

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



Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017

Advent Prayer

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.

Bulletin submissions should be directed to erin@sfxstillwater.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@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
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

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins... John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." (Mk 1:4, 6-7a)

Fr. Ken's Reflection: The Gospel of Mark is widely regarded as the first of the written gospels. Over ninety percent of it can be seen in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. This first of the Gospels begins with John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord. How does he do so? He preaches a baptism of repentance, a confession of sins. The relevance of John the Baptist is not to a people only in first century Palestine. The Scriptures record living tradition, a message that is valid for all times. The person of John the Baptist is long since gone; his mission is continued by the Church and more specifically, it is the focus of Advent. Prepare the way of the Lord! What does this mean except remove all that hinders his coming to you. The preparation is similar to preparing for guests in your home; you clean things up. However, the cleaning is not external but on a much deeper level, the level of personhood. To prepare the way of the Lord first requires that we want, we need his presence. There must be the recognition that ultimately, we are nothing without him. During this life, we may attain positions of power, we may amass great wealth. As soon as your life-breath leaves you, none of this is real anymore. If our lives are to continue beyond this natural one we have, it must be given to us. It is given, but we must receive it. What is this gift we must receive? It is a direct, personal participation in the eternal life of the Community of God himself, it is to share, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the very identity of the Son so that we can call God our Father. Because this is a personal union, we must remove all that inhibits it. A union of one person with another is what we call love. Love is inhibited where there is selfishness; for selfishness turns us away from others to our selves. Selfishness, in a real sense, is the root of all sin. So how do we remedy this selfishness? We confess it! Selfishness blinds us to others; if we are to truly see others, we must be aware how our selfishness inhibits this. It is only when we confess our selfishness to those whom we have harmed that we allow love to resume freely. As it is with our relationships here, so it is with God. One of the great gifts of Christ to his Church is the power to forgive sins. The Church primarily exercises this power through what we call the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Confession or Penance). Confession often conjures up fear and repulsion. Why do I need to go to confession? I can confess directly to God! This is true to an extent, every day we should hold ourselves accountable to God but there is more to it. Confession is more than forgiveness of sins; forgiveness of sin is the first part. What follows is an understanding of how our selfishness leads to sinfulness. Confession frees us from the guilt of the past and gives us true freedom to understand who we are in ourselves and in our relationship with others. I know this from my own use of the Sacrament. My friends, I urge you to prepare the way of the Lord by using this great tool of our Catholic spirituality. Is it difficult? At times, it is. It is worth it because it frees us to be fully personal with God, others and ourselves. What can you lose by going to confession? You will experience no judgment, only pardon and peace.

Readings for the Week of December 10, 2017

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Parish Contributions

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

	Weekly	To Date
St. Francis – Dec. 3	\$7,017.00	
ST. Francis Automatics	\$5,440.00	
Total	\$12,457.00	\$164,625.00
St. John – Dec. 3	\$7,198.00	
St. John Automatics	\$4,700.00	
Total	\$11,898.00	\$145,105.50

Stillwater Catholic Radio (11/17-12/31/17)

Annual Goal: \$4,260 Received to date: \$4,790.90

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, 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, Mary Katherine Gracia, Jack & Katie Gordy, Essy Gorrithis, Oscar González, James Grice, Todd Hachett, Monica Held, Cipriana Hernández, Mary Horton, Bob Kargel, Michael Knight, Mariela Latchman, Phyllis Lambert, Christopher Leffall, Anisa, Bernadette and Michael Magallanes, Luis Mendoza, Gerry & Sally Messbarger, Heath Myers, Deacon Bill & Oleta Moler, Mary Nichelson, Mario Nieves, John & Jacqueline Palumberi, Bethany Pate, John Penn, Dick Powell, Nancy Pruitt, Claudia Ramos, Larry Redburn, Danielle Robinson, Garcia & Reynaldo Roque, James Scerine, Paul Schatz, Pat Sohrwide, Beth Stroud, Ray Tallent, Dick and 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.

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

December 12 8:00am **Luckey – Andrew Family**
 December 13 8:00am **Dcn. Randy Hearn – M. Seiler**
 December 14 8:00am **†Sandra Schatz – C. Schatz**
 December 15 8:00am **†Herman Moravec –Dot Webb**
 December 16 5:00pm **For the Poor**
 December 17 8:00am **Pro Populo**
 10:00am **For Deceased Family members and friends**
 1:00pm **For the Families of Parishioners**

St. John the Evangelist

December 11 12:15pm
 December 12 5:15pm **Alessandro Calderoni-Ortiz – OSU Knights**
 December 13 12:15pm **Dcn. James Duck – OSU Knights**
 December 14 5:15pm **Dcn. Vince Fernandez – OSU Knights**
 December 15 5:15pm **Johnathan Fincher – OSU Knights**
 December 16 **No Saturday Mass**
 December 17 9:30am **Pro Populo**
 11:30am **Gabriel Garcia – Santibanez – OSU Knights**

HOSPITALITY

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration at St. Francis Xavier will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7:00 p.m. All are cordially invited. Salads and desserts are welcome. There will a mass, food, music and Mexican dancers will be performing all day, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Saint Francis parking lot.

Please Join us for a Celebration of Fr. Greiner's 80th Birthday in the St. Francis Parish Hall on Dec. 16 following the 5:00pm Mass. All are welcome! Come out and tell Fr. Greiner Happy Birthday. Light refreshments will be served. This event is hosted by your Stewardship Committee.

Knights of Columbus #5266 Annual Christmas party and potluck dinner. This family friendly event is open to all. It will be held in the Parish Hall at St. Francis on Dec. 17 from 5-8pm. The Knights will provide Ham and rolls. We will also have a special guest from the North Pole. Please contact Maury Campbell for more details or to RSVP. (405) 714-0975 or email at mlcampbell7587@sbcglobal.net

Stillwater Catholic Women Christmas Party - Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm in the St. Francis Basement. Bring a wrapped ornament (\$10 or less) for Dirty Santa Exchange. All women of the parish are welcome. We look forward to seeing you for some food, fellowship and fun! Any questions, contact Kathy Bidelspach 405-620-3253.

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

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.)

First Reconciliation Retreat - The First Reconciliation Retreat for those attending First Communion class is December 10th during RE class time (11:15-12:30). The retreat is for the students and at least one parent/guardian. It will be in the St. Francis Parish Hall (basement). Attendance will be taken.

First Reconciliation - December 13th at 6:30 pm at St. Francis. There is a short cookies and punch reception following the service.

Children's Christmas Pageants - All children in our Catholic Community are invited and welcome to participate in one or both of our pageants. Please see pageant and practice times below. There is room for everyone in each!

St. Francis Pageant - Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am. Arrive by 9:15 am.

St. Francis Practice - **NEW DAY AND TIME: Monday, December 11th at 6pm.**

St. John Pageant - Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm. Arrive by 5:15 pm.

St. John Practice - Wednesday, December 20th at 6pm.

YOUTH MINISTRY

6th – 12th Grades

CYO House (717 S. Hester St.)

December 10

Confirmation – 11:30am to 12:30pm
Edge - 5 to 6:30pm
Life Teen – 7 to 8:30pm at St. Francis for Adoration and Confessions

December 15

High School Lunch at the Albright Barn

December 17

Confirmation – 11:30am to 12:30pm
Edge - 5 to 6:30pm
Life Teen – 7 to 8:30pm



Follow us on Facebook!
Stillwater Catholic Youth Ministry

Adult Faith Formation

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.
Holiday Break - No Class on Dec. 13 – Jan. 3. The next class will be Jan. 10 covering The Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation. 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.

Mindfulness and Prayer

Join Fr. Ken Saturday mornings at 10:30am in St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall. All are welcome.

