

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 4, 2020

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi

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.

FR. JARROD'S CONFESSION/ADVICE SCHEDULE

Open Canceled Off

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/7	10/8	10/9	10/10
11:30 a.m.							
3:30 p.m.							
8:00 p.m.							

*10/5: Fr. Jarrod will lead pet blessing at 3:45 but will be available before and after

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.

The parish office has reopened to the public. You may also call during regular office hours and drop off paperwork or contributions in the mail slot.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Saturdays after 6:00 p.m. evening prayer; Sundays after 2:00 p.m. daytime prayer. Schedule with the church office.

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

WE MUST VOTE

I delivered the following homily last weekend, but felt it important to share here as well. You may listen online by going to www.stfranciswichita.com and selecting "Online Homilies," then "We Must Vote."

This past Tuesday was the first of three presidential debates; and with these debates each of us must think deeply about the issues affecting our society. It is providential that the debates happen on the feasts of the Archangels, St. Theresa of Avila, and John Paul II, and the vice-presidential debate happens on the feast of the Holy Rosary! May their intercession benefit our country.

The topics of this first debate include: the Supreme Court, COVID-19, the economy, race and violence in our cities, and the integrity of the election. These topics, therefore, are going to be on our mind as Catholic Christians. And we need to ask ourselves how the Gospel of Jesus Christ helps us discern these topics.

As citizens of the United States we are morally obliged to vote (CCC 2240), and to do so with a conscience formed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our faith is not merely a private matter. As a building is made up of individual stones, so a society is made up of persons and families. In the same way, as a building's integrity depends on the integrity of its individual stones, so too, a society's integrity is built upon the integrity of its individual citizens. The Gospel teaches about two primary social values: "fundamental rights of the human person" and the "common good" (CCC 2237). For this reason, in forming a Catholic conscience that guides our voting, there is an intrinsic connection between the good of the person as well as the common good of all people together.

Our moral obligation to vote has always been a part of our Church. Several weeks ago, I published the Letter to Diogenetus, written in the year 130 AD, which said,

Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. Their teaching is not based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men. Unlike some other people, they champion no purely human doctrine... They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of aliens.

As this letter says, we "champion no purely human doctrine"; rather, we champion the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a Gospel which affects not only individuals but also the cultures and societies to which individuals belong. As the letter goes on to say, our teachings are not "based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men." We live in a day and age of incredible ideological battles (ideologies that Cardinal Sarah directly addressed his book *The Day is Now Far Spent*, which I strongly encourage you to read.) We see the conflict of these ideologies violently exploding both in our nation and throughout the world, inflamed by the current pandemic. But, for us Christians, the Gospel of Jesus Christ precedes all ideologies, and any ideology is true only to the degree that is based on the person of Jesus Christ, who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). As St. Paul taught,

See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world, and not according to Christ (Col 2:8).

Our faith is not based on philosophy, but on the "Christ Event": Jesus Christ, human and divine, having entered the world to convert the hearts of men to himself, vanquished the world of sin and evil through his life, his preaching, his death, and his resurrection. Having restored the human person to full human dignity, he also redeemed the society made up of individuals by establishing the law of Love.

This law of Love itself envisions a hierarchy of truths: our ultimate fulfillment is found in the Love of God, accomplished through the love and service to our fellow man, arising from each person's giftedness as a redeemed child of God. Thus, as citizens we first direct our eyes to our heavenly homeland; as the letter says, we "live in our own countries as though we are only passing through." But even while we look to our heavenly home, we work to bring justice to the societies in which we live.

For this reason, we are morally obliged to "play our full roles as citizens" by applying the truths of

Continued on page 4

What's Happening

SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL PASTORAL ADDRESS

The Annual Pastoral Address will be held in the church on Sunday, November 1, at 6:00 p.m. It will NOT be mandatory for all parishioners to attend this year, but will be made available online for those who are unable to attend in person. This year's topic will be announced in October.

ADORERS NEEDED

Perpetual adoration at SFA has resumed, with social distancing and face coverings, so all adorers who are comfortable can resume their time slot. Some hours still need coverage. 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.
- **Tuesday**, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. (URGENT)
- **Tuesday**, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- **Friday**, midnight to 1:00 a.m. (Thursday night into Friday morning)

LIVING LOVE CLASS STARTS WEDNESDAY

God's love is living and calls us to dynamically live in love with one another. The gift of self is an art expressed in love of God and love of neighbor. In this series, Fr. Jarrod will explore the deep yearning of the human person to be given and taken in love by intermingling theological reflection with practical application. This series will explore topics including daily prayer, friendship, romantic relationships and marriage, finding a place in the Church, and more.

LIVING LOVE

Classes will be held in the church on Wednesdays from 6:45 –7:45 p.m., October 7 through December 9, with a break for Thanksgiving.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please join us to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day with the SFA annual Blessing of the Animals on the front lawn of the rectory on Monday, October 5, at 3:45 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.! All are welcome even if you don't have pets. You can also bring something that belongs to your pet if you can't bring your pet. Masks and social distancing are encouraged. Please leash or crate pets.



OPERATIONS COUNCIL

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi is a time each year to give pause and count our blessings.

St. Francis lived humbly and simply and modeled his life after Jesus.

As good stewards, we do the same. May we walk each day, humbly serving our Lord and counting our blessings for all the good that is present in our lives.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

- The Operations Council

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 Date!

October 7 – Dead Theologians Society

8:00–9:30 p.m. – Clare Hall

October 14 – Lip Sync Battle

8:00–9:30 p.m. – Clare Hall

**Please bring a mask! Social distancing will be practiced throughout the evening.*

ROSARY RALLY FOR AMERICA

There will be a Rosary Rally with focus on “God Bless America” on Saturday, October 10, at the northwest corner of 21st and Maize from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please bring a sign if you can, but we will have some, too.

PARISH PRIDEWEAR SALE!

Holy Trinity Catholic Books and Gifts at 626 N. Winterset, Wichita, 67212, currently has parish pridewear, including tees, jackets, blankets, mugs, and more, on sale for 50% off! Christmas is just around the corner, and SFA items make great gifts. Stop by to purchase yours today!



AS WE PREPARE FOR THE NOVENA FOR THE DECEASED . . .

Did you know?

- The sin itself can be forgiven and reconciled with the Sacrament of Reconciliation; but the punishment due for that sin must be reconciled before that soul can ever enter Heaven, as no soul may enter Heaven with any “blemish” (venial sin or the punishment due to sin).
- While you are alive, the Holy Catholic Church has tools that you can use to mitigate, satisfy and/or reconcile the punishment due for your sins . . . but once you die, you can do nothing for your soul and your salvation.

Take solace in knowing God gives each of us everything we need to get to Heaven.

The Novena for the Deceased begins October 31, 2020. Stay tuned for more updates and a full schedule to be printed in October.

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

If you are a lector or Eucharistic minister who is currently attending weekend Mass and would be willing to lector or EM, please contact Travis at tpearson@stfranciswichita.com if you have not already done so. **We are especially in need for Saturday vigil Masses at 5 and 7 p.m. and the Sunday 1 p.m. Mass.** Thank you for your willingness to serve!

AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA ROSARY CRUSADE

The America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary Crusade will be held Saturday, October 10, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. This is part of a nationwide effort made up of an estimated one million Catholics who will pray for the conversion of America in a public place on October 10 in honor of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. If you are unable to attend the Rosary in person, please say a Rosary at home that day.

*School News***SVDP BACKPACKS FOR KIDS RETURNS**

St Vincent de Paul Backpacks 4 Kids is asking for your help to feed hungry children in Catholic schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Through generous cost sharing with the Kansas Food Bank we are able to provide a weekend of food for \$5.50/child. Last school year we feed 289 students per weekend. **Ron and Petrina Morley have again graciously offered to match donations up to \$15,000.00 that are received by October 15, 2020.** Any donations would be appreciated. You may send your donation to Backpacks 4 kids, P O Box 780926, Wichita, KS 67207 or donate online at <http://svdpwichita.weebly.com/child-hunger.html>

*Around the Diocese***WHAT IS "VALUE THEM BOTH?"**

VALUE THEM BOTH is the proposed state constitutional amendment for life supported by the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. The amendment is crucial because the Kansas Supreme Court recently created a nearly unlimited "right" to abortion, including taxpayer-funded abortion, teens seeking an abortion without parental knowledge or consent and late-term abortions. If passed, VALUE THEM BOTH will help protect mothers and their unborn babies from the abortion industry. Please pray for passage of VALUE THEM BOTH.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Catholic Charities is in need of volunteers to provide in-shelter child care services at St. Anthony Family. Volunteer opportunities are also available at Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. To learn more or apply, visit CatholicCharitiesWichita.org/volunteer, or call Cole at (316) 264-8344, ext. 1261.

