

Stillwater Catholic Community

*Serving the Parishes of St. Francis Xavier and St. John the Evangelist
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, 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



The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 31, 2017

O Holy Family of Nazareth, community of love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, model and ideal of every Christian family, to you we entrust our families. Open the heart of every family to the faith, to welcoming the Word of God, to Christian witness, so that it becomes a source of new and holy vocations. Touch the hearts of parents, so that with prompt charity, wise care, and loving devotion they be for their sons and daughters sure guides towards spiritual and eternal values. Stir up the hearts of young people a right conscience and a free will, so that growing in "wisdom, age and grace," they might welcome generously the gift of a Divine vocation. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that all of us, contemplating and imitating the assiduous prayer, generous obedience, dignified poverty and virginal purity lived out in your midst, might set about fulfilling the will of God and accompanying with far-sighted sensitivity those among us who are called to follow more closely the Lord Jesus, who "has given Himself for us" (cf. Gal 2:20). Amen!

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God –
January 1st - 10am Mass
at St. Francis and St. John.**

Bulletin submissions should be directed to erin@sfxstillwater.org
by Wednesday at noon prior to the Sunday publication.

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@sfxstillwater.org
Website: www.sfxstillwater.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

Leah Afill – Finance and Facilities Manager † leah@sfxstillwater.org

Erin Johnson – Office Assistant, Bulletin

Lori Wieder – Office Assistant, Website

Kevin Larios – Music Ministry (405) 624-2208 † klarios357@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: Tues. – Friday 8:00 – 9:00am
Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00pm
1st Friday after the Thursday 5:15pm Mass
Reconciliation: Tues. – Friday 8:00 – 9:00am
Sunday 9 – 9:30am, 11 - 11:30am & 3:45 – 4:45pm

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 † brandi@sfxstillwater.org
Sarah Dorman – Religious Education (PreK-5th) † (405) 372-7987 † sarah@sfxstillwater.org
Ashleigh Martin – Youth Ministry (6th – 12th) † (405) 269-3786 † ashleigh@sfxstillwater.org

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." (Lk 2:30-32)

Gospel Reflection: "When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned ... to their own town of Nazareth." Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who followed the norms of their religion. Today's Gospel describes the event we call "The Presentation." Jesus' parents, like every Jewish family, presented their infant son to the Lord in a formal ceremony at the temple in Jerusalem. Having done what their religious rites required (and having heard the prophetic words of Simeon and Anna), Mary and Joseph returned home. It was back in their native region of Galilee, amidst the daily routine of domestic life, that Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."

As Christians, we too consecrate our children to the Lord when we have them baptized in the Church. Seeing our children receive this sacrament of initiation is always a moment of great joy and hope as we anticipate the life that lies ahead for them, both on earth and in eternity. But the baptism of a baby is only the beginning of this journey towards heaven. In truth, the little daily details, the simple living of family life in our own home paves the way for our children to reach their eternal home.

And so it was with the Holy Family. Jesus' childhood, his formation and development took place not primarily amidst the public drama of the temple, but in the quiet privacy of his home. How important this home was, where his parents raised him in their faith and helped him live in such a way that "the favor of God was upon him." May we too, in our homes and our families, remember that although our mission may be lived out in very small moments, taken together they have an eternal significance.

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
 Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Parish Contributions

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

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>To Date</u>
St. Francis - Dec. 24	\$18,561.81	\$196,668.81
St. Francis Christmas	\$3,390.00	
Diocesan Retirement	\$1,720.16	
St. John – Dec. 24	\$7,173.75	\$161,327.85
St. John Christmas	\$3,249.00	
Diocesan Retirement	\$2,652.75	

Stillwater Catholic Radio (1/1/17-12/31/17)
 Annual Goal: **\$4,260** Received to date: **\$5,056.90**

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:

Elia Adams, Justin Aguilera, Maria y Ricardo Aguilar, Jayden Andrew, Nena Batista, John Belusko, Kathryn Campbell, Salomón Cárdenas, Daniel Centeno, Pat Clemente, Scott Day Greg Deville, Fred Dick, Ed Eick, Paulina Figueroa, Stan Fimple, Adam and Liz Gleason, Carol Gleason, Mary Katherine Gracia, Jack & Katie Gordy, Essy Gorruttis, Oscar González, James Grice, Todd Hachett, Monica Held, Cipriana Hernández, James Higbee, Bob Kargel, Michael Knight, Mariela Latchman, Phyllis Lambert, Christopher Leffall, Anisa, Bernadette and Michael Magallanes, Luis Mendoza, Gerry & Sally Messbarger, Belinda Mooney, Heath Myers, Deacon Bill & Oleta Moler, Mary Nichelson, Mario Nieves, John & Jacqueline Palumberi, Bethany Pate, John Penn, Dick Powell, Claudia Ramos, Larry Redburn, Danielle Robinson, Garcia & Reynaldo Roque, James Scerine, Paul Schatz, Pat Sohrowide, Beth Stroud, Ray Tallent, Teddy Taylor, Pat Teller, Robby Tiedt, Hector Vivar, Don Wagner, Lindsay Wahlmeir, Lou Walker, Rosemary Weaver, Paul Westhaus, Tara Woods, John Yother, Anne and Joe Zinn, Marge Zoellner, 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, especially Dick Taylor.