Bible Study

Our Matthew study has come to an end. On January 9th, we will begin a new 5-week study titled ***A Biblical Walk Through The Mass*** at 1:00 pm or 6:30 pm. This study will help you to “come to know and understand the Mass like never before with Dr. Edward Sri. Learn why we say what we say and do what we do as Catholics. With freshly awakened eyes of faith, the words and gestures will be seen in a new light, leading to a richer, more fruitful worship experience.” For more information or to register for this study, call Terri Schutte at 260-579-6464 or via email: terri.schutte4@gmail.com. This study is from Ascension Press.

Knights of Columbus Council 5266

Grand Knight – Chris Stoner
texaqok87@sbcglobal.net or 405-612-3135

Please note the new meeting time!!

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. For more details check out www.KofC.org or our Facebook page,

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.

SERVICE

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - The next meeting is December 14th at 7pm in Rm 5 of the St. Francis Center.

Unbound Weekend - You can make a life-saving gift to a child in need through Unbound. Unbound works side by side with families in 20 countries living in poverty. Unbound Ambassadors, Clem & Mimi Ward, will be at St. Francis after the 10:00 Mass on December 10th and at St. John after the 9:30 Mass on December 17th. Please stop by the information table before you leave church and check out profiles of children who are waiting for sponsors.



Giving Tree - St. Francis Xavier is sponsoring a "Giving Tree" this Christmas season to provide assistance for the good of our community. Ornaments can be found on the tree located in the vestibule. **Wrapped gifts MUST be returned by Sunday, December 10th unless otherwise specified on the ornament (please make sure the ornament card is attached).** If you have questions, please contact Kathleen Bays at (405)743-9258.

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 is 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.

Mother Teresa Ministry – November Report

November was another of our lightest months this year in terms of requests and assistance provided. It was very similar to November last year. One contributing factor might have been the Thanksgiving holiday when the office was closed for the holiday. A second contributing factor may be that some people we typically assist are getting assistance from Our Daily Bread Food and Resource Center. For the month of November, volunteers issued vouchers totaling \$1,075 and we assisted 19 individuals or families. *Thank you* to all who contribute to this ministry! Your support is greatly appreciated.

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” Bazaar

Thank you to the many parishioners who supported our Christmas Bazaar. It truly was a joint project blending the many talented women from our Catholic Community. We are truly grateful for the Bazaar Team Leaders: Fay Cypret, Marie Saatkamp Ashleigh Martin, Kathy Bidelspach, Karen Cryer, Kris Fowler, Amanda Hoppe, Chelsea Davis, Terri Schutte, Pam Haney, Julie Lauvetz, Joyce Steindl, Sandy Rooney, Carol Bays and Betty Townsend plus the many individuals who worked behind the scenes to make our Bazaar the Best EVER! A special Thank You to the Knights of Columbus and Darryl Krehbiel who provided the manual labor and “power” to keep our kitchen “cookin’! **This year we made over \$12,000!** These funds will support the Good Works of the Stillwater Catholic Women focusing on our Children and Youth programs, parish ministries, and local charities. Thank you for your continued support! Cindy Beckman, and Julie Huber Bazaar Co-chairs.

Health and Wellness Ministry

Brandi Bishop, RN 405-269-2252

The three P's of Safe Winter Driving:

PREPARE for the trip; **PROTECT** yourself; and **PREVENT** crashes on the road.

Maintain Your Car: Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.

Have On Hand: flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. *For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.*

Plan Your route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

- * Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- * Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- * Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- * Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
- * If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.

www.osha.org



Everyday Stewardship

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, and wedding engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the good news?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to him, the more we will want to share about him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to others might be the gift that changes their history. *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* - © Liturgical Publications Inc

Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

John the Baptist announced, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” Does preparing a way for the Lord have priority in our lives? Often we spend more time preparing paths for ourselves rather than a path for God. Advent calls us to take the focus off ourselves and put it on God. We prepare a path for God by practicing and living the virtues, being holy and devoted, patient and repentant, and attentive and humble. We are asked to bring comfort and healing to people and to show others by the way we live our lives that we have a higher calling and purpose.