

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 27, 2020

The Holy Family



© LPI

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday, 8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday, 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
 1:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday–Friday Morning Prayer, 7:40 a.m.
 Daytime Prayer, 3:10 p.m.; Evening Prayer, 6:00 p.m.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Monday–Friday 4:45–5:25 p.m.
 Saturday 3:00–4:00 p.m.
 During all Saturday Vigil & Sunday Masses

FR. JARROD'S CONFESSION/ADVICE SCHEDULE

Open Canceled Off

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2
11:30 a.m.							
3:30 p.m.							
8:00 p.m.							

APOSTOLIC LETTER *PATRIS CORDE* OF POPE FRANCIS ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF ST. JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Bishop Kemme announced that Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 7, 2021, would be the "Year of St. Joseph" in the Diocese of Wichita. Shortly afterward, Pope Francis declared this the Year of St. Joseph for the Church as a whole to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. What follows is an abbreviated version of Pope Francis' letter.

WELCOME!

At St. Francis of Assisi Parish, we strive to be united in the Eucharist and formed as instruments of peace through the practice of stewardship in imitation of God's Triune love. Through the proclamation of the Gospel we invite you to become disciples of Jesus Christ and included within our parish family through worship, fellowship, education, and stewardship.

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

We'd love to have you join our faith community! Start the registration process by going to stfranciswichita.com or by calling the parish office.

Parish Office

(316) 722-4404
sfac@stfranciswichita.com
www.stfranciswichita.com

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Saturdays after 6:00 p.m. evening prayer; Sundays after 1:00 p.m. Mass. Schedule with the church office.

Matrimony: Call a priest 9 months prior to desired wedding date.

WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph".

Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a "just man" (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22). He beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere (cf. Lk 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-20) and Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12). Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21).

Now, 150 years after his proclamation as Patron of the Catholic Church, I would like to share some reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience.

1. A beloved father

Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, ... a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home."

Thanks to his role in salvation history, Joseph has always been venerated as a father.

2. A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus. In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13).

3. An obedient father

As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph [...] by using dreams.

Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to "expose her to public disgrace", so he decided to "dismiss her quietly" (Mt 1:19).

In [a] dream, an angel [comes to him]: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:20-21). Joseph's response was immediate: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Mt 1:24). Joseph declared his own "fiat", like Mary's at the Annunciation.

4. An accepting father

Just as God told Joseph: "Son of David, do not be afraid!" (Mt 1:20), so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" We must embrace the way things are even if they do not turn out as we wish. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we live them in accordance with the Gospel.

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak. He is the "Father of orphans and protector of widows" (Ps 68:6).

5. A creatively courageous father

If at times God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned, but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves. That kind of creative courage was shown by the friends of the paralytic, who lowered him from the roof in order to bring him to Jesus (cf. Lk 5:17-26). Difficulties did not stand in the way of those friends' boldness and persistence. [When Jesus saw] their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you'" (vv. 19-20). Jesus recognized the creative faith with which they [brought] their sick friend to him.

The Gospel does not [say] how long the Holy Family remained in Egypt. Yet they certainly needed to eat, to find a home and employment. [They faced] concrete problems like every family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their

native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.

6. A working father

Saint Joseph earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, dignity and joy of [work]. In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Joseph is an exemplary patron. Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of [others]. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment of oneself, [and] also of [...] the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties.

7. A father in the shadows

Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on Mary and Jesus.

Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it is a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father.

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.

Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran, on 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the year 2020, the eighth of my Pontificate.

What's Happening

ADORERS NEEDED

Perpetual adoration at SFA has resumed, with social distancing and face coverings. If you are interested and willing to commit to one of these hours for adoration, please contact Jenny Morgan at mollyshome@att.net.

- Monday, 3:00 to 4:00 a.m.
Monday, 4:00 to 5:00 a.m. URGENT
Tuesday, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, noon to 1:00 p.m. URGENT
Friday, 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S ADORATION

The adoration chapel will reopen on Sunday, December 27, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass. Additionally, the adoration chapel will close for the New Year's holiday on Thursday, December 31, at 4:00 p.m., and reopen on Sunday, January 3, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

All high school students in the parish are invited to join us for CYM on Wednesday nights. Throughout the year, we participate in activities that allow us to meet new people, grow in our faith, and serve our community. We have students from five different high schools who attend on a

Save THE Date!

December 30 - NO CYM
Happy New Year!
CYM will resume in the New Year.

What's Happening

STEWARDSHIP FORMS

It's not too late to turn in your stewardship forms! Drop them off at the church office. If you still need forms, please contact the church office at (316) 722-4404.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Friday, January 1, 2021, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year due to the suspended obligation to attend Sunday Mass. However, we will still hold Masses to celebrate at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 31, and at 8:00 a.m., noon, 5:30 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 1, 2021. Additionally, the parish office will be closed January 1.

MEDJUGORJE PRAYER MEETING

Join the Medjugorje Prayer Group for a Rosary and Chapel of Divine Mercy after 5:30 p.m. Mass on Monday, Dec. 28. After prayers, we'll meet in Clare Basement for sharing and fellowship. You may bring a snack to share.

