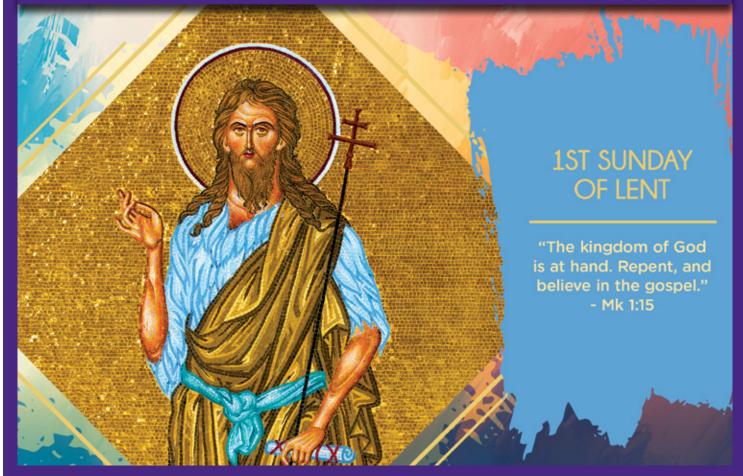


# THEVERNACULAR

Our bulletin of parish life & faith formation

**FEBRUARY 18, 2024** 

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



#### 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.

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

<u>Monday - Friday</u> 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Feb. 20 5:30 p.m. & Feb 21 8 a.m. canceled

<u>Saturday</u> 8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. <u>Sunday</u> 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

#### LITURGY OF THE HOURS

<u>Morning Prayer:</u> Mon. - Sat. at 7:40 a.m. <u>Evening Prayer:</u> Mon.-Fri. at 6:00 p.m.

#### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Mon - Fri 4:45–5:25 p.m. Saturday 3:00–4:00 p.m. During all Sat. Vigil & Sun. Masses

# Parish Critical Review



Many families and individuals at St. Francis have responded generously to the financial needs previously communicated over the past year. We are very thankful to all who have helped address the needs of our parish. It is our hope that, with a clearer explanation of the urgency, more will be encouraged to increase or begin their tithe.

The purpose of this article is to foster increased giving - to ensure that our income is greater than our expenses. If our parish income does not cover our expenses, we will need to lessen the scope of our parish operations. This communication is trying to stem the tide of such consequences.

In response to our current financial situation, our Pastoral Leadership Team and Operations Council are preparing a critical review of parish operations. This review includes an in-depth analysis of our 2023-2024 parish budget, an historical look at past budgets, and a comparative look at other large suburban parish operations.

Over the last several years, in response to national inflation and comparative salaries, St. Francis has been providing regular and, in some cases, significant raises. This is due, in part, to a desire to provide just wages for our teachers who get paid significantly less than public school teachers. We have been acting in faith that God's Providence will guide the Stewardship Way of Life. We have also been doing this boldly because, during the COVID shutdown, government aid was given to small businesses in the form of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). St. Francis received this money and saved it. These funds are intended to serve as a safety net against operational pressures such as inflation, increased enrollment costs at Bishop Carroll, and increasing insurance premiums. We knew if our income failed to keep up with costs, we could use that PPP savings to temporarily cover the offset. <u>However, the decision of the Operations Council was this that once those savings were tapped into, it would trigger a critical review of parish operations.</u>

We are today letting you know that we are on the verge of dipping into that money, which would trigger cuts at three levels: imminent, intermediate, and operational.



Imminent cuts take place at the earliest opportunity and, in fact, have already been happening. Spending on supplies and ancillary expenses have been suspended, and bonuses and appreciation gifts have been reduced. Other such cuts will continue to be made as they are identified.

# Intermediate cuts would happen over the course of the next several months and include:

- Reducing the number of students we send to Bishop Carroll.
- Limiting parish resources.
- Canceling subscriptions for educational programs.
- Reviewing personnel in every department for possible reductions.\*

# MESSAGE CONT.

\*The hope is that if we had to reduce the number of personnel, it would happen organically, through natural transitions and normal life decisions.