GRIEFSHARE: COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

After losing a loved one, the approaching holidays can seem agonizing and daunting. This event, on October 22 from 7:00 –9:00 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, is meant to encourage those struggling to enjoy the holidays through their grief and give them some coping tools. There will be a video, group discussions, and opportunities to share from your own experience. Visit slwichita.org or call (316) 744-0167 to register.

the Gospel to the pressing needs of our times. Included in our role as citizens is the right and duty to vote with a conscience formed by the Gospel. We must take this right seriously and realize that it is one of the great privileges of a democratic society. This privilege has not always been a part of human society and we must even now protect the processes of voting from being manipulated in any way by any group or political party.

And so, our properly formed conscience discerns the current issues affecting our country through the hierarchy of love:

First, the love of God. We must remember that our hope is in eternal life, not in this life. As St. Paul says,

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 3:20).

We must be cautious of looking to the powers of this world to promise us a sort of utopic "pre-salvation," as if our ultimate desires can be fulfilled in this world. For this reason, the letter to Diogenetus says that "we labor under the disabilities of aliens." We don't belong to this world. We have to be cautious to not put more hope into the economy of finances than we do in the economy of salvation. A strong economy, good jobs, a healthy international market are all good things, but they are means to an end, not ends in themselves. They must serve the family and the human community. The true end of every human person is the eternal kingdom to come which is based on justice, love, and peace. As the prophet Micah says,

You have been told, O mortal, what is good and what the Lord requires of you: only to do justice to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God (6:8).

Secondly, our love of God necessarily leads to a genuine love of neighbor. We must remember the law of service precedes the desire of being served. As Jesus himself has taught us,

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Matt 20:28).

In the same way, when voting, we must balance our own needs with a view to the needs of all persons in society. And we must vote for officials who will serve the common good before serving their own personal ideologies. For this reason,

Those who exercise authority should do so as a service ... The exercise of authority is measured morally in terms of its divine origin, its reasonable nature, and its specific object. No one can command or establish what is contrary to the dignity of persons and the natural law (CCC 2235).

This common good begins with the protection of the family as the basic cell of society (CCC 2207). According to the principle of subsidiarity, the government should not take from the family its basic rights and duties but should support the family as the "first school of those social virtues which every society needs" (*Gravissimum Educationis* 3,6). Also, fundamental to our common good is care for the poor and outcast in society. The Church has always taught that we have a preferential option for the poor, including the destitute, the ill,

Father's Focus Cont'd

the immigrant, and persons with special needs. Other aspects of the common good, such as the dignity of work, the rights of workers, economic growth, and the care for creation are discerned in light of our protection of the family and the poor.

Finally, love of God and of neighbor arises from a genuine love of self, created as a child of God. As Christians, every human person, no matter what race, nationality, creed, or orientation, is a child of God and, as such, is treated with inherent dignity. As Catholics, we must be champions of the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. As our United States Bishops teach,

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our society, human life is especially under direct attack from abortion ... euthanasia and assisted suicide ..., human cloning, in vitro fertilization, and the destruction of human embryos for research.

Catholic teaching about the dignity of life calls us to oppose torture, unjust war, and the indiscriminate use of drones for violent purposes; to prevent genocide and attacks against noncombatants; to oppose racism [and] human trafficking; and to overcome poverty and suffering. Nations are called to protect the right to life by seeking effective ways to combat evil and terror without resorting to armed conflicts except as a last resort ..., and to end the use of the death penalty as a means of protecting society from violent crime. We revere the lives of children in the womb, the lives of persons dying in war and from starvation, and indeed the lives of all human beings as children of God. We stand opposed to these and all activities that contribute to what Pope Francis has called "a throwaway culture."

Especially critical to the issues of human life and human dignity is the current appointment of the next Supreme Court Justice, who was announced today. For the first time since *Roe v. Wade*, we could have a Supreme Court that could overturn the laws of abortion and establish laws that protect human life until natural death. But we must remember: it is not enough to overturn abortion without simultaneously creating those structures necessary to support unwed parents, abused persons, orphaned children, and those who don't have the basic necessities to provide for infants and elderly alike.

