ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
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BLESSED SACRAMENT
ORATORY † COALGATE

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	10:00 am
Sunday *(Spanish)*	12:00 pm
First Sunday (*Bilingual*)	10:00 am
Tues. & Fri.	5:30 pm
Wed. & Thurs.	8:00 am
Saturday (Sunday Vigil)	5:00 pm
Sunday Vigil @ Coalgate	5:00 pm

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Jovita C Okonkwo,
Pastor & Vicar Forane
Rev. Khiet Nguyen
In Residence @ Coalgate
Debbie Osborne,
Secretary & Office Manager
John Wolf,
Director of Communications
Pam Pulchny,
Director or Religious Education
Bill Avanzini,
Coordinator, Coalgate Mission

300 E Washington, McAlester OK 74501
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www.stjohn-mcalester.org

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2021

Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:36-37a

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

New Parishioners: Welcome! We are glad to have you. Please register in the vestibule, parish website, or at the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Offered on Saturdays 4:00 p.m. to 4:55 p.m.; Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. or by appointment.

Sacrament of Anointing: Offered during *Mass for the Sick* on 1st Tuesdays of the month. Call the office/rectory for sick visits.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTION

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2021

	SEP. 12, 2021	SEP. 5, 2021	Total M-T-D
Main	$3,118	$4,235	$7,353
Assistance	$290	$970	$1,260
Bldg/Main	$490	$25	$515
Youth	$10	$0	$10

***N/B** Our budgeted **operating cost for September 2021 is $16,000**. Your generosity has brought in **$7,353**. We'll need an extra **$8,647** to fully fund the parish this month. Thank you to all those giving larger donations. May God reward you tenfold!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sept. 25—Bekkett O'Houlahan

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Sept. 12—John & Daryls Hutten, Larry & Regina Edwards

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ada Nell Ward, Alan Holloway, Amy Nohelty, Bette Santine, Bob Anderson, Cheryl Horrocks, David Griffin, Darrel Manuel, Don Laws, Donna Espinosa, Donnie Sherman, Elizabeth Thompson, Elizabeth Tweedel, Frank Gonzales, Gary Jackson, Grace Black, Guy Hudson, Hal Dalton, Herman Seiter, Ian Leybas, Irma Gonzalez, James Gray, Jamie Keef, Jason Wright, Jesse & Johnny Stiles, Jim Kelley, Jonathan Reed, Juanita Zummer, Kimberly Thomas, Mark Grosfield, Mary Zoller, Mr. Homer Sr., Paul Mills, Paul Zoller, Ruth Lauerman, Sawyer Davis, Sue McMullin, Sue Tillman, Tad Bowden, Tammy Gardner, Teddy & Janet Bernasky, Tony Helmert, Zearley Families, Andrew Zdeb, SSG Ben Ales, Edward Zdeb, PVT Erick Palacios, SGT Greg Thompson, AMN James Lisle, PFC John W. Pelzel, PVT J P Dunlay, AMN Michael Kaskie, SGT Pierre Terlaje, SSG Timothy Moore; those who suffer from Coronavirus.

(To add or remove a name on this list, please email stjohnmcalester@yahoo.com or call 918-423-0810).

REFLECTION

Fr. Chukwudi Jo Okonkwo

The rantings of the godless, which we heard in the first reading from the Book of Wisdom suggest the attitude of the world against believers in Christ. By now Christians living in contemporary society must have grown used to these rantings of the impious who cry wolf about hate, intolerance, and discrimination but do not mind using every discriminatory tactic to further their radical agenda. The gradual awakening unfolding before us is that ***enmity of the world is the lot of those closely associated with Christ.*** Jesus warned his disciples in John 15:19, ***"If you belonged to the world, then the world would love you as its own. But because I chose you from this world, and you do not belong to it, that is why the world hates you."***

You have certainly heard the charge from some media groups and their pundits that our ideas do not square well with modern society and that we should adapt to the values (or lack of values) of present day society. Both we and our adversaries are confronted with the question: Can Christianity absorb the brazen errors of modern society without losing the Christ-principle within it? It will amount to nothing less than a frivolity to avail of, to ascend to, to adapt to the deviant mores that have necessarily produced the current crisis in the society. Worldliness and godlessness are one and the same thing; and their primary enemy is the Christian-spirit. ***The only option for Christians confronted by the deadweight of modernity is to consistently and deliberately swim countercurrent to the ways of the world.*** So-called Christian groups that have attempted to bargain with worldliness have found themselves gradually de-Christianized. Mediocrity has become the penalty for their loss of conviction.

