

Father's Focus

Next weekend is Safe Haven Sunday, dedicated to making our homes "safe havens" for children especially in regard to online exposure and pornography. There is much freedom that comes from having an integrated view of human sexuality, and not only knowing but practicing the Church's teachings on human sexuality. While there are manifold issues plaguing our society today, I wanted to address a few to help parents find words for their children and share some practical tips for people who may struggle.

HUMAN SEXUAL BEINGS: "GOD'S WORK OF ART"

St. Paul calls human beings "God's work of art" (Eph. 2:9). Embedded in each one of us is our sexuality, a beautiful gift whereby we are male and female, mysteries that are inexhaustible, unique and yet full of potential to be dangerous when misused by ourselves and others.

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

Monday-Friday, 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.

Pre-marital sex

Our culture seems to have accepted pre-marital sex as a "given." The moral optic seems to be that there is nothing wrong with this, but "just don't get pregnant."

Engaging in pre-marital sex does not show true respect for yourself or for others. In reality, few recognize it is a *radical injustice* toward self and the other person. Our sexuality is a beautiful gift that needs to respect two key dimensions:

- It is a sign of **outward-reaching love and faithful commitment**;
- It always includes a willingness to accept **responsibility** for any possible consequences, such as pregnancy or disease.

Additionally, sexual intercourse is reserved to those who are validly married. It deserves the "protection" marriage gives to it, so that someone is not merely a "sex object," only to experience pleasure on demand. Also, it is a matter of justice that a child is born into a family. Sex requires a true, permanent commitment.

It is important to remember that **abstinence is possible**. It can be a sign of true love, fidelity, and self-sacrifice. It can mean, "I respect you and do not want to use you only for myself." Humans are not merely animals in heat, unable to stop themselves. But there *are* some practical things you can do to avoid temptation:

- **Beware of actions that make you vulnerable:** alcohol, parties, drugs, and being alone together especially at night.
- **Keep a balanced life**, including exercise and meaningful friends, so that sex does not seem essential to the relationship. It is not!
- **Pray daily**, receiving the Eucharist and seeking sacramental confession regularly, and do some good inspirational reading.
- **Be vigilant about what you're looking at on social media.** Sometimes, all these sites do is to fuel our imagination to carry out all kinds of sexual activities that are totally lacking in human dignity and respect for another person.

Masturbation

Our human sexuality is a gift from God inviting us to loving relationships and creativity that beget children. Self-arousal involving masturbation contradicts this essential meaning of our sexuality. It is a "lonely act" which turns us in on ourselves.

Committing this act tells us that something is not in order in our lives.

The Church's psycho-spiritual advisors note that *masturbation is often symptomatic of boredom, anxiety, loneliness or an unintegrated personal life*. Some people mistakenly use masturbation to relieve stress or to run from the risks of interpersonal relationships. Again, there are some practical steps you can take to overcome it:

- Determine what **personal "patterns" or habits** lead you to engage in masturbation, and take steps to avoid them.
- Take practical steps to **re-balance your life** if it feels out of balance. This could mean introducing or reintroducing prayer, exercise, healthy friendships, etc.
- **Seek confession** often.

Remember that "Heaven is full of people who have started over again often" (Irish proverb). Additionally, the temptation to masturbation usually does diminish as one matures, grows older, and becomes more integrated. But even if it doesn't... "Don't give up; God is on your side." *Adapted from The Art of the Confessor by Fr. Michael R. Prieur, S.T.D.*

- Fr. Jarrod Lies, pastor

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.



- Tuesday, 1:00 to 2:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. URGENT

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Ash Wednesday Masses will be held on February 17 at 8:00 a.m., noon, and 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. Additionally, Catholic adults who are not elderly, sick, pregnant, or nursing are obliged to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday. From the USCCB: "The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal."

ST. JOSEPH CONSECRATION INFORMATION

St. Francis will be walking through the Consecration to St. Joseph February 15 to March 19 for the Year of St. Joseph. The consecration is found in a book by Fr. Donald Calloway which we have purchased in bulk at a discounted price. You may call the parish office to purchase a copy. We will distribute a limited number of copies on a first-come, first-served basis.