EXODUS 90 FOR MEN BEGINS JAN. 4

Bishop Kemme has declared this the Year of St. Joseph in our diocese. He announced that we would observe this year in large part to "renew parish and family life" and to help husbands and fathers "embrace [their] vocation and its essential duties with renewed fervor and dedication." One of the initiatives our parish is taking on to pursue this endeavor is the Exodus 90 program. Exodus 90 is a 90-day spiritual exercise for men based on three pillars: prayer, asceticism (or self-denial), and fraternity. Learn more at exodus90.com/how-it-works/. Exodus 90 has helped thousands of men on their journeys to freedom from addictions like overeating, overspending or viewing pornography, and from attachments to work, TV, social media, or anxiety. It is a call to men to root themselves in daily prayer and advance in self-mastery. It is time to answer the bishop's call to renew our strength. To get plugged into an Exodus 90 group at SFA, contact the parish office.

SAVE THE DATE: DAY OF GIVING 2021

Save the date for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School's 2021 Day of Giving! The Day of Giving is an annual celebration of Catholic schools nationwide, and is held during Catholic Schools Week. The 2021 Day of Giving will be held for 24 hours starting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Please consider making a gift to SFACS to commemorate this occasion.

SFA KINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED FOR 2021-2022

Applications for admission for the 2021-2022 kindergarten class are available on the school website, stfranciswichita.com/school. To begin the admission process, please turn in your completed application to the school office. Questions? Call the school office at (316) 722-5171.

If a Catholic education is something that you do not feel is possible for your family, please contact Mr. Pat Burns, director of stewardship and finance, at (316) 722-4404 or pburns@stfranciswichita.com to learn more about the Stewardship Way of Life.

SFA PRESCHOOL APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED FOR 2021-2022

Enrollment applications for the preschool classes for the 2021-2022 School Year are now available on the school website: stfranciswichita.com/school. Once you complete the online form, your child will be placed on a waitlist for your selected class. The enrollment process is not completed until all supporting documentation, and an enrollment fee of \$60, is received in the school office. Preschool classes include:

- 3 YR T-TH AM Class: 7:50 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- 4 YR MWF AM Class: 7:50 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- 4 YR M-F PM Class: 12:30 p.m.-3:20 p.m.
- 4 YR M-F ALL DAY Class: 7:50 a.m.-3:20 p.m.

For more information about the St. Francis of Assisi Preschool Program, contact the school office at (316)722-5171.

OPERATIONS COUNCIL

No darkness can overpower the joy and the light of Christmas. We count our blessings as the year comes to a close. May the generous of heart of every good steward be blessed.

We thank you for your generous gifts this year. May we look forward to the new year with anticipation and ask the Lord to continue to bless us in all that we do.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- The Operations Council

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 27, 2020: *The Holy Family*

Gospel: *Luke 7:18B-23*

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

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This Week

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

ROSARY GROUP Church, 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

MARIAN MANTLE ROSARY GROUP Church, after 8:00 a.m. Mass

MEDJUGORJE PRAYER GROUP Clare Basement, after 5:30 p.m. Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY ROSARY GROUP Church, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP Clare Basement, 6:30-7:30 a.m.

RCIA Clare Hall, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

THURSDAY MORNING ROSARY GROUP Clare Basement, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ADORATION CHAPEL Closes at 4:00 p.m.

FR. JARROD'S CONFESSIONS/SPIRITUAL ADVICE Canceled

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Masses at 8:00 a.m., noon, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE Closed

ADORATION CHAPEL Closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021

ADORATION CHAPEL Closed

FR. JARROD'S CONFESSIONS/SPIRITUAL ADVICE Canceled



Mass Intentions

DECEMBER 28, 2020 - JANUARY 3, 2021

Monday 28	8:00 a.m. † William Daniels 5:30 p.m. † Bernadine Wells
Tuesday 29	8:00 a.m. † Ralph & Doris Loughman 5:30 p.m. † Kimberly & Vanessa Tran
Wednesday 30	8:00 a.m. † Maria Hoang & Vincent Vu 5:30 p.m. † William Fuhrman
Thursday 31	8:00 a.m. Special Intention 5:30 p.m. Stephanie H. Spec. Int.
Friday Jan 1	8:00 a.m. Vocations 12:00 p.m. Mary & Leo Dorzweiler 5:30 p.m. † Carlos Vasquez 7:00 p.m. † Helen Damm
Saturday 2	8:00 a.m. † Dec Mem of Joseph Popelka Fam 5:00 p.m. † Harold Ridder 7:00 p.m. † Francisco Salgado
Sunday 3	7:00 a.m. † Ben Albert 8:30 a.m. † Andrew Kuykendall 10:00 a.m. For the People 11:30 a.m. † Anna Le Thi Huong 1:00 p.m. † Fr. Kent Hemberger

Around the Diocese

BE THE BLESSING FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Double your donation and help Catholic Charities meet a \$60,000 match challenge with your gift to its Be the Blessing appeal by December 31, 2020. To learn more or to give, visit give.CatholicCharitiesWichita.org/be-the-blessing.

LORD'S DINER FOOD PANTRY

The Lord's Diner is opening a food pantry. The pantry will have two outreach programs to serve those in need. Those interested in donating to the pantry may call Sarah at 316-266-4966 or email beth@TheLordsDiner.org. Items such as granola bars, peanut butter and cheese crackers, fruit cups, individually packaged snacks, socks, and travel-size toiletries are greatly needed. Financial support for the pantry is also needed. Drop off donations at The Lord's Diner, 520 N. Broadway, 7 days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY RETREAT

From January 29 at 7:00 p.m. to January 31 at 1:00 p.m., Scott Weeman will be hosting a healing retreat at the Spiritual Life Center. This event is open to anyone struggling with an addiction or unhealthy attachments. Participants will be encouraged to encounter the Lord and grow closer to him through talks, reflection, prayer and sharing, as well as a faith-centric approach to the 12-Steps of Addiction Recovery principles. Confession and Mass will be offered. Register online at www.slcwichita.org

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

DR. SCOTT HAHN

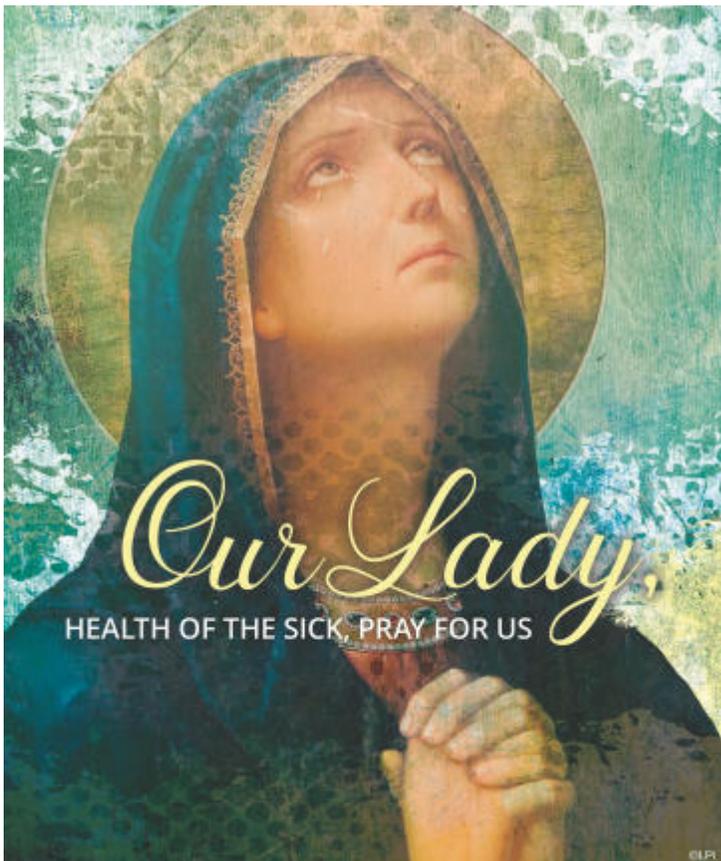


LISTEN

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

To sign up for FORMED, visit formed.org/signup and search "St. Francis of Assisi Wichita."



PARISH STAFF

- Fr. C. Jarrod Lies.....frlies@stfranciswichita.com
- Fr. Drew Dellasega....frdellasega@stfranciswichita.com
- Fr. Luke Downing.....frdowning@stfranciswichita.com
- Pat Burns, Director of Stewardship & Finance
.....pburns@stfranciswichita.com
- Travis Pearson, Parish Life Administrator
.....tpearson@stfranciswichita.com
- Emily Savage, Youth Director/Confirmation
.....esavage@stfranciswichita.com
- Rebecca Vodola, Director of Communications
.....rvodola@stfranciswichita.com
- Mary Carter, School Principal.....316.722.5171

PARISH OFFICE/RECTORY

- Office.....316.722.4404
- Medical Emergency Number.....316.531.0184
This number is for emergencies only.
- Website.....www.stfranciswichita.com
- E-mail.....sfac@stfranciswichita.com

SCHOOL

- Phone.....316.722.5171
- Fax.....316.722.0492



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PRAYER REQUESTS

- Kevin or Karen: (6:00-10:00 p.m.) 316.721.1771
- E-mail..... sfapraychain@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4118 316.461.6481

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA LIBRARY

Hours: Friday 8:30-9:30 a.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Call 706-7185 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? CALL 1.800.848.LOVE

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Those interested in attending NFP classes may contact the diocesan office at 316-685-5240. Website: www.nfpwichita.org.

LOST AND FOUND

Please check Lost and Found in front walkway. Items are kept for two weeks before being donated to Goodwill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please keep the church office informed of changes in names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. By letting us know you have moved, we can save money on postage returns and keep our membership roster up to date.

BULLETIN NOTICES

Must be submitted to church office no later than 9:00 a.m. Monday.

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