

THE VERNACULAR

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



AUGUST 2019

Wichita, Kansas

Landscaping Guild works to beautify parish

Have you noticed the garden areas that have been newly planted around the church? They are the work of the newly formed Landscaping Guild. It all started with a Parish Workday last fall. While trying to clean up the grounds, it was apparent that many of the plants had been neglected and were just old and in need of replacement.

We had many hands and good equipment, so we went to work and

removed what we could. Father asked us to organize and has been very supportive. We were able to arrange for a professional design plan and are now in the process of implementing the plan.

We started with the St. Francis statue and lamppost areas. We then moved to the St. Francis sign, the triangle island, and the island by the Adoration Chapel. The planted areas have been adopted by individuals,

families, or groups of friends who are responsible for watering, weeding and general upkeep.

There is still more work to be done. We want to do our part to help make our parish grounds beautiful and welcoming to all who come to worship. **We would love to have you join us.** We have very few meetings and keep them to one hour. We will review what has been done and discuss what we hope to do this fall and on the next Parish Workday.

Our next meeting is Sept. 17, 7-8 p.m., in St. Clare Hall. The next Parish Workday is Saturday, Oct. 5.

We want to give a special thank you to the anonymous young adult and his siblings who worked in the heat to separate the rocks in areas we plan to work in this fall. God knows who you are and will reward you!

— Anita Monarez

Playground progress



Photo by Pat Burns

Volