

JANUARY 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

610

When Jesus was born in
Bethlehem of Judea, in the
days of King Herod, behold,
magi from the east arrived in
Jerusalem, saying, "Where is
the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage."

- Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

OLP

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

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

Morning Prayer: Mon. - Sat. at 7:40 a.m. Evening Prayer: 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

FATHER'S FOCUS GUEST ISSUE

Seeking Home ...

A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star."

This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.



- Father John Muir,
Guest reflection through LPI

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE:

"Time"

In The Stewardship Way of Life – please think of "Time" as your effort to know God and your effort to help others know God.

- How often to you pray a rosary, dive mercy chaplet, alone or as a family? A day, a week, a month?
- How often do you go to confession?
- Do you go to Mass every weekend and holy days?
- Are you taking advantage of our Perpetual Adoration Chapel?
- When you spend time with the Lord, spouse, child that is an expression of love!

What you give up to spend "Time" with our Lord and Family **determines your priority.** Time is the portion of, The Stewardship Way of Life that is about getting to know God; you, your family, and your neighbor, all in an effort to get to heaven.

God Bless, Stu Meether
Director of Stewardship and Parish Life

TIME & TALENT

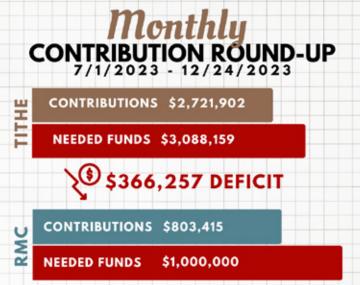
DEAR NEIGHBOR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed at Dear Neighbor Ministries as receptionist and in the food pantry. Please call Janie at 316-684-5120 if you are interested in volunteering of for more info.



TREASURE





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR PARISH





Blood Drive

St. Francis of Assisi

Bloodmobile 861 N. Socora Wichita, KS 67212

Thursday, January 18, 2024 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To schedule scan the QR code, call 800-REDCROSS, or visit www. redcrossblood.org and search sponsor code: stfranciswichita!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Parish Nurses are checking blood pressure levels after all Masses next weekend, Jan. 13 & 14. Checks will be done in the "Viewing Room" glass area on the way to Clare Hall.

VIKING NEWS







Tuesdays starting Jan 9 at 6:30 p.m. for 9 wks
Financial Peace University provides a road
map to financial freedom that can help you,
no matter where you are on your
financial journey. To sign up, scan the
QR Code or contact Greg at 250-3155
saintfrancisofassisifpu@amail.com



MONTHLY PARISH RECORDS

WELCOME **NEW PARISHION ERS**

Thomas & Mary Vanatta
Chelsea Adams
Caden & Michelle Roberts
C. & A. Bebermeyer

Pat & Amy Easum Bradley & Marie Miller John & Barbara Betzen

Welcoming you as a Member of the Body of Christ; The Church, and as a Child of God!

PARISH **PASSINGS**

Marjorie Sanburn Dennis Seiwert Duane Bergkamp Madison Stuart

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH **BAPTISMS**

Josie Rae & Miles Kasen Oliphant
Daughters of Ross & Caicy Oliphant

Ezra David & Grace Raelynn CoffmanDaughter & Son of Matthew & Mandilyn Coffman

Coleson Joseph Hess Son of Dylan & Kristen Hess

Greysen Michael Dean Mellington Son of Matthew & Alyssa Mellington

Alina Adelyn Astrain BeltranDaughter of Hector & Giselle Astrain

Rylee Josephine BillsDaughter of Robert & Monica Bills

Calvin Leland Stuart Son of Brett & Megan Stuart

Collins Anne VinerDaughter of Trent & Jami Viner

Leighton Paige BebermeyerDaughter of Chance & Amber Bebermeyer

Apollo James CarterSon of Isaiah Carter & Aspen Gregg

Congratulations! May God protect and watch over your child as His own, guiding them toward a life of faith and love.

PARISH **WEDDINGS**

John William Bergman & Jessica Lynn Schippers

Elena Anne Cummings & Logan Andrew Petersen

May your hearts be blessed with faith and joy as you embark on this new journey together, joined by God.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



This is a silent preached retreat based in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Check our website, www.slcwichita.org or call 316-744-0167 for more information



FREEDOM IN COMMANDMENTS

He said to me.