Operational cuts could include moving our grade school from three classes per grade to two over successive years.\* The decision to move to two grades per class would include discussions of class size, possible waitlists, projections of future students, the ability to fund these grades and other questions.

\*So that you are aware, next year our 1st grade will move from three classes to two classes. This move is being made due to the number of students registered for 1st grade, not because we have made the decision to move to two classes per grade.



While moving to two classes per grade would be a response to our financial situation, it is not necessarily an answer to future ministerial needs. Such a move would limit access to Catholic education, keeping some stewards who are seeking Catholic schools from being accepted.

#### So what are we doing now?

Reviewing our budget to forecast trends and brainstorm solutions.

- Comparing our parish operations to other parishes to gain a more detailed perspective.
- Freezing salaries of all school and church employees.

• Freezing all non-essential spending that can be cut without harming essential operations.

 Reviewing parish and school operations to look for any positions or systems that can be reasonably reduced without compromising our mission.

 Reviewing classroom sizes to discern the possibility of two classes per grade.

 Asking all members of the parish to be active stewards through the timely return of their Stewardship Renewal Packets, attendance at the Annual Pastoral Address, and to whatever degree possible, an increase or commencement of their tithe.

 Encouraging renewed giving through homilies, Council Mass presentations, and the weekly Father's Focus articles in the bulletin.

• Meeting with all 1st and 7th grade school families and new kindergarten families to encourage increased awareness and commitment to stewardship.

 Searching for grants, government funding and matching gift programs.

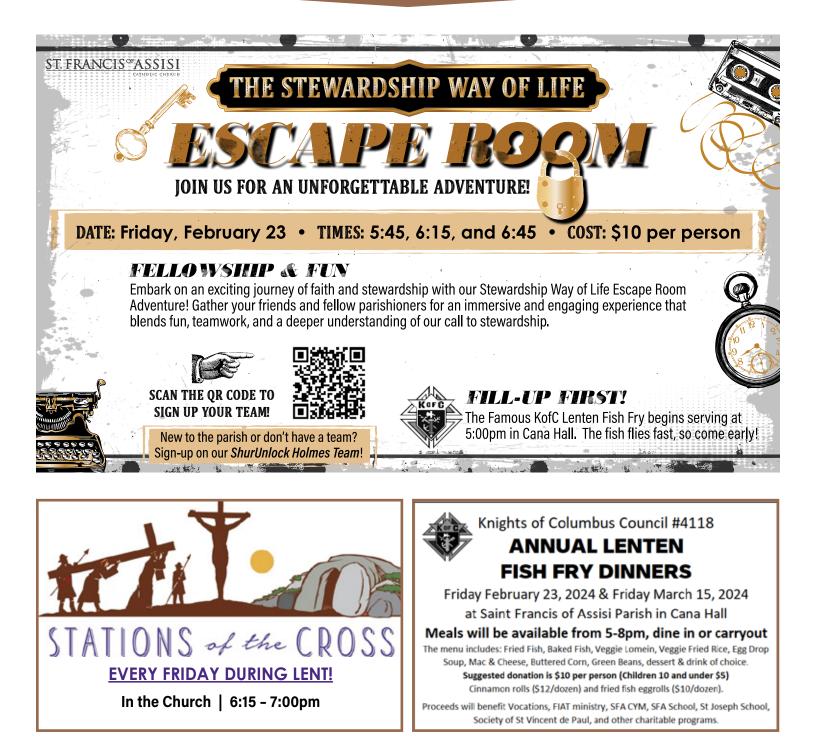
We are excited to be moving into our new office and gathering spaces, but as a reminder, no contributions from the Rebuild My church campaign can be used for operational expenses. All donations to that campaign are donor directed to be used for that campaign only.

Again, at this time we have not yet had to pull from our savings to offset current operations. However, if we must, then parish and school operations will be cut. This will directly impact services and people. Please prayerfully consider increasing your tithe to help us maintain current operations. If you are not yet tithing, challenge yourself to give and participate in the mission of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, which is ultimately to save souls.

Thank you for your Stewardship!

