SFA hosts 16th annual Parish Picnic

Everyone is invited to join us for the 16th annual St. Francis Parish Picnic on June 5 from 3 to 8 p.m. There will be fun and games for the whole family – indoor and outdoor. The accompanying schedule can help you plan to participate in your favorite activities or try a new one.

There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, side dishes and all the fixings, along with ice cold lemonade and water to drink.

Look for RSVP signup sheets in the pews after each Mass, and fill these out to help us be sure there is enough food for everyone.

Picnic flyers can be found in the church bulletin and posted around the parish.

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<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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<td>Children’s Games</td>
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<td>Snow Cones</td>
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<td>Open Gym</td>
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<td>Face Painting/Tattoos</td>
<td>3:30-5:30</td>
<td>St. Clare Hall</td>
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<td>Cotton Candy</td>
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<td>Best Tasting Salsa Contest</td>
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<td>Pitch Tournament (Cards)</td>
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<td>Closest to the Pin (Golf)</td>
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<td>Fire Truck Show &amp; Tell</td>
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Stewardship Thought

Dear Lord, In recognition of your gifts of love and life, instill in my heart the need and desire to be grateful for these gifts. In this spirit of gratitude, I pray that I will be ever mindful of my ongoing need, in committed action, to share generously, sacrificially and proportionately of my gifts in service to You and especially to those most in need. Amen
SFA to host Corpus Christi procession

On May 29, following 1 p.m. Mass, SFA will be the site of a Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession. All are encouraged to attend as we adore our Lord present Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity in the Eucharist.

In this year of the 30th anniversary of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Lies will lead us in an outdoor Corpus Christi procession. Historically, Corpus Christi has often been celebrated with outdoor Eucharistic processions.

“My Lord and My God” (John 20:28) – these were the words of the unbelieving Apostle Thomas as he put his fingers into the wound in Jesus’ side after the Resurrection. Jesus’ response to Thomas is also a response to us as we contemplate Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” (John 20:29)

As a display of our faith in the Eucharist, the Church has instituted the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, which means the Body and Blood of Christ. The date of this feast varies each year; it is always celebrated on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday.

Although each Sunday is a celebration of our belief in the Eucharist, this feast was developed with a liturgy and devotions completely centered on the Body and Blood of Christ. It was instituted in the 1200s at the suggestion of St. Juliana, and was approved for the Universal Church by Pope Urban IV.

St. Juliana had a great devotion to the Eucharist from a very young age. As a teenager, she had a vision in which she saw the moon. Within the moon there was a dark spot. Juliana was led to realize that the dark spot represented the fact that the Church did not have a feast for the specific purpose of devotion to the Body and Blood of Christ.

For those not familiar with Eucharistic processions, the procession will begin in the main Church with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. After a short period of prayer, the solemn procession will proceed outdoors.

This year’s recent First Communicants – wearing their First Communion apparel – will be invited to honor Jesus by leading the parish devotees. The procession will follow a route around the Church, stopping at each side of the parish campus for a Eucharistic blessing. Eucharistic themed songs will be sung throughout the procession.

Any parish child who received their First Holy Communion can participate; parents just need to call Lisa at 729-4175.

SFA Girl Scout troop earns Bronze Award

Girl Scout Troop #40551 is one of the five troops at St. Francis of Assisi. The Girl Scouts in this troop are Juniors and Cadettes in the fifth and sixth grades. Members are Natalie B., Riley C., Natalie S., Caitlyn H., and Leah Z. This scouting year the girls earned several badges and earned the highest award possible for a Junior troop: the Bronze Award.

The Bronze Award requires a minimum of 20 hours and should provide a service or gift that can keep on giving. Girls met and discussed ideas on what their project should be. One of the girls has a relative who is young girl, just like them, and is battling cancer. After spending time with her cousin during a treatment session, Riley was surprised at how boring and long a treatment session could be.

Riley shared her experience with the troop, and the girls decided they wanted to make a difference for all the brave children getting treatments.

The girls created a budget using the funds they earned from the Annual Chicken Noodle Dinner and selling cookies. The girls put their plan in motion to make a difference.

They decided that crafts, toys, puzzles and brain games would make the time go by easier while children are receiving a treatment. They put together a variety of craft kits for multiple ages, purchased new toys for boys and girls of all ages, and even made “I Spy” bottles to give to the center for all patients to enjoy.