"You Catholics are so bound up in rules. The Church controls your life. You are ordered to go to Church every Sunday. You are not free to get an abortion. You are ordered to give 10% of your income to the Church. You can't even confess your sins to God, you have to tell a priest."

I was so startled by his statement that I did not know how to answer. So, later I sat down and tried to figure out why I love this Catholic Church that "imposes" laws on us.

When I went to the Bible, I found Psalm 119:2 which says "Happy those who observe God's decrees, who seek the Lord with all their heart." Verse 18: "Open my eyes to see clearly the wonders of your teaching."

Verse 24: "Your decrees are my delight."
How can laws, decrees and teachings be my delight and my happiness?

Well, there is a difference between freedom and license. Living my license means doing whatever I please, when I please, how I please, and why I please. License, then, ends up in utter selfishness.

When I get in my car, I am free to go almost anywhere if I follow the rules of the road. What if I decided that I am free to do what I want, so I ignore all those rules "imposed" on me by the Highway Patrol? I create a dangerous situation for myself and everyone else on the road. I am not free to do what I want, but I am free to drive with respect for other people. Rules are guidelines that help us be prosperous and safe along with other people in our community.

But freedom is different.

The Ten Commandments, given to Moses, do not limit our freedom, but give us a direction in life. This freedom leads us from selfishness to love. True freedom allows us to care and give respect to God and our fellow sojourners. For we are all on a long journey to Eternal Life. The Commandments are a sure and true road map.

For me, freedom is the ability to do what is right and just and good for my neighbor as well as myself. Mary was free to accept the Incarnation. Jesus was free to offer Himself on the Cross for our Salvation. And we are free to worship. We are given the privilege of being part of a wonderful Church that guides our lives and offers us Jesus in the Eucharist every day.

So, when he accused me of being bound by Catholic rules, I should have smiled and told him how FREE I feel every Sunday when I attend Mass; how FREE I feel after Confession. I should have told him how, as a child loved by God, I thrive on returning God's love by tithing to the Church.

1 Peter 2:16 says, "Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God." I will never use freedom as my excuse for selfishness. I will not use freedom as my excuse for sleeping in on Sunday. My freedom is to live God's Commandments and to obey the laws of the Church with great JOY.

- **JoAn Holmes** Theologians Guild





Join 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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 9 a.m. | St. Catherine's Jan. Topic: Acts of the Apostles

Fridays | 9 a.m. | St. Catherine's

Current Topic: Prophets Ezekiel and Sirach

Contact the Parish Office for Suzanne Simpson's contact information to sign-up.

ST. FRANCIS BOOK CLUB

3rd Mon. each month | 10 a.m. | St. Catherine's Great discussions, fellowship, and lunch!

Jan. Book: By the Waters of Babylon

Feb. Book: Rescued by Father John Ricardo

Contact the Parish Office for Suzanne Simpson's

contact information to sign-up.

SFA SPRING BIBLE STUDY

COMING SOON!

Sundays starting January 21, 2024 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. | Stewardship Hall

Study: Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues

by Bishop Robert Barron. 9 sessions. Material costs: \$20

Please RSVP by January 7th to Lori Hamel Email: dlhamel@cox.net Text: 316-208-4703



Wednesdays 8-9:30pm Clare Hall

1/3: NO CYM , HAPPY NEW YEAR!
[Text "SFACYM" to 84576 to receive our txt alerts]

MARY'S MOMS HAS RETURNED! STARTING MONDAY JAN. 8

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.



Join us for a luncheon together followed by our monthly meeting!

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES NEED YOU!





Join the minstry that provides meals and giftcards to parishioners in need. We need more Caring Hands! Call Traci Robinson at 316-641-9389 for info.

Scan this QR code above to join the Facebook group & stay updated on current volunteer needs.

JOIN THE CHARITIES COMMITTEE

This committee sponsors blood drives, collections for St. Anthony Family Shelter, food & pantry drives, and collections for local charities througout the year. We are in need of more members to help us with our important charity work here at SFA!

For information and/or to sign up, contact Dianne at dianneathh@cox.net

PARISHIONER STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

The Lang-Tamily Stewardship Testimony

Kyle and Lisa Lang have been a part of our parish for 14 years and members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish for 8 years. Because of their great stewardship, they were asked to give testimony to our parishioners. This is the lay witness talk they gave this past month:

Lisa:

My name is Lisa Lang and this is my husband, Kyle. We live in Park City and have been part of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita since 2009, and parishioners here at St. Francis for around 8 years now. We have 5 wonderful boys that keep us on our toes, aged from 13 down to 4 years old. I might look familiar to some of you because I teach art over at the school. SO, a quick hi to all my students!