- Saint Francis Operations Council

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR PARISH



MASS CANCELATIONS: FEB. 20, 5:30 P.M. & FEB. 21, 8 A.M. Due to the Diocesan Clergy Conference, our Tues. evening Mass on Feb. 20 and Wed. morning Mass on Feb 21 will be canceled.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR PARISH



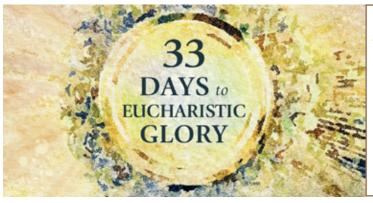
**Sundays - 3:00 pm** – Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Daytime and Evening Prayer

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Sat -- 8:00 pm Devotional Prayers, reflection on Soul of the Apostolate, and Night Prayer

Fridays 6:45 in Clare Hall Working through "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory"

God Squad is a spiritual training program that operates much like a sport's season; but is focused on spiritual skill rather than athletic skill. We will be focusing on the book **Soul of the Apostolate.** 

"Come as you can." No need to attend all dates.



**DURING LENT: NOW – MARCH 29** 

# 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory A Eucharistic Consecration

Friday's from Feb. 16 - April 5 6:45 pm in Clare Hall after Stations of the Cross

Over the next thirty-three days you will learn how great saints and others lived in Eucharistic Glory. Review profound truths, historical facts, inspiring stories, prayers, and practices - all in an easy-tofollow format.

GROOM'S ROOM

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE, BONAVENTURE HALL, & MEETING ROOMS!





# **40 DAYS CLOSER TO CHRIST**

Lent is not just a period established for personal improvement, intended for one to temporarily give up a vice or lose a few pounds, nor is it necessarily about becoming a better individual Christian, although that should happen. Lent, instead, is a period of intense spiritual preparation. This is a Catholic's 40 days on Mount Sinai (see Ex 24:12, 34:28, and Dt 9:9), where we uniquely meet with God, as Moses did, and we can reflect on the commandments of the Father and how we have responded to them. It is our 40 years in the wilderness (see Dt 8:2-3) where we enter into humility and acknowledge our faults and dependence on the Lord, as the Israelites did, and now we do, as God's adopted children. Lent is our 40 days in the desert where we will be tempted (see Mt 4:1, Mk 1:12-13, Lk 4:1-2) as Christ was and, having relied on the Holy Spirit and the Holy Angels, we can emerge prepared to resist Satan and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Lent is the premier time for Christians to develop spiritually for our individual and collective ministries so that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and according to the will of the Father, we may build up the body of Christ. This, however, may only be accomplished if we follow the model established for us in Scripture and reinforced by Holy Mother Church.



In the cases of Moses, the Israelites, and Christ Jesus, within their 40 days (or years in the case of the Israelites), a common theme emerges: fasting. Moses went to the top of Mount Sinai where "he was with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water" (Ex 34:24). Yet after Moses had this experience, he was radiant, and his "face shone." While we may not literally shine, we can emulate his fasting to become closer to God as he was. The Church teaches that fasting, along with prayer and almsgiving, is the highest form of exterior penance that "expresses the conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others" (CCC 2043). We must, therefore, fast and allow ourselves to be converted and let our faces shine by His glory.

For the Israelites, God, in his providence, allowed them to hunger so that they would be humbled. Likewise, we must humble ourselves before the Lord by fasting so that we too may learn that "man does not live by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord." (Dt. 8-3). The Church describes fasting as voluntary self-denial (CCC 1438), and in denying ourselves what we think we need, God shows us what our needs are and that only He can fulfill them.

Lastly, Christ has given us the most prominent example of fasting when he spent 40 days in the desert. There, he "fasted for forty days and forty nights" (Mt 4:2). Scripture makes no concessions to the fact that the fast was difficult; Christ, it says, was "left hungry" afterward. The effect, however, was not what one may think, and instead of weakening Jesus, it strengthened Him to resist the temptations of the devil. Fasting is the fourth precept of the Church (CCC 2043) and is described as helping us to "acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart." Jesus had mastery over these basic instincts and so was able to reject the temptations of Satan; we must do the same.

