair of Religious Studies at Oklahoma State University. He will speak on early Christian history with a focus on the Apostle Paul and his impact on the new faith. Church Women United (CWU) 2017 theme is "Kindling New Fires of Hope". For more details, contact Sandrel Jones-Webster at 405-334-9200 or sandrel57@hotmail.com.

National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness and Understanding – Interfaith Candlelight Vigil. In the not so distant past, mentally ill people were resigned to the same fate as violent felons. Even today when treatments have advanced tenfold, social stigmas follow words like "bi-polar syndrome" or "schizophrenia." On Tuesday, October 3, 2017, "Embrace" a Wellness Ministry of St. Francis Xavier and the Knights of Columbus 5622 will join with the Stillwater Alpha Kappa Alpha-National Alliance on Mental Illness to help break those negative connotations with a candlelight vigil. The event, known as the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding Interfaith Candlelight Vigil, is part of a nationwide week devoted to mental illness awareness. Tuesday's vigil is at 6:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier. Free Pizza will be served!

Food Backpack Ministry – Sponsor a Child! The backpack program ensures that each and every child in need from Stillwater Middle School has nutritional food to eat over the weekend. It cost on average \$175 per year to feed one child. All donations are welcome. 100% of money donated goes toward the program. Donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to St. Francis. For more information, contact Pepper Keeling at 405-742-7676 or St. Francis Parish Office at 405-372-6886.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - The next meeting is October 12th at 7pm at St. Francis Center in Rm. 5.

Stewardship Committee Meeting – The next meeting is September 21st at 7pm at St. Francis Center in Rm. 5. Meetings are open to parishioners.

OSU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE OCT. 27

Stillwater Catholic Women and the St. John Knights of Columbus Council #11135 are offering four \$1000 scholarships for the OSU Spring 2018 semester. The scholarships are in honor of Fr. Bob Schlitt, Fr. Clement Pribil, Professor Emeritus Horatio Mottola and Deacon Bill Dunbar.

The scholarships are available to OSU undergraduate students who attend mass, have a GPA of 2.8 or higher, have completed at least 30 but no more than 115 credit hours, and if a transfer student, have completed at least 12 credit hours at OSU. Traditional and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply. The application form is available on-line at www.catholicpokes.com and at St. John's Parish Office. **Application deadline is: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017 at St. John's Parish Office.** If you have questions, contact Kathy Bidelspach 405-620-3253.

Health and Wellness Ministry

Brandi Bishop, RN 405-269-2252

National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

One in 3 children in the United States are overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

The good news? Childhood obesity can be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for kids to eat healthier and become more active.

Here are just a few ideas:

Get active outside. Walk around the neighborhood, go on a bike ride, or play basketball at the park. Children and adolescents should do 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day.

Limit screen time. Keep screen time (time spent on the computer, watching TV, or playing video games) to 2 hours or less a day.

Make healthy meals: Buy and serve more vegetables, fruits, and whole-grain food and keep within easy reach.

You are a role model.

Parents are often the most important role models for children. When you choose to eat right and be physically active, your child will be more likely to make those choices, too. www.healthfinder.gov

Coming soon...flu shot weekend. Flu shots will be provided after Mass during the weekend of October 7th and 8th.

Everyday Stewardship

Life was not always easy with my father when I was growing up. Let's just say he made many decisions along the way that led to fear, anger, and sadness for my family and me. Unfortunately, I was the only one in the family that would years later truly forgive him for his actions. My mother and sister held onto the resentment and anger they felt all their lives. For my father and me, reconciliation led to several years of a deepening relationship before his passing in 2011.

Forgiveness is not easy and I do not consider myself better or stronger because I was able to forgive and my family members could not. However, I can say that the blessings I received due to forgiveness and a renewed relationship with my father were far better than the animosity experienced by others. I also learned that forgiveness benefited me far more than my father.

As good stewards of time, we must realize that each passing day will never come again. What we do with that time is completely up to us. We can be wise and use it to build bridges, heal wounds, and cultivate love where there is hate. We can also choose to waste time in fear, resentment, and anger. I thank God often for the gift of my dad. However, I thank God more for the gift of time spent with him and the ability to see him not with my human eyes, but with the eyes of Jesus.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS - © Liturgical Publications Inc

PASSION & PURPOSE with Matthew Kelly on September 30, 2017 from 6pm to 10:30pm at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Purchase a Ticket (\$39) at DynamicCatholic.com or call 859-980-7900.

Stillwater Catholic Women - Christmas Bazaar

Plans are underway for our annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 2nd. Our October meeting will be devoted to making fun and unique crafts for the Bazaar. Watch the bulletin each week for Bazaar Updates! Please call co-chairs Cindy Beckman-372-6886 or Julie Huber 405-762-6621 with any questions.

