

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



Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017

O Almighty God, gracious provider and giver of life, we anxiously await the celebration of your birth. Like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we, too, are in need of light, in need of direction, in need of your Word, to show us the way. Our busy lives and the consumerism that surrounds us make it difficult to recognize your kingdom and to hear your voice. Help us Lord, to focus on you. We pray that you hear our prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen. ~ from The Essential Advent and Christmas Handbook

**December 19 – Multiple Priests will be hearing
Confessions at St. Francis from 6pm to 8pm.
NO Confessions on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 5:30 to 7pm**

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 24
St. Francis Mass times – 8am and 10am (no 1pm Spanish Mass)
St. John Mass times – 9:30am and 11:30am

Christmas Eve – December 24
St. Francis Mass times – 4pm(Spanish), 7pm and 10pm
St. John Mass times – 6:00pm and Midnight

Christmas Day – December 25
St. Francis and St. John will have Mass at 10am

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

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:26-27)

Fr. Ken's Reflection: As you listen to the gospel this week, you may notice that it is similar to gospel last week, in that we hear of John the Baptist giving testimony to Jesus. This gospel this week comes from the gospel of John and has a different point of view. Before I go into the message proper, I want to make a note for you about the gospel of John. John often uses dualistic themes in his gospel. So, for instance, we see the theme of light versus darkness today. Those in the light recognize Jesus, those in the darkness do not. The question is, how do you know if you are really in the light? John has been in the wilderness proclaiming a message of preparing the way. In first century Palestine, there were many Jewish sects. Many self-appointed rabbis would gather disciples and teach their own brand of Jewish religion. The recognized leaders of the Jewish religion, the Pharisees and Sadducees, were concerned, as they should be, with such movements. Obviously, someone could come and teach something that would be harmful to true religion or stir up political unrest. John has a gathering of people so the leaders are want to know what he is about. Up to this point, everything is fine. However, the tension now rises. John tells the religious leaders that they do not recognize the one who follows. Of course at this point, Jesus is unknown but John is not talking about that. He is telling them that their eyes are closed to the Christ who is to come. They are very comfortable with the way things are and really don't want the Christ to come. Their words may indicate they expect a Christ but they really don't want him, because it will bring about a change. In our culture, we like change. Politically speaking, the promise of change is what many candidates offer, even if what is to be changed remains unclear. Yet, when we find our lives stable and comfortable, we resist change. This message of John the Baptist today is to recognize the Christ. This recognition is not simply a matter of a statement of belief or a celebration of Christmas, it requires above all an inner awareness of ourselves in relationship with Christ. In other words, does the whole of my life testify to my belief in Christ? If we fail to keep this inner awareness before us, then we are in the dark. What is worse is that we think we may be in the light. Practically speaking, you are in the light if you are not satisfied with your faith life; you don't think of yourself as 'good enough'. The love of God we must have is a dynamic reality and seeks to grow within us, to transform us more and more into the image of Christ. When things are dark, you can't see very well and so you don't notice defect. In the light, we see things the way they are and we can see where things need to be cleaned up. Similarly, a person walking in the light of faith is one who will not be satisfied with the way things are; that person is always seeking to make their life more and more like Christ's.

This Sunday during Mass we will have a celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick, also called Sacred Anointing. The Sacrament of the Sick is closely related to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Both have the same starting point, spiritual healing. Spiritual healing is another term for forgiveness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation has an additional grace of insight to help us discover our moral weakness and be strengthened morally. The Sacrament of the Sick has an additional grace that gives peace in suffering. This Sacrament is especially comforting, for it can answer for your faith when you are unable to do so. You know that you are forgiven any sins and at peace with God, even if you are unable to communicate. It used to be reserved only as the Last Rites of the Church. The Second Vatican Council restored it to the more ancient and more true apostolic understanding that it is for all who suffer weakness, be it mind, body or spirit at all stages of life, not just the final stage.