Guided by the Spirit, we must enter our desert these 40 days and fast. Through this voluntary sacrifice, this humble act of penance, we will enter into a spiritual preparation for the ultimate combat, strengthened and able to resist the temptations of the devil. Then, guided by the Holy Spirit, with Christ as our exemplar, we may say to others also, "do penance for the Kingdom of God is at hand" (Mt 4:17).

Matthew Weller Theologians Guild

# PARISH COMMUNITY



## **Our Parishioner Enters the Novitiate**

On Sunday, February 11 our dearly loved parishioner and alumni, Lilly Timmermeyer, was received as a novice into the community of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Wichita! She had the beautiful opportunity to receive her religious name, the habit of the Sisters MICM and her white veil.

#### Help us congratulate Sister Benedicta Marie, IHM!

Pictured Sr. Benedicta Marie with her parents, Bob and Kathleen Timmermeyer.

# VIKING NEWS





# MINISTRY HAPPENINGS



foin one of our ministries and give action to your stewardship.

Contact Stu Meether in our parish office at 316-722-4404 or smeether@stfranciswichita.com for information regarding parish ministries.

# **BIBLE STUDIES & BOOK CLUBS**

# ST. FRANCIS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 9 a.m. Current Topic: Acts of the Apostles

Fridays | 9 a.m. Current Topic: Nehemiah

Please check with the church office for contact information as to location.

# ST. FRANCIS BOOK CLUB

**3rd Mon. each month | 10 a.m.** Great discussions, fellowship, and lunch!

Feb. Book: Rescued by Father John Ricardo March Book: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Please check the church office for contact information as to location.

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS



[Text "SFACYM" to 84576 to receive our txt alerts]

#### JOIN MARY'S MOMS! • FEBRUARY 26 • MARCH 4, 18, 25 Mondays | 9:00 a.m. |St. Francis Nursery (next to Clare Hall)

Modeling after Blessed Mary's motherhood, this ministry is a place of fellowship & support for all Mothers. Enjoy prayer, storytime, songs, and fellowship with each other and your children.

Sign-up is not required. Contact Hanna Lutz with questions or for more information at 316-617-9694 or alutzfamily@gmail.com.



# **AROUND THE DIOCESE**



# **HELP SAVE LIVES IN Wichita!**

# Here's how to take part: Vigil location: Public sidewalk in front of

Planned Parenthood 2226 E Central Ave, Wichita, KS 67214

- Vigil hours: 7 AM-7 PM daily from February 14 – March 24
- Local Contact: Sue Willey, 316-617-5660 or mwilley@cox.net
- **Get involved!** Sign up for prayer times on our website and join us to peacefully pray in front of Planned Parenthood.

www.40daysforlife.com/Wichita

# PRINCIPAL OPENING 2024-25 ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Jude Parish is seeking a dynamic building principal for grades Pre-K - 8. Join a talented faculty, with approximately 170 outstanding students and their families. Information about the and the application may be found at www. catholicdioceeseofwichita.org/careers. Deadline for applications is February 19th, 2024.

# ADULT LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

#### February 27, 9:00am - 1:00pm

The Office of Marriage and Family Life invites all adults to a Lenten Day of Reflection. with Fr. H. Setter and Fr. Drew Heiman. There will also be a celebration of Mass, a luncheon, recitation of the rosary, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. \$23 per person, including lunch.

Visit www.slcwichita.org for more information.

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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kday Liturgical Stewards Monday, Feb. 19, 8:00 a.m. Dave Carter C. Graham / Ruby Dalbom/ SERVERS NEEDED Monday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m. Julie Schoenberger Tuesday, Feb, 20, 8:00 a.m. Students V. Hinson / D. Berry / N. Veith / L. Zarchan Tuesday, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m. CANCELED ednesday, Feb. 21, 8:00 a.m. CANCELED ednesday, Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m.	
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Rick Black	
Thursday, Feb. 22, 8:00 a.m.	
Students <b>C. Konecny</b> / I. Gorges / E. Raine/ S. Nuessen	
Thursday, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m.	
Rebecca Dugan	
Friday, Feb. 23, 8:00 a.m.	
Students <b>H. Le</b> / C.Lang / J. Iseman / S. Kluge	
Friday, Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m.	
Thomas Baalmann	
Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:00 a.m.	
Justin Comeau	