We will **not** meet in person to pray together the Consecration to St. Joseph, with the exception of the consecration prayer on March 19. This prayer will be prayed together after the 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses at St. Francis. Additionally, we will be sending out weekly videos from Fr. Luke and several parishioners with videos of stories, encouragement, and practical tips to integrate devotion to St. Joseph in your life. If you do not already receive emails from the parish but would like to, please call the parish office at (316) 722-4404.

CYM WATER DONATIONS NEEDED

CYM is in need of packages of plastic water bottles for our high school students to use. If you can help, please drop your donations in the church office with a note that they are for CYM. Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATES: K of C FISH FRY DINNERS

Save the dates! Knights of Columbus Council #4118 Annual Lenten Fish Fry dinners are scheduled for Friday, March 12, and Friday, March 26. Meals will be available from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on both days and are **CAR- RYOUT ONLY**. More information will be printed in the weeks to come!



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 regular basis.

Save THE Date!

February 17- TBD

Clare Hall

Please bring a mask.

What's Happening

PARISH LIBRARY NOW ACCEPTING ONLINE REQUESTS

The St. Anthony of Padua Library has gone online! You may request to borrow materials from our parish library through a simple online form, found at <https://www.stfranciswichita.com/index.php/resources/library>. Your parish library has over 1500 items, including books, CDs and DVDs, all available to enrich the spiritual lives of our parish family and support growth in our Catholic Christian faith. Both the online form and lists of all library items may be found on the parish website under Resources. The online request form is easy to fill out and you will be contacted by a library volunteer to arrange pickup of the items you request.

LENTEN PRACTICES CALENDAR

Lent starts February 17! Have you decided what your Lenten resolutions will be for prayer, fasting and almsgiving? Visit www.stfranciswichita.com/school to download a Lenten practices calendar with daily activities for older children during Lent. New this year, we also have a calendar for adults!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday in Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held at 6:10 p.m. in the church, immediately following Mass and Evening Prayer.

OPERATIONS COUNCIL

Ash Wednesday is this week! May we approach this Lenten season with humble and grateful hearts.

This season is here for us to reflect on how we are living our lives. It is a time for sacrifice and prayerful reflection.

May this Lenten season be a time of prayer, adoration and thanksgiving for all our blessings.

- The Operations Council

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 Preschool Program, contact the school office at (316)722–5171.

Saint Reflection

STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS

On February 14, the Church typically celebrates the feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. These brothers by birth became brothers in mission.

Cyril and Methodius were born to a Greek diplomat in the 800s. The two brothers served in local governmental posts before each withdrew to a monastery. Their lives changed when the political leadership in Eastern Europe — what is now Ukraine — requested priests who spoke the native Slavic languages. Cyril and Methodius had proven themselves as able administrators and holy men, so they were sent as missionaries. First, Cyril invented an alphabet. This became the foundation for what is now used today and is still called the Cyrillic alphabet! Next, the brothers translated the Gospels, the Psalms, and other liturgical books into the native language of the people. Their work spread across Eastern Europe. God indeed raises up saints for their times! Sts. Cyril and Methodius, pray for us! *LPi*

February 14, 2021

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice raises its ugly head and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision. *LPi*

Around the Diocese

SEMINAR ON DEPRESSION

An educational seminar on depression will be held February 16 and 17. It is designed to help you gain an understanding of depression and also learn some ways to overcoming it. There are two sessions being offered at the Spiritual Life Center, February 16 at 7 p.m. and on February 17 at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$10. For more information and to register, visit www.slcwichita.org or call (316) 744-0167.

SEASONAL LANDSCAPE POSITION OPEN

The Catholic Diocese of Wichita is looking for a Seasonal Landscape Worker at the Catholic Life Center located at 45th St. N. and Woodlawn. This is a full-time, seasonal position from March through October. Interested applicants may contact Tom Truman (Landscape Director) at (316) 744-8303. Deadline for accepting applications is February 19. For information regarding requirements, visit at www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/careers.

OPEN POSITION AT THE DIOCESE

The Catholic Diocese of Wichita is seeking an outstanding individual to serve as Secretary for the Office of Ministry with Persons with Disabilities and Database Assistant for the Office of Development and Planned Giving. Secretarial support will include event planning and correspondence; maintaining files, databases, websites, and social media; answering inquiries; and scheduling appointments. Database support will include maintenance and updates of a collaborative database serving our major ministries; processing contributions and preparing acknowledgments and receipts; ensuring accuracy of gift data entry; and creating reports, queries, and exports. The deadline for accepting resumes is noon on February 23. For more information, visit catholicdioceseofwichita.org/careers.