On a day off from school in February, the girls were able to personally deliver their project and spend time with three patients. They played games, made balloon animals, colored, made puppets, and met the patients’ families.

The girls really enjoyed spending time with the children and seeing their hard work pay off. They are planning on returning periodically to spend time with other patients and to replenish any of the kits.

Their favorite part of this experience was being able to spend time with the patients and seeing how excited they were to have someone to play with during their stay at the center. The staff at the center and the patients’ parents were very appreciative and commented on what a difference it made for the patients.

– Aimee Hampel
Are you ‘making time’ for relationships?

It’s a funny phrase, isn’t it? “Making time.” I mean you can’t really “make time” can you? A person can make a sweater, or they can make dinner, or they can make a sculpture. But no one can “make time.”

Isn’t time the same for all of us? Every single one of us has exactly 525,600 minutes in a year.

But we live in a ‘rat-race’ society. We rush. We run. We work. We clean. We sleep. We eat. We exercise. And we do this all, not only for ourselves, but for our families. Whether that is for our extended family, caring for elderly parents or relatives; or for our immediate family, caring for spouses and children.

Everyone has their own calendar. Dad has one. Mom has another. Children each have their own. And then each calendar has to be overlaid one on another so that some kind of intricate delivery system can be in place so that everyone will be dropped off and picked up on time at multiple locations.

Oh ... and they have to eat too. Sometimes it seems that family is little less than controlled chaos. And then at the end of the day, some people ask themselves, “Why do I feel so alone?” “Why don’t my parents listen to me?” “Why doesn’t my spouse understand what I’m going through?”

This is why we need to “make time.” What does this mean? It means prioritizing. To “make time” means protecting what is truly important in your life and jettisoning everything else that compromises it. Like sailors on a ship getting swamped by waves throw cargo overboard, so too, families being swamped by the pressures and anxieties of a “rat-race” world need to throw out all events that are threatening a well-balanced life. We “make time” when we set priorities and protect them.

And what are these priorities? Well, basically, they are relationships. It is our relationships that make us truly happy. Yet the unbalanced search for pleasure, power or pride can cause us to put our relationships on the back burner. When we make relationships our priority, we organize our events and commitments in reference to our relationships.

So, as we near this summer, give yourself and your family permission to make relationships your priority.

In essence, this means to rest and recreate with one another. To rest doesn’t mean to sleep, it means “making time” to replenish your relationships. Rest could mean going to the park, going to the zoo, going skiing or simply going for a walk. But no matter what activity you choose, the point is not what you are doing; it is the people whom you are doing it with.

Rest also means prayer: our relationship with God. People often see Mass as a duty, as “another thing that gets in the way of my day.” Yet the Church refers to prayer as a “mid-day moment of rest” (Liturgy of the Hours).

And even Jesus says, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” (Mark 6:31) An essential part of a well-balanced life is “making time” for God and understanding that that time is truly rejuvenating.

As the book of Hebrews says, “Let us make every effort to enter into that rest.” (Heb 4:11)

So “make time” this summer to rest with family, friends and God.

– Father Jarrod Lies

Battle of the Books

SFA School’s 6th grade Battle of the Books teams finish up a great season.

Photos by Lisa Maliszewski
cym
SUMMER SPECIAL

June

JUNE 1 - CYM COOKOUT - 6:30 PM - RECTORY
JUNE 4 - GAGA BALL TOURNAMENT - 2:00 PM - ST. PETER SCHULTE
JUNE 5 - PARISH PICNIC - 3:00 PM - BACK LAWN @ SFA
JUNE 8 - CYM HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
JUNE 13 - EUCHARISTIC FESTIVAL OUTSIDE - 6:00 PM - BACK LAWN @ SFA
JUNE 15 - CYM KICK BALL GAME - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
JUNE 19-24 - PRAYER AND ACTION - ALL WEEK - HOLY NAME, COFFEYVILLE
JUNE 22 - CYM GAME NIGHT - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
JUNE 25-27 - TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC) RETREAT - ALL WEEKEND - HUTCHINSON
JUNE 26 - CYM SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - 1:00 PM - BISHOP CARROLL
JUNE 27 - SUMMER MONDAY - 7:00 PM - BACK LAWN @ SFA
JUNE 29 - LEARN IT, LIVE IT - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM

July

JULY 6 - ADORATION UNDER THE STARS - 8:00 PM - ST. JOE OST
JULY 10-15 - PARISH TOTUS TUUS - 7:30 PM - CYM ROOM
JULY 13 - CYM/TOTUS TUUS HOLY HOUR - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
JULY 18 - SUMMER MONDAY - 7:00 PM - BACK LAWN @ SFA
JULY 20 - GUEST SPEAKER, GARETT BURNS - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
JULY 24-29 - PRAYER AND ACTION - ALL WEEK - ST. MICHAEL, MULYANE
JULY 27 - CYM GAME NIGHT - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM

August

AUGUST 1 - SUMMER MONDAY OLYMPICS - 7:00 PM - BACK LAWN @ SFA
AUGUST 3 - NERF WAR - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
AUGUST 10 - CYM BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
AUGUST 11 - JAM FOR THE LAMB - 7:00 PM - SCHOOL GYM
AUGUST 12 - CYM DANCE - 7:00 PM - CANA HALL
AUGUST 17 - CYM HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
AUGUST 24 - CYM BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
AUGUST 31 - BACK TO SCHOOL TALK - 8:00 PM - CYM ROOM
Stewardship Lay Witness: Ryan Biedron

This is the script from a stewardship renewal talk originally delivered on Nov. 8, 2015.

Good afternoon. I am Ryan Biedron, and I am currently in my fourth year as a mathematics and engineering teacher at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

To be here today surprises me. Never would I have guessed 10 years ago when I was a junior at Bishop Carroll that I would be here talking to my fellow parishioners about stewardship.

Just like you all out there now, I used to think I would sit back and listen to someone talk about things I already knew verbatim having grown up right here at St. Francis of Assisi. Of course, as I would come to find out in my faith journey over these past 10 years I had a lot to learn about what stewardship meant in my life and the lives of those around me.

It’s meaningful to me to give this talk on this date, Nov. 8, because it was exactly nine years ago to the day that I was most struggling with my faith and questioning the reason God had put me on this earth.

For those who were around in the parish in 2006, you might recall the plane crash that I was involved in my senior year of high school that killed my best friend and his father and left a friend of mine and myself in the hospital for a week. It was during this week that I underwent a transformation of what faith and stewardship meant in my life.

The amount of love, gifts and prayers that poured out from family and people I had never met was overwhelming to me for months. To this day I cannot wrap my head around the generosity that was shown to all of the families involved in the event.

Too often the word stewardship triggers thoughts of being asked for money or how much we tithe, but what I will always think of stewardship is the giving of those Christian disciples – of their generosity, love and prayer for another Christian brother who they may not have even known. They recognized their God-given gifts and shared them with their neighbor in the true love of God.

During the time of dealing with the loss of my best friend, I went through dark times of questioning the faith and what I was supposed to do with my life. Yes, God had given me many gifts, but after He had taken away from me one of my fondest gifts, how could I possibly give back to Him?

I would go on to make poor decisions in college over the next few years. In the midst of all the darkness, there was always something nagging at me to return and become involved with the Church.

I joined St. Isidore in Manhattan, Kan., but wasn’t very active. However, as I saw some of my friends getting involved and the opportunity of meeting new friends and women who were joyously giving back to the Church, it was as good enough reason as any to start.

I’ll be honest; I pretty much did a poor job at the things I tried, such as being a Bible study leader or PSR instructor on Wednesdays. While they were excellent groups, they just did not fit my talents. I love teaching math, not so much philosophy and theology. I quickly found that I could use my talents in the Church by being a lector, a minister of Holy Communion and singing in the choir.

When I returned to Wichita and took my position at Bishop Carroll as a teacher and coach, I saw the impact my life could have on the students and on the entire Bishop Carroll community. All the experiences that I had gained in my life through high school and college could be used to help the youth through those same years of their lives to find faith in times of darkness.

Stewardship in my life was exploring my talents by taking some chances on new things. Every failure taught me something new and honed my talents to guide me to the point where I am today as a stewardship speaker before you.

In conclusion, I have learned from my old self that Stewardship is not something that just happens by being a passive parishioner in the pews. It is something that needs to be ever-changing and reflected upon individually.