Mass Intentions   Feb. 19 - Feb. 25		
Monday, 19	8:00 a.m.	Rebecca M. Spec. Int.
	5:30 p.m.	† Rogene Becker
Tuesday, 20	8:00 a.m.	† Agnes Landwehr
	5:30 p.m.	Canceled
Wednesday, 21	8:00 a.m.	Canceled
	5:00 p.m.	† Carolyn Rowden
Thursday, 22	8:00 a.m.	† Reggie Caruthers
	5:30 p.m.	† Janet Johnson
Friday, 23	8:00 a.m.	Ron & Tina Lee Spec. Int.
	5:30 p.m.	† Scott Pruitt
Saturday, 24	8:00 a.m. † Patricia Salber	
	5:00 p.m.	† Kathleen Buchanan
	7:00 p.m.	Margarita Gonzalez Spec. Int.
Sunday, 25	7:00 a.m.	† Martha Kerschen
-	8:30 a.m.	† Bob Timmermeyer, Sr.
	10:00 a.m.	Judy Holbrook Spec. Int.
	11:30 a.m.	† Robert Higgins
	1:00 p.m.	For the People

Week		JICUI SIEW	aras
Satu	rday, Feb.	24   5:00 p	.m.
Lector: Robert Re	nteria <b>Con</b>	nmentator: W	inston Kenton
Master Server:	Caden Zimbe	lman	
Servers:	M. Zimbelmar	n / R. Damm / I	P. Pirtle
EMHCs:	D. Becker/ C.	Kenton / J.Yag	ger
Satu	ırday, Feb.	24   7:00 p.	.m.
Lector: Beth Car	ruthers <b>Co</b>	mmentator: K	elby Schawe
Master Server:	Cooper Ste	indler	
Servers:	C. Schawe /	N. Schawe / B.	Prichard
EMHCs:	L. Cless / S. Cl	ess / A. Harter	
Sun	day, Feb. 2	25   7:00 a.	m.
Lector: Jill Ward	Com	mentator: Pa	tty Bluml
Master Server:			,
Servers:	S. Domebo	/ M. Musa / E.	Saville
EMHCs:	S. Seiler / G.	Graf / J. Da	niels
Sun	day, Feb. 2	.5   8:30 a.	m.
Lector: Ryan Bied	dron <b>Com</b>	mentator: Jus	tin Schuster
Master Server:	Nathan Taja	chman	
Servers:	A. McAninch	/ E. McGill / P.	Harrison
EMHCs:	D. Hamel / L.	Hamel / R. Di	x
Sund	day, Feb. 2	5   10:00 a	.m.
Lector: Lisa Mart	in <b>Cor</b>	n <b>mentator:</b> Te	eagan Farley
Master Server:	Simon Kluge	e	
Servers:	C. Konecny	/ J. Konecny	/ / E.Chandler
EMHCs:	K. Farley / S. I	<sup>-</sup> arley / M. Hai	mmer
Sund	day, Feb. 2	5   11:30 a	.m.
Lector: K. Timmer	meyer <b>Con</b>	<b>nmentator:</b> Di	ana Smith
Master Server:	DJ Hauge		
Servers:	B.Mitchell / L.	Riggs / B. Blas	i
EMHCs:	J. Cerre / S.	Cerre / Z. C	erre
Sun	day, Feb. 2	25   1:00 p.	m.
Lector: Randy Ph	elps <b>Corr</b>	nmentator: To	m Olivier
Master Server:	Caden Mei	er	
Servers:	H. Borrego /	L. Kelly / L. Luk	bers
EMHCs:	M. Nguyen /	C. Wellbrock	< / L. Faber
OFFERTORY	SCHEDULE		4
Saturday, Feb	. 24		- U
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	Ronald & Co	any Nuesse	11
<u>Sunday, Feb.</u>	25		
8:30 a.m.	Brent & Joya	ce Dick	
10:00 a.m.	James & Da	na Cornell	
11:30 a.m. l	_arry & Mart	ha Dostert	

1:00 p.m. Michael & Andrea Hays

# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

# SUNDAY, FEB. 18

MORNING BIBLE STUDY Stewardship Hall, 9:45 a.m. DIVINE MERCY HOLY HR/GOD SQUAD Church, 3:00 p.m. ROSARY GROUP Church, 5:00 p.m.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE Stewardship Hall, 6:30 p.m. YOUNG ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE Music Rm., 7:00 p.m. SACRED ENS CHOIR PRACTICE Music Rm., 8:00 p.m.