We wanted to thank Father and the church council for asking us to speak with you briefly as you prayerfully consider your response to stewardship. We define stewardship as: the grateful response of a Christian disciple, who recognizes and receives God's gifts, and who shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. The theme this year is My Faith Response, which I love because it really goes to the heart of what we believe stewardship to be as each of us is called upon to reflect on the gifts God has given us!

Kyle:

As my wife mentioned, we've been part of the diocese since 2009. We met at K-State (Go Cats!) and moved here after graduation. It was at St. Isidore's in Manhattan that we were first introduced to stewardship as a way of life. Fr. Keith Weber explained that to operate a parish whose mission was to serve students through a variety of activities including Bible studies, daily/weekend Masses, RCIA, etc., it was going to take a group effort from both the students and permanent parish members.

He challenged us to attend Mass regularly (Prayer), grow in understanding the Catholic faith

(Formation), assist in running retreats or joining the choir or volunteering (Service), and contribute 10% of whatever income we earned from our part-time jobs as students (Hospitality).

Being the business major that I am, naturally I created a spreadsheet to plug in my income regarding the latter. It was challenging at first to sacrifice what little we had, but that small seed of faith actually created the habit of placing God first in our lives (1st Commandment) in other areas as well—career choices, relationships, NFP, parenting, etc. Giving God the first fruits instead of the leftovers regarding these four pillars of Stewardship allowed us to rightly prioritize God and others before ourselves. He then returns that sacrifice with generosity beyond what we could have imagined! We are truly blessed.

Stewardship as a way of life is a choice. God always gives us that free will and choice as to whether we will follow his will and teaching in our lives. Stewardship truly is an act of faith. Please take time to prayerfully consider **your faith response**. Thank you for generously sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

-Kyle & Lisa Lang



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Weekday Liturgical Stewards

Monday, Jan. 8, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Servers D. Schuster / K. Carpenter / N.Buckles / K. Hauserman

Monday, Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Julie Schoenberger

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Servers C. Steindler / J. Borrego / M.Hein / H. Hoffman

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Mike George

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Heather Gregg

Altar Servers S. Weber / C. Konecny / G. Kraft / K. Leasher

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Justin Comeau

Thursday, Jan. 11, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Servers J. Zarchan / M. McClure / S. McElhiney / M. Oliphant

Thursday, Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Rebecca Vodola

Friday, Jan. 12, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Servers D. Berry / C. Dash / S. Pulliam / R. Valdois

Friday, Jan. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Marcia McAnarney

Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Justin Comeau

Mass Intentions Jan. 8 - Jan. 14		
Monday, 8	8:00 a.m.	SFA Priests Spec. Int.
	5:30 p.m.	† Teresa Kuestersteffen
Tuesday, 9	8:00 a.m.	† Ben Albert
	5:30 p.m.	† JoAnn Way
Wednesday, 10	8:00 a.m.	Dec. Mem. Albert-Dreher Families
	5:30 p.m.	† Christopher Bui
Thursday, 11	8:00 a.m.	For the Ladies of the Parish
	5:30 p.m.	Greg George & Family Spec. Int.
Friday, 12	8:00 a.m.	Flo Barles Spec. Int.
	5:30 p.m.	† Marjorie Sanburn
Saturday, 13	8:00 a.m.	† Clara Weber
	5:00 p.m.	† Patricia Zeiss
	7:00 p.m.	Elaine Aaron Spec. Int.
Sunday, 14	7:00 a.m.	† Paul Poettker
	8:30 a.m.	Carol Ward Spec. Int.
	10:00 a.m.	Fiat Ministries Spec. Int.
	11:30 a.m.	For the People
	1:00 p.m.	Marilyn Holloway Spec. Int.

Weekend Liturgical Stewards

Saturday, Jan. 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Master Server: Caden Zimbelman

Servers: M. Zimbelman / A. Veith / S. Veith EMHCs: P. Freeman / D. Becker / C. Kenton

Saturday, Jan. 13 | 7:00 p.m.

