

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



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord January 7, 2018

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this home and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ That our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Farewell Fr. Ken Harder!

**Your love and ministry given to the Stillwater Catholic Community
over the past 15 years will always be remembered.**

**Thank you for your compassion, guidance and service.
You will sincerely be missed by your Stillwater Family and
we wish you great success in your new role at the Diocese.
May God continue to bless you in your Priesthood.**

**Fr. Ken's Total Sacraments at St. Francis Xavier – 1,659
606 Baptisms † 412 Confirmations † 126 Marriages
165 Funerals † 350 First Communion**

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. Knobloch † 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

*They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
(Mt 2:10-11)*

Gospel Reflection: The Christmas season comes to a close today, as does my time as parish priest. I have written these bulletin reflections since I came here and now I come to the last one. Epiphany, the manifestation of the newborn Christ to the world completes our celebration of his birth and it is fitting last weekend mass. In some cultures, particularly in the east, the giving of gifts is today, after all it is when the newborn Christ received his gifts from the Magi. One experience many of us have is buying gifts for Christmas. Some people search the whole year to find the right gifts. It simply won't due to buy the first thing you can find. To give a really good gift, you need to know well the person for whom you buy the gift. You must know what they like, sometimes you may buy a gift they haven't thought of because you know it will be good for that person. In a word, a gift tells the other person who we think they are. I think everyone knows the feeling of receiving a gift they like and one they don't like. The gift you appreciate is one that will bring you some benefit. The gift that you don't like or don't have a use for becomes a burden. It is a relief that you can find someone else to take it. The magi have come to know that a great person has been born and his birth is a gift to humanity. This knowledge compels them to make a journey, a difficult one. By the knowledge they have received, they follow the sign; we are told that it is a star in the sky. They trust in this sign and it leads them to encounter God in the flesh. This star is like what we call a sacrament; it is a physical reality that leads one to encounter Christ. The three bring gifts. They didn't just grab something off the shelf. Each of these gifts reflects their understanding of who this great one is. The first gift is gold. Gold has always been deemed precious. Only one with great authority, a king, was worthy to receive it. The gift of gold means they acknowledge him to be king, one with authority. By their gift, they place themselves at his service and are obedient to him. They give him frankincense, which is a sign of prayer and worthy worship. We still use frankincense here for adoration and high masses, as well as in a funeral when we ask God to receive the life of our beloved departed and our prayer for them as worthy in his presence. Only a priest used frankincense as he offered sacrifice and worship not just for himself but for all the people. The Magi understood that this great king was also the one who would offer worthy worship to God. It was not the frankincense that made the worship worthy, it was the offering of Christ himself. Finally, myrrh is offered. Perhaps it is the most difficult to give. Myrrh was an embalming spice; it was used for the death of a person. The Magi showed that this great king and priest would fulfill his work by his own death. The gift of myrrh is the sign that the true disciple understands the cross, with all its pain, injustice and desolation is the way to new life. Together, these three gifts show the true understanding of who Christ is and who we are to him. We are obedient to our king, we worship through him in the way that has been handed to us and in our being with Jesus crucified and forsaken in death, we have eternal life. I am grateful for the gift to me of my time as pastor here. Imitating the trust of the Magi, I follow the star that is Christ on an uncertain journey but I have joyful hope. It has been good to journey with you, as we part, may your journey always be guided by the star whose light is Christ. May we all meet again at journey's fulfillment: life everlasting.

Readings for the Week of January 7, 2018

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
 Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/Mk 1:7-11
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:21-28 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17
 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

Parish Contributions

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

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>To Date</u>
St. Francis - Dec. 31	\$9,545.00	\$206,213.81
St. John - Dec. 31	\$5,560.30	\$166,888.15

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 Gorrittis, 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 Nicholson, 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 Sohrwede, Beth Stroud, Ray Tallent, Teddy Taylor, Pat Teller, Robby Tiedt, Hector Vivar, Don Wagner, Lindsay Wahmeir, 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 Michael Henrick.

† Mass Intentions †

St. Francis Xavier

January 9 8:00am **Jean & Paul McMullen**
 January 10 8:00am **Fr. Andy Seiler**
 January 11 8:00am **Fr. Brian O'Brien**
 January 12 8:00am **Jim Littell & The Cowgirls -**
 Bobbie Andrew
 January 13 5:00pm **†Joe Nelson -**
 Jenny and Family
 January 14 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 13 **No Saturday Mass**
 January 14 9:30am
 11:30am **Leonardo Morales-Salas**
 - OSU Knights

HOSPITALITY

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

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

Join us for the monthly Knights of Columbus Breakfast next weekend – January 14th in the Parish Hall (basement) of St. Francis from 8:30am to 11:30pm. \$10 per family or \$4 per person. Free Blood Pressure Screening will be available.