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

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
 Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 1:28]/Lk 1:57-66
 Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Parish Contributions

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

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>To Date</u>
St. Francis - Dec. 10	\$8,101.00	\$172,726.00
St. John - Dec. 10	\$5,945.00	\$151,050.50

Stillwater Catholic Radio (1/1/17-12/31/17)
 Annual Goal: **\$4,260** Received to date: **\$4,790.90**

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, 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, Carol Gleason, Mary Katherine Gracia, Jack & Katie Gordy, Essy Gorrattis, Oscar González, James Grice, Todd Hachett, Monica Held, Cipriana Hernández, James and Katie Higbee, 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 Sohrowide, 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 19 8:00am †Gene Iven – Mary Joy Holmes
 December 20 8:00am Fr. Ken – Marilyn Seiler
 December 21 8:00am †Mac McKelvey - Family
 December 22 8:00am †Ellie DeGeorge – Skip DeGeorge
 December 23 5:00pm For the Poor
 December 24 8:00am Pro Populo
 10:00am For Deceased Family members and friends

St. John the Evangelist

December 18 No Mass
 December 19 5:15pm Sharon Sample
 December 20 12:15pm
 December 21 5:15pm
 December 22 5:15pm
 December 23 No Saturday Mass
 December 24 9:30am Sharon Sample
 11:30am Pro Populo

HOSPITALITY

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

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

St. Francis Xavier Picture Books: Many of you ordered a St. Francis picture book at the bazaar. We will continue to take orders for them through Friday, Dec. 22. The cost is \$45. Checks may be made payable to St. Francis Xavier.

FORMATION

Youth Formation - Religious Education & Youth Ministry

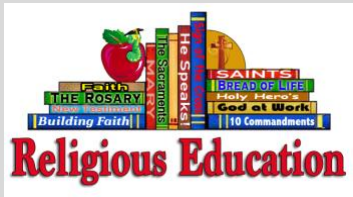
Sarah Dorman, RE Coordinator – creprek-5@brightok.net or 405.372.7987
Ashleigh Martin, Youth Minister – catholicyouth@brightok.net or 405.269.3786

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

RE Classes TODAY
from 11:15am to 12:30pm

There are no RE classes
on December 24th and 31st.
Classes resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018!



Children's Christmas Pageant

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 17
Confirmation –
11:30am to 12:30pm
Edge - 5 to 6:30pm
Life Teen – 7 to 8:30pm

No Classes on Dec. 24th.



Follow us on Facebook!
Stillwater Catholic
Youth Ministry

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.

Mindfulness and Prayer

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

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

texaqok87@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 fourth Monday of
each month as needed, but other
arrangements can be made if necessary.

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.

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 18 at pm in Rm. 6 of they St. Francis Center.

Birthright of Stillwater is a crisis pregnancy center that focuses on love. We believe it is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth, and the right of every child to be born. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please contact Lori Wieder at 377-5683!

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.

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.

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 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.

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

My Family Health Portrait

Do any health conditions seem to run in your family? Now is the time to find out. Get to know your family better this holiday season by talking about health. Ask about the health history of your grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and the rest. You can share this information with your health care team.

Knowing your family's health history can help physicians provide better care for you. It helps them know which medical tests to suggest for detecting early warning signs of certain diseases. Early testing helps

because doctors can try to prevent a disease or treat it as soon as possible. An online tool makes it easy to collect the information in one place. It's called "My Family Health Portrait." It's quick

and easy to fill out. My Family Health Portrait is a Web-based tool that helps you create your own family health history. Using any computer, you provide your health information to build a drawing of your family tree and a chart of your family health history. Both the chart and the drawing can be printed and shared with your family members and your doctor and help you take action to keep you and your family healthy. www.familyhistory.hhs.gov.



Everyday Stewardship

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in him and hope that the hours that passed gave him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend fewer dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the One who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS - © Liturgical Publications Inc

Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

John the Baptist came to testify to the light, who is Jesus Christ. Like John, we are called to testify to that same Light. We do so by living lives of faith and bringing the joy of the Gospel to everyone we meet. We are people of joy who rejoice at his birth and eagerly await his coming again. We share that joy by tending to the needs of the poor, helping those who are broken, and witnessing to the freedom that a life in God brings. May we take our task of being joyful witnesses to the good news seriously as the celebration of Christ's birth fast approaches.