LENTEN PODCAST SERIES BY KAPAUN'S MEN

"The Battle" is an 8-week Lenten Podcast collaboration between Kapaun's Men and the men of Rekindle the Fire (Indiana) to help you get into the spiritual fight. The devil wants to attack our identity as men, fathers, husbands and friends. Lent is the perfect time to embrace the tools the Church offers to help us draw closer to God. To join us in The Battle, simply listen to the Podcast each week starting February 10, do the weekly challenge, and pray the Prayer to St. Michael daily. www.kapaunsmen.com/foxhole

Mass Intentions

FEBRUARY 15 - 21, 2021

Monday 15	8:00 a.m. † Mike Weber
	5:30 p.m. † Ralph & Mary Iseman
Tuesday 16	8:00 a.m. † OJ & Janet Baalman
	5:30 p.m. † Bill Hillers
Wednesday 17	8:00 a.m. † Ron Brummel
	12:00 p.m. † Angie Grady
	5:30 p.m. † Ralph Hight
	7:00 p.m. † Eileen Danahy
Thursday 18	8:00 a.m. Adam & Katie Zimmerman Spec. Int.
	5:30 p.m. Liv & Dec. Mem of McAtee Fam.
Friday 19	8:00 a.m. † Marie Z
	5:30 p.m. † Walford McFarlane
Saturday 20	8:00 a.m. For Peace & Our Country
	5:00 p.m. † Abigail Ranney Spec. Int.
	7:00 p.m. † Don Miller
Sunday 21	7:00 a.m. For the People
	8:30 a.m. † Kathleen & Jim Buchanan
	10:00 a.m. † Fred Kuestersteffen
	11:30 a.m. † Lilly Anne LaMunyon
	1:00 p.m. † Rev. Andrew Kuykendall



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

ROSARY GROUP Church, 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

ST. JOSEPH CONSECRATION BEGINS (Personal devotion)

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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

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

CALLED & GIFTED Stewardship Hall, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

No events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

SAFE HAVEN WEEKEND All Vigil Masses

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PICK OF THE WEEK

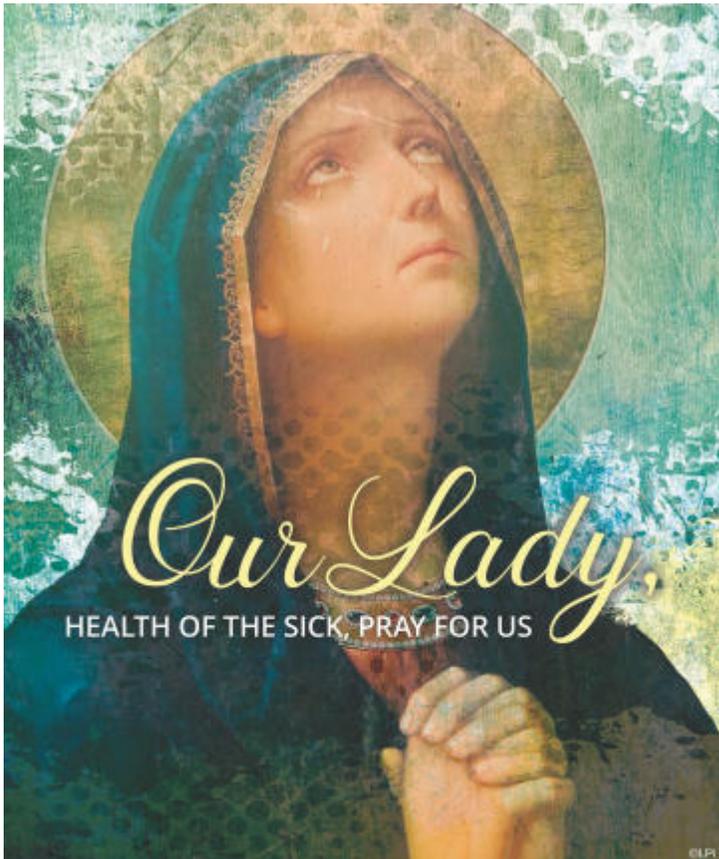


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To sign up for FORMED, visit formed.org/signup and search "St. Francis of Assisi Wichita."



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



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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