FORMATION

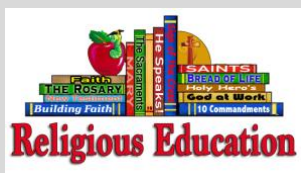
Youth Formation - Religious Education & Youth Ministry

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.)

Classes resume
on Sunday,
January 7, 2018
at the St. Francis School
from 11:15am to
12:30pm



YOUTH MINISTRY

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

January 7

All classes resume
Confirmation 1130am to 1230pm
Edge 5 to 630pm
Life Teen 7 to 830pm

January 14

Ski Trip Meeting from 4 to 5pm
at the CYO House. If you plan to go on the Spring
Break Ski Trip, please attend this meeting.
All forms and deposits are due!!

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.



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.

The Tulsa March for Life Every Life is Sacred

Ecumenical March for Life on January 14,
2018. Noon Mass for the Sanctity of Human
Life at Holy Family Cathedral. March begins
in front of Holy Family Cathedral at 1pm.
One Faith Community Joined Together for a
Greater Purpose.

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.

Seminary Visit

Fr. Michael Pratt and Fr. Duy Nguyen
will be taking young men to
visit Holy Trinity seminary in Dallas from
January 27th-29th. The trip is open and free
to all high school and college age students.
For more information or to reserve a spot,
contact Fr. Pratt at frmpratt3@gmail.com or
[918-884-4200](tel:918-884-4200).

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. *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, call Terri Schutte at **260-579-6464** or via email: terri.schutte4@gmail.com.

SERVICE

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - The next meeting is January 25 at 7pm in Rm 5 of the St. Francis Center.

Stewardship Council Meeting – The next working meeting is February 1 at 6pm at the Hampton Inn and Suites on 6th and Country Club. There will be a short meeting on Jan. 18th at 6pm in Rm 6 at St. Francis to welcome and meet Fr. O'Brien.

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 at St. Francis 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 at St. Francis, 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 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

Wishes for 2018

God gives you
12 Months of Happiness,
52 Weeks of Fun,
365 Days of Success,
8760 Hours of Good Health,
525,600 Minutes of Good Luck,
31,536,000 Seconds of Joy



Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance Advanced Class- is a six-week advanced series that allows those who have completed Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance (TCMBB) to maintain the practice of the skills they have already learned. Advanced class will be held 1:30-2:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays from January 9th-February 15th. To register for either class please contact Maricela at OHAI 405-271-6424 or email centralohai@ouhsc.edu or Brandi Bishop, Parish Nurse, 405-269-2252 or email bmb29@hotmail.com

There is a "Memory Book" at the back of the church for Parishioners to write their memories of St. Francis. The book is divided by sacraments, has space for funerals, and space for names of Parishioners. Please share memories for yourself and family members.

Everyday Stewardship

My mother-in-law was the best gift-giver I ever knew. One could say my parents spoiled me growing up, but there was something about her gifts to me that made me feel overwhelmed. I guess it was that after several years I still was surprised that she would think enough of me to get me something no one else would. She was able to make me feel special every time. Of course, I believe she honored me in this way because I accepted her greatest gift to me, her daughter.

Sadly, my mother-in-law did not live long in this world. She passed away over a decade ago due to an aggressive cancer. Some of her material gifts to me remain, while others are long gone. But the memories and the effect of those gifts remain because it was never all about the gifts themselves. It was about relationship. It was about her and me. It was about love.

What we offer Jesus is never about the gift itself. It is about the motivation behind the action and the effect that action has on the body of Christ. Many of the gifts we give today to God and his people will fade away like the mist of the early morning, but the effects of those actions will last forever. It is about relationship. It is about God and us. It is about love.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS - © Liturgical Publications Inc

Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

Jesus came for everyone. No one has an exclusive claim on Christ and his birth not only transcends time and space but earthly boundaries as well. Every human being is a child of God. Jews and Gentiles alike are all coheirs, partners and members of the same body. This insight or epiphany is what we celebrate today. It also expresses our hope that one day every nation on earth will recognize and adore Jesus Christ. Jesus' message of peace, justice, reconciliation and love are meant for everyone to hear and understand.