It goes without saying that the next several weeks in our country are a supremely critical time. We must vote. We must vote with a conscious formed by the Gospel. We must vote while respecting the hierarchy of truths founded on the dignity of the human person, the common good, and social justice. And we must vote while respecting the subsidiary role of the family and true solidarity in the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness, as taught by Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Jarrod Lies, pastor

Mass Intentions

OCTOBER 5 - 11, 2020

Monday 5	8:00 a.m. David Spec. Int. 5:30 p.m. Daughters of Isabella Spec. Int.
Tuesday 6	8:00 a.m. † Don Nuessen 5:30 p.m. † Isaac Aviles-Herrera
Wednesday 7	8:00 a.m. † Fr. Stephen Scheier 5:30 p.m. † Katherine Kirk
Thursday 8	8:00 a.m. Margarita Gonzalez Spec. Int. 5:30 p.m. † Michael A. Thomas
Friday 9	8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving 5:30 p.m. † Bill Wright
Saturday 10	8:00 a.m. † Maurice Seidl 5:00 p.m. Louise Rohlman Spec. Int. 7:00 p.m. † Francisco Salgado
Sunday 11	7:00 a.m. Dec. Mem. Of Mies & Seiwert Families 8:30 a.m. † Rosalie Friess 10:00 a.m. † Charles Orth 11:30 a.m. For the People 1:00 p.m. † Ralph Hight

This Week

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

SOLEMNITY OF ST. FRANCIS During all Masses
VOTER REGISTRATION Vestibule, after all Masses

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Rectory front lawn, 3:45
& 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP Clare Basement, 6:30–7:30 a.m.
RCIA Clare Hall, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
LIVING LOVE CLASS Church, 6:45–7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

ROSARY GROUP Clare Basement, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

No events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

VIRTUS TRAINING Stewardship Hall, 9:00 a.m.–12:00
p.m.

K OF C ANNUAL TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE Vestibule,
after Saturday Vigil Masses

**LIGHT & LIFE (PRAISE AND WORSHIP HOLY
HOUR)** Church, 8:00–9:00 p.m.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

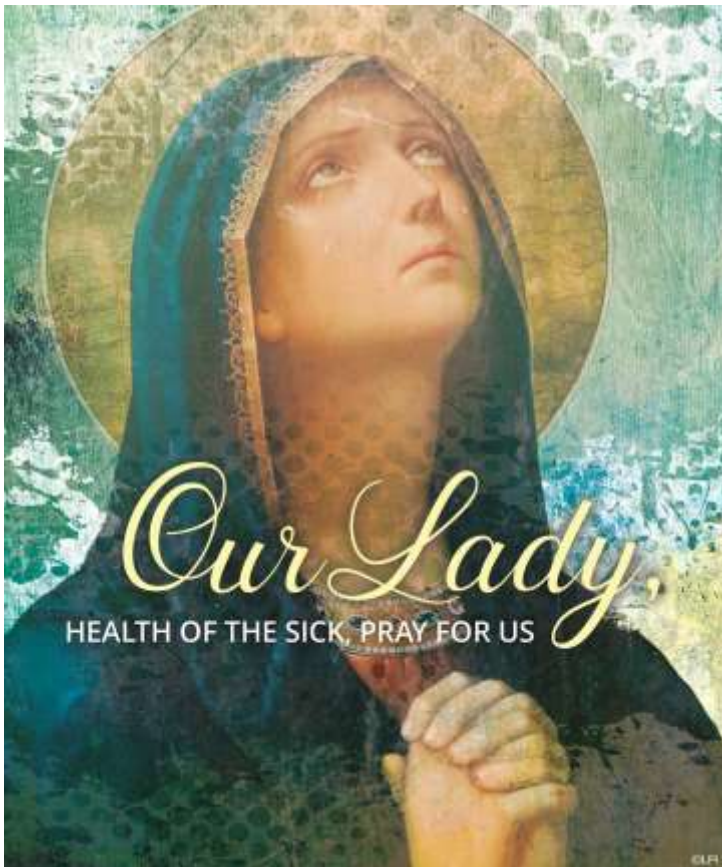


LISTEN

BROTHER FRANCIS: THE BAREFOOT SAINT OF ASSISI

If you think you know Francis of Assisi, you're in for a surprise. Discover the astonishing life of Brother Francis, the fun-loving son of wealth and privilege who gave up everything for the sake of Christ.

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



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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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 will only be 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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