Think of stewardship as a fire that was burning hot at one time in your life but has subdued and cooled off over the past year and especially as we approach winter. It now needs a couple logs tossed on it or some old logs moved around or turned over.

How can you reignite that fire for your faith and give back to God using the talents he has given you? Thank you.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Shawn and Jacqueline Aday
Jason and Karla Henke, 4 children
Mark and Michelle Kittrell
Jeffrey Mescher
Joseph and Jamie Rodriguez, 2 children
William and Judy Rokiski
Kelly and Alyssa Standridge
SFA School presents ‘Lion King Junior’

One of the many blessings we have at our parish is that we have the opportunity to put on an amazing show every year with our seventh and eighth graders. The Lion King Jr. was a great experience for the cast, crew, directors, technical crew and volunteers. It was also very enjoyable for the parents and the SFA students who did not participate in the production but were able to enjoy the show.

The talent, music, singing, dancing, acting, costumes and makeup were wonderfully put together. Members of the cast had such a great experience that we wished it would have lasted forever.

We all learn to appreciate the arts when we recognize the gifts we have received in our community, and especially when it is comes together so beautifully.

The show is a “junior” which means it was shortened from the original stage production. The auditions started in late November 2015. The students hoping for a lead practiced for weeks. Judges decided the best part for each student who auditioned.

Rehearsals started in February. The first rehearsals were to learn the music and practice singing as a group; then we started working on choreography. Once those were perfected, we practiced our blocking and acting.

By late March, the cast and crew worked on the set. Whether it was painting, building, being creative, or just moving things; everyone worked hard. You would be amazed to know how much work and dedication the students and adult volunteers put into this show.

On the week of the show, April 18, everyone was nervous. Practices were from after school until 9 p.m. Cast members were stressed, tired, hungry, and we had homework! Nevertheless, the directors were supportive and gave us time to get our school work done.

On Wednesday of that week we had the last dress rehearsal, and we felt confident. Our first performance was at 1 p.m. Thursday. All of the students at SFA attended, along with many other guests. It was chaotic trying to get the costumes on and the makeup applied. Afterward, it was all worth it as we put on a great show. We performed again that night, and our final performance was on Friday evening.

So much effort and dedication went into this play, and it went by so quickly. We were all sad that it had to end.

A special thank you to the head costume designer, Tammy Bacha; the costumes were so fun and creative. Another big thank you goes to Dustyn Morgan, the head of our tech crew. We are thankful for Crave Academy for doing our hair and makeup.

Last, but not least, the cast would like to thank our music teacher, Donna Mally, who was the head director. She never gave up on us, and we may have been stressed, but she endured the most and spent countless hours above and beyond her normal day to make this performance as good as it was.

The seventh graders are looking forward to doing it all again next year, but we are going to miss the eighth graders. The cast and crew have made so many memories and friendships that we hope will last forever.

Thank you to all who came to enjoy the show and thank you to all who participated and helped put it all together. God bless!

– Lily Weakland
(7th grader who played Rafiki)
Led by SFA School’s music teacher, Miss Mally, the 7th and 8th graders at St. Francis perform “Lion King Junior” The performers auditioned before Christmas and spent most of the semester preparing for the production.
2016 Confirmation

Seventy-nine St. Francis of Assisi Parish high school students received the sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, March 12. The young men and women who were confirmed are sent out into the world to live the Gospels and witness for their faith.

The confirmandi are:
Hanleigh Allen, Jair Uriel Martinez-Alvarez, Mary Aruskevicius, Mercedes Ast, Camiela Bacha, Elizabeth Bachman, Samuel Bartsch, Jordan Bauman, James Belton, Sydney Bequette, Lauren Beugelsdyk, Alec Bevis, Braeland Booth, Carley Bornhorst, Maisy Brouillette, Jacob Buchanan.

Jake Campbell, Loraine Cao, Isaiah Carter, Micah Cash, Chloe Charles, Braden Charlton, Noah Cutler, Ben Daigle, Danah Dean, Katie Dold, Madison Edwards, Jacob Exley, Grant Falconio, Kian Farley, Steven Farley, Emma Finkeldei, Reagan Fischer, Keana Frost.


2016 First Communion

On April 2, 21 Parish School of Religion students and 58 St. Francis of Assisi School students received their First Communion. Congratulations to all!