### MONDAY, FEB. 19

MARIAN MANTLE ROSARY GROUP Church, 8:30 a.m. LEGION OF MARY Clare Hall, 9:00 a.m. BOOK CLUB TBD, 10:00 a.m. FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY GROUP Clare Hall, 6:30 p.m. KOC MEMBER MEETING Cana Hall, 7:00 p.m. GOD SQUAD Church, 8:00 p.m.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 20

MORNING BIBLE STUDY TBD, 9:00 a.m. ROSARY GROUP Clare Hall, 1:00 p.m. MASS CANCELED 5:30 p.m. FINANCIAL PEACE U. Cana Hall, 6:30 p.m. WILDFIRE Clare Hall, 7:00 p.m. IMMAC. HEART OF MARY ROSARY GP. Church, 7:00 p.m. GOD SQUAD Church, 8:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP Clare Hall, 6:30 a.m. MASS CANCELED 8:00 a.m.

PSR Cana Hall, 6:30 p.m. OCIA Clare Hall, 6:30 p.m. UNBOUND Stewardship Hall, 6:30 p.m. TRAD. MUSIC PRATICE Clare Music Rm., 7:00 p.m MEN'S MUSIC PRATICE Clare Music Rm., 8:00 p.m GOD SQUAD Church, 8:00 p.m

# THURSDAY, FEB. 22

MORNING ROSARY GROUP Clare Hall, 10:00 a.m. CALLED & GIFTED Cana Hal, 7:00 p.m. GOD SQUAD Church, 8:00 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, FEB. 23

MORNING BIBLE STUDY TBD, 9:00 a.m. KOC FISH FRY Cana Hall, 5-8p.m. ESCAPE ROOM Meet in School Library, 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS Church, 6:15 p.m. GOD SQUAD Clare Hall, 6:45 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, FEB 24

FAMILY GAME NIGHT Stewardship Hall, 6-11 p.m. GOD SQUAD Church, 8:00 p.m.

# **ELIJAH CUP**

# Feb. 24-25. Nicholas Seckfort Family

Please check in with the priest before Mass. To sign up, call Nan at 721–3727



# DIRECTORY

# PARISH STAFF

Fr. C. Jarrod Lies	frlies@stfranciswichita.com
Fr. Andrew Meng	frmeng@stfranciswichita.com
Fr. Bhaskar Mendam	frmendam@stfranciswichita.com
Stu Meether, Stewardship/Parish Li	fesmeether@stfranciswichita.com
Janet Shurtz, Financial Controller	jshurtz@stfranciswichita.com
Emily Savage, Youth Director	esavage@stfranciswichita.com
Jessie Nielsen, Communications	jnielsen@stfranciswichita.com
Mary Carter, School Principal	

# PARISH OFFICE

Website	www.stfranciswichita.com
E-mail	sfac@stfranciswichita.com
Address	861 N. Socora, Wichita, KS 67212

# SCHOOL

Phone	
E-mail	school@stfranciswichita.com
Address	



Scan the QR code to sign-up for our Flocknote eblasts!



# RESOURCES

# 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 from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? CALL 1.800.848.LOVE

WANTING TO ADOPT? Contact the Adoption Assoc. of KS Catholic Charities: Peggy Crippen 785 825-0208 | pcrippen@ccnks.org

WANTING TO FOSTER/FOSTER-TO-ADOPT?

Contact Maria Stewart for guidance & support mstewjmj@gmail.com

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING Sign-up for NFP classes: 316–685–5240 Website: www.nfpwichita.org

**ADVERTISE IN OUR BULLETIN!** Interested in advertising in our bulletin? Call Tim at 785-418-2875.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS: sfaprayerchain@gmail.com