Lector: Julie McClure **Commentator:** Kathryn Torres

Master Server: Cooper Steindler

Servers: C. Schawe / N. Schawe / B. Prichard **EMHCs:** M. Buchanan / S. Buchanan / N. Bell

Sunday, Jan. 14 | 7:00 a.m.

Lector: Patty Bluml **Commentator:** Don Betzen

Master Server: Sebastian Weber

Servers: E. Saville / L. Wasinger / S. Domebo
EMHCs: J.I Daniels / M. Flynn / P. Meyer

Sunday, Jan. 14 | 8:30 a.m.

Lector: Kristen Buckles **Commentator:** Sue Willey

Master Server: Luke Burns

Servers: J. Buckles / N. Buckles / P. Harrison **EMHCs:** G. Morgan / J. Morgan / S. Scott

Sunday, Jan. 14 | 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Renee Hein **Commentator:** Mary Atkins

Master Server: Christian Lang

Servers: P. Bluml / J. Konecny / C. Konecny **EMHCs:** D. Carter / D. Carter / M. Martin

Sunday, Jan. 14 | 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Gared Preisser **Commentator:** Tim Fox

Master Server: Jacob Lezniak

Servers: V. Allmond / T. Nola / T. Munk

EMHCs: J. Cerre / S. Cerre / Z. Cerre

Sunday, Jan. 14 | 1:00 p.m.

Lector: CJ Damm **Commentator:** Tom Olivier

Master Server: Luke Tran

Servers: A. Tran/ H. Borrego / K. Hays

EMHCs: C. Wellbrock / SUBS NEEDED

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

SUNDAY, JAN. 7

ROSARY GROUP Church, 5:00 p.m. YOUNG ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE Music Rm., 7:00 p.m. SACRED ENS CHOIR PRACTICE Music Rm., 8:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 8

MARIAN MANTLE ROSARY GROUP Church, 8:30 a.m. MARY'S MOMS Nursery, 9-11 a.m. **LEGION OF MARY** Clare Hall, 9:00 a.m. FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY GROUP Church, 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

MORNING BIBLE STUDY St. Catherine's, 9:00 a.m. ROSARY GROUP Clare Hall, 1:00 p.m. FINANCIAL PEACE U. Clare Hall, 6:30 p.m. IMMAC. HEART OF MARY ROSARY GP. Church, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP Clare Hall, 6:30 a.m. OCIA Clare Hall Basement, 6:30 p.m. BIBLE STUDY Stewardship Hall, 6:30 p.m. SHEKINAH Church, 6:30 p.m. MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT Off Campus, 7:00 p.m. TRAD. MUSIC PRATICE Clare Music Rm., 7:00 p.m. MEN'S MUSIC PRATICE Clare Music Rm., 8:00 p.m. CYM Clare Hall., 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11

MORNING ROSARY GROUP Clare Hall, 10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 12

MORNING BIBLE STUDY St. Catherines, 9:00 a.m. TOGETHER WITH TRACI-CATH. CHAR.Clare Hall, 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

BEREAVEMENT COMM. Stewardship Hall, 9:00 a.m. FAMILY GAME NIGHT Stewardship Hall, 6-11 p.m.

Elijah Cup | JAN. 13-14: Greg Rosa Family

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



OFFERTORY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 13

5:00 p.m. Jolene Senter 7:00 p.m. Jamie Freeman

Sunday, Jan. 14

8:30 a.m. Paul Manning 10:00 a.m. Lisa Lang

11:30 a.m. Clinton & Jamie Kissling

1:00 p.m. Betsy Rohr

DIRECTORY

PARISH STAFF

Fr. C. Jarrod Lies	frlies@stfranciswichita.com
Fr. Andrew Meng	frmeng@stfranciswichita.com
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Mary Carter, School Principal	316.722.5171

Mary Carter, School Principal	316.722.5171
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Medical Emergency Number*	316.531.0184
*This number is for emergend	ries only.
Website	www.stfranciswichita.com
E-mail	sfac@stfranciswichita.com
Address	861 N. Socora, Wichita, KS 67212
SCHOOL	
Phone	316.722.5171
E-mail	
Address	853 N. Socora, Wichita, KS 67212

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 mstewimi@amail.com

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Sign-up for NFP classes: 316-685-5240

Website: www.nfpwichita.ora

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@amail.com