**SFA First Communicants**


Luke Tran, Brooks Voegeli, Madelyn Vu, Vivian Vu, Jaxson Wright, Tyler Young, Gavin Zwengen, Tristan Zwengen.

**PSR First Communicants**

*More 1st Communion photos on p. 9.*
SFA School celebrates May Crowning

1st Communion – cont. from p. 8
Jesus offers us gift of rest; we should take it

I double-booked my calendar; I was supposed to be at a meeting at school AND at the Spiritual Life Center on Tuesday night at the same time. The calendar on my phone betrayed me. How could this happen? OK, sure, operator error is the most likely cause.

I try my best to be on time, on schedule and follow carefully the events and appointments on my phone and computer each day. My wife, Jackie, and I are still “old school” and keep a calendar on the refrigerator at home, just so we have one more place to look to remind us of our busy schedule.

The calendar is my list of “to do’s” for each day. It tells me where I am supposed to be and what events are happening.

Making time, as our theme suggests this month, is left to those blank spaces on the calendar. It is those few moments throughout the day or a whole evening to just relax and have some free time. Hopefully this year gives us an opportunity to slow down, just a little, and rest.

Relaxing and resting can be two very different activities. Relaxing in the summer may be hammock time or a walk in the park. Resting is something else. Rest implies rejuvenation. Making time to rest allows us to reconnect with whom and what are important in our lives. Rest can restore and recharge our soul.

Jesus said in Mathew, Chapter 11, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”

That is the kind of rest we all need! It is an effort to make time to find that rest that only Jesus can provide. Might I suggest making time for Mass together as a family? How about scheduling an appointment for Confession in the next month? Maybe the event for the coming week can be a visit to the Adoration Chapel.

Jesus wants us to find rest. It certainly can be allusive in our busy, hectic schedules. Jesus says, “I will GIVE you rest.” It is a gift. We have to recognize and receive it as a gift.

Making time to find the gift of rest is not easy. We labor and burden with our calendar each and every day. Some days the calendar wins. May the coming days give us an opportunity to find that gift of rest in Jesus.

Make that appointment or find that date to rest. It is good for the soul.

– Pat Burns
Director of Stewardship & Finance

Fr. Meiergerd celebrates ordination

Father Xavier Mariae (Kris) Meiergerd of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving on June 12 at 3 p.m. at St. Francis. A reception will follow in Cana Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Fr. Xavier is the son of Don and Judy Meiergerd and the brother of Lisa Prichard (husband Bobby) and Holly Tanner (husband Rob).

The Vernacular

This monthly newsletter is published by and for the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. It is mailed to each registered parish household by the end of each month. To submit articles, photos or story ideas, send them via email to sfavernacular@gmail.com. Photos must be high-resolution print quality images.

Contacts for the Vernacular are news editor Lanette Belton, 722-3952, and copy editor Ann Walden, 249-2430.

Deadlines for submitting information are the beginning of each month. New volunteers — especially reporters, photographers and layout editors — are always welcome.
Generations of Faith event features mercy

Fr. Jarrod Lies and guest presenter Fr. Bernard Gorges from St. Peter the Apostle Parish speak to the crowd about mercy at the recent Generations of Faith event.

BAPTISMS

Max Alexander, son of George and Michelle Sponsel, on April 3
Sophie Katherine, daughter of Jesse and Angela Moore, on April 17
Emma Kay, daughter of Andrew and Lori Nunnelley, on April 17
Henry Joseph, son of Christopher and Mary Frances Shearn, on April 17
Eva Grace, daughter of Spencer and Anjelica Dwire, on April 24

FUNERALS

Dorothy L. Bender, wife of Victor, mother of Karen Rogers, Robert Bender, James Bender, Douglas Bender and Gregory Bender, on April 6
Erma M. Orth-Schuster, mother of Deb Wetta, Dan Orth, Dave Orth, Chuck Orth, Carl Orth, Cindy Seiler, Jeannie Preisser and Kim Gish, on April 9
Dennis M. Haldey, father of Michael Hadley, on April 20
Let us make every effort to enter into that rest

- Hebrews 4:11 -

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ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
JUNE 5 • 3:00-8:00 P.M.
- cover -

- pages 3 & 10 -

__________________________________________________________

THE VERNACULAR
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
www.stfranciswichita.com