The world, according to Sheen, allows only the mediocre to live. It hates the very wicked and the very good. It hates the very wicked, like serial-murderers, because they disturb its possessions and security. It hates the very good, like our Blessed Lord and His teachings, because He disturbs its conscience. The Book of Wisdom 2:12 notes why the world hates virtue and people who pursue virtuous living: ***"He annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for breaches of the law and makes known to us the sins of our way of life."*** Consequently, social engineers think that by redefining a sin it would no longer sound offensive and queer. Hence, by means of accompanying slogans, moral evils are sugarcoated to sound like they are desirable good; so when you hear words like privacy, individual rights, equality, gentlemen's club, alternate lifestyle, etc., they no longer sound like moral evils. Because they are polished words of propaganda, they can actually be employed not just to advance the causes in question but even to vilify the nonconsenting and anyone who tries to question the falsehood inherent. Sadly, such triumph of radicalism has become entrenched as a dictatorship of relativism (to use the words of Pope-Emeritus Benedict). Mechanized opinion, imitation of cheap celebrities, dependence on 'they say' or 'they're wearing' for guidance has dwarfed the senses and rendered the intellect numb.

In this age of sophistication and arrogance, our Lord teaches us today the value of littleness and humility. To the apostles arguing about who was the greatest, he presented a little child. He clearly tells them that in order to see anything big, one must be physically little. That is why, to every little child, his dad is the biggest man in the world. As he ceases to be little, the world shrinks in size. ***Anyone who magnifies the ego to infinity cannot learn anything because there's nothing greater than the infinite.*** And anyone who thinks that she knows everything, not even God can teach her. God's lesson on humility and littleness was to become a little baby in order to serve and save his creatures. Even modern theorists acknowledge that ***true greatness comes through service of others.***

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, Sep. 19, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; *Catechetical Sunday*
10:00 am † Paul & Mary Zoller // Ben & Faye Ervin

Monday, Sep. 20, Weekday; Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gôn, *Priest*, & Paul Chông Ha-sang & Companions, *Martyrs*
Private Mass

Tuesday, Sep. 21, Weekday; St. Matthew, *Apostle, Evangelist*
5:30 pm † Grace Clayton // Tony Grosfield

Wednesday, Sep. 22, Weekday
8:00 am † Zella Mae Mansour // Al Ross

Thursday, Sep. 23, Weekday; St. Pius of Pietrelcina, *Priest*
8:00 am † Bob Wright // Bob & Bernice Basolo

Friday, Sep. 24, Weekday; *Mass and Eucharistic Adoration*
5:30 pm † Annette Davis // Bob & Bernice Basolo

Saturday, Sep. 25, Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00 pm † Bill Wright // Ben & Faye Ervin

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

SAT. SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 5 PM MASS

Lector: Linda Faber, Steve White; EMHC **(Body)** — Regina Edwards
Servers: TBA **Music:** TBA
Ushers: Jim Sellmeyer, Mark Lauerman, Steve Buckner

SUN. SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 10 AM MASS

Lector: Walter & Reta Descher; EMHC **(Body)** — John Gleese
Servers: TBA **Music:** TBA
Ushers: Al Ross, Philip Butler, Walter Descher

NOTICES:

JOB OPENING AT THE ST. JUDE'S HELPING CENTER

Amelia London, the Outreach Center Coordinator for the St. Jude's Center McAlester has indicated her desire to retire from the position. A replacement is hereby sought to serve as Case Manager at the center who will coordinate the helping center services, including case work, long-term case management and center operations, volunteer management, procurement of resources, and community relations all with the goal of leading clients to a healthy, integrated life in the community. If you or someone you know wishes to apply for the position, kindly go to our website or that of Catholic Charities where you will find the full job description.

"JOURNEY HOME"/FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Our Faith Enrichment Meetings continue this Wednesday. Our discussion topic for this week will center on *Secret Societies and Cults.* Light refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30 pm, and discussions from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

WELCOMING MINISTRY

In line with the "Journey Home" effort, we request your help to reach lapsed Catholics in the area. If you know someone who in the past attended St. John but stopped coming – maybe due to disaffection, disagreement, or disappointment with some Church personnel or policy, help us by providing the individual's name and contact so we may reach out and invite them back. You may also volunteer as a member of this new parish ministry.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR ADORATION

Join us for Mass and Eucharistic adoration at 5:30 p.m. Respond to the love of Christ by spending an hour every week in His Living Presence.

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ST. JUDE'S CENTER

The requested items for the St. Jude's Helping Center this week are jelly and egg cartons. The center still needs some men to help with stocking items on Wednesday and Friday morning/daytime hours. Contact Amelia London at 918-424-8833 to volunteer.

TIPS FOR SURVIVING THE PANDEMIC

Make sure you test positive for Faith; Keep your distance from Doubt; Isolate yourself from Fear; And Trust God through it all (*Anonymous*)

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