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

January 2 8:00am †Richard Campbell - Family
 January 3 8:00am Fr. Andy Seiler – Marilyn Seiler
 January 4 8:00am Thanksgiving for Fr. Ken – Marilyn Seiler
 January 5 8:00am Dcn. Randy Hearn – Marilyn Seiler
 January 6 5:00pm Thanksgiving for Fr. Ken – Marilyn Seiler
 January 7 8:00am Pro Populo
 10:00am For Deceased Family members and friends
 1:00pm For the Families of Parishioners

St. John the Evangelist

NO DAILY MASS UNTIL JAN. 16th

January 1 10am Mary, Mother of God
 January 6 No Saturday Mass
 January 7 9:30am
 11:30am

At St. Francis starting on Thursday, Jan. 4th at 9am and ending on Saturday, Jan. 6th at 9am.
 Sign up sheets are in the vestibule.

Adoration



HOSPITALITY

Happy New Year! May 2018 bring your family many blessings. The Parish Offices will reopen on January 2nd at 9am.



Join us TODAY! Coffee and Donuts at St. John after 9:30am Mass. No coffee and donuts at St. Francis.

Reception honoring Fr. Ken on January 7 from 3pm to 6pm in the Parish Hall at St. Francis. All are welcome. If you have a picture of Fr. Ken over the past 15 years, please drop them at the parish office or email to jodia1222@gmail.com. On the photo, please put your name and a brief description on the reverse side. If you have any questions, please call Jodi Deer at 405-747-5765. Hosted by Jodi and Terry Deer

THANK YOU!!! The Hispanic Community wishes to thank all the generous people who contributed to make Our Lady of Guadalupe's celebration such a success. "Gracias" and many blessings for Christmas and the new year.

FORMATION

Youth Formation - Religious Education & Youth Ministry

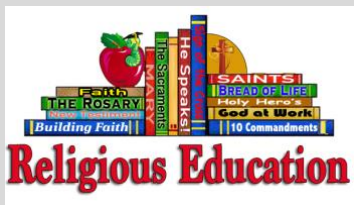
Sarah Dorman, RE Coordinator – creprek-5@brightok.net or 405.372.7987
Ashleigh Martin, Youth Minister – catholicyouth@brightok.net or 405.269.3786

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Pre-K – 5th Grades
St. Francis Xavier Center
(602 S. West St.)

There are **NO RE** classes
on December 31.

Classes resume on Sunday,
January 7, 2018!



YOUTH MINISTRY

6th – 12th Grades
CYO House (717 S. Hester St.)

No Classes on Dec. 31.



A Night in Italy with our Youth

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser
January 20, 2018 6:30-8:30 pm
St. John Parish Hall
Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children
Come enjoy a fun-filled night with dinner,
entertainment and meet Fr. Brian O'Brien!!
Tickets will be available for
purchase in January.

Baptism Preparation Class

If you are a parent or god-parent, Baptism classes are conducted by a Deacon at the St. Francis Xavier 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.

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.**

NEW Bible Study – A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Do you understand the meaning behind the parts of the Mass? In his video-based study *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. In this study, you will come to know and understand the Mass as never before, leading you to a richer, more fruitful worship experience. Join us for *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* at **St. Francis Xavier** beginning **January 9** from **1pm – 2:30pm** or **6:30pm- 8pm** and continuing every **Tuesday** for **5 weeks**. For more information or to register for the study, call **Terri Schutte** at **260-579-6464** or via email: terri.schutte4@gmail.com. Please register by January 5th so study materials can be ordered.

Adult Faith Formation

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.
Holiday Break - No Classes Dec. 13 – Jan. 3.
The next class will be Jan. 10 covering The Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation.
For more information, please contact Deacon Paul Govek at (405)377-7322.

First Friday Adoration

Attention: The St. John Chapel is unavailable for the 1st Friday January period of adoration. Therefore, all of the 1st Friday adoration will be at St. Francis Xavier. Since the Mass at St. Francis is at 8 AM on Thursdays; let's try to fill the daytime hours following the Mass, which are currently open, with adorers and have the Blessed Sacrament in Exposition at St. Francis from just after the 8am Mass on Thursday (01/04/18) through 8am Saturday (01/06/18). A great way to begin the New Year. Sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule.

Knights of Columbus Council 5266

Grand Knight – Chris Stoner
texagok87@sbcglobal.net or 405-612-3135

Meetings are the second Monday of each month at **7:00 PM** in the basement of St. Francis Xavier. First Degrees are generally held on the forth Monday of each month as needed, but other arrangements can be made if necessary.

THE NINEVEH 90 CHALLENGE BEGINS JANUARY.

What is the Challenge? This is a great spiritual journey you can do before and during Lent. Visit www.roamncatholicman.com to learn more.

SERVICE

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - The next meeting is January 11 at 7pm in Rm 5 of the St. Francis Center.

Stewardship Council Meeting – The next meeting is January 4 at 6pm in Rm. 6 of the St. Francis Center.



Altar Server Training – Deacon Paul Govek will conduct training for those interested in becoming an Altar Server on January 3 at 6pm in St. Francis Xavier Church. If you have any questions, please contact Dcn. Paul at 405-377-7322.

NEW THIS YEAR!!!! 2018 Contribution Envelopes or Automatic Donation for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Envelopes will be mailed directly to your home this year on a monthly basis. If you had envelopes or automatic draft set up in 2017, you should have received your first set of envelopes already. If you would like to use the envelope system or set up an automatic donation, please contact the parish office at 405-372-6886.

Mother Teresa Ministry provides food and gas to those in need throughout Stillwater and the surrounding area. If you know of someone that might need assistance, please have them call (405) 372-7673.

Interested in learning more about Natural Family Planning? Contact Daryl and Kathy Krehbiel at (405) 612-2005 or email at StillwaterNFP@aol.com.

Stephen Ministry - ALL ALONE? Don't be. God doesn't want us to be alone. He wants us to turn to others when things are bothering us. Stephen Ministers will walk with you through your troubles and be there for you when you need them. If you or anyone you know if feeling alone, please contact Angela Pradia at (405)762-9405 or Mary Ellen Holley at (405)762-9357 or angie_mklady@yahoo.com.

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.

St. Francis Xavier Preschool Advisory Board

A Saint Francis Xavier Preschool Advisory Board has been recently created and several meetings have taken place in our efforts to commence school operations for the fall of 2018. Our incoming pastor Father Brian O'Brien is a long time supporter of Catholic schools and has a great interest in seeing us reopen in August. Father O'Brien will be the Chairman of the Board, while Joy Cawood will serve as President, Liz Tobert will be Social Media Coordinator, and Amy Bryant will be Secretary-Treasurer. Other members of the board are Brandon Cook, Sarah Dorman, Celeste Fox and Amanda Hoppe. Vic Schutte will serve as Ex Officio officer.

A survey will be coming out after the New Year seeking valued information for support and interest in various aspects of the school's operations including age ranges and timing of classes. Please take a moment to support this survey even if you do not have children or grandchildren that would be in the school. As a member of the parish, your support and opinions are valued.

Health and Wellness Ministry

Brandi Bishop, RN 405-269-2252

Are you making a resolution for 2018?

Here's how to identify the right resolution to improve your life and how to create a plan to successfully achieve your goals.

Your goals should be smart — and SMART. That's an acronym for specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

- **Specific.** Your resolution should be absolutely clear. "Making a concrete goal is really important rather than just vaguely saying 'I want to lose weight.'"
- **Measurable.** This may seem obvious if your goal is a fitness or weight loss related one, but it's also important if you're trying to cut back on something, too. Logging progress in a journal or making notes on your phone in an app designed to help you track behaviors can reinforce the progress.
- **Achievable.** This doesn't mean that you can't have big stretch goals. But trying to take too big a step too fast can leave you frustrated.
- **Relevant.** Is this a goal that really matters to you, and are you making it for the right reasons?
- **Time-bound.** Like "achievable," the timeline toward reaching your goal should be realistic, too. Focus on small wins so you can continue to make gradual progress.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2018

Everyday Stewardship

I have heard people say, "You don't get to choose your family!" I believe that to be only partially true. I did not choose my father and mother, but my family is greater than my family tree of ancestors. My family includes those who have been there when both my father and mother passed away. My family includes those who came to see my newborn children in the hospital. My family includes those who celebrated with me my greatest triumphs and consoled me in my greatest times of trial. Each and every one of them I have chosen to be a part of my family.

Most of the time we talk about stewardship in terms of time, talent, and treasure. We quantify the size of our gifts, seeing them as things that have a finite value. However, true stewardship has no limits. What we are called to give is everything. When we fully empty ourselves into another and into the reality of God we find ourselves transformed. We truly grow into our own as the creations we became at baptism.

It is in that transformation that we find ourselves connected to others in a profound way. Those who were not connected to us by blood are now connected to us by spirit. Our family, the body of Christ, grows and becomes stronger. In this family, a man can be father to a Son not of his flesh and a woman mother to a Son of a divine origin. In this family, we find our hope and our home. And we must never make the mistake of thinking that is not a choice.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS - © Liturgical Publications Inc

Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

Families face many challenges. All of the demands of work, school, and society can easily put a strain on even the best intentioned of families. Hurt, anger, and bitterness can grow in our families especially when conflicts are not properly resolved or relationships nurtured. Human beings require time, patience, love, and nurturing. We need to take time to celebrate the gift of family and not allow other demands to rob us of the time we need to spend together. Life is short. The Holy Family stands before us today showing us that love, commitment, and perseverance can see us through any difficulty or challenge life can bring. May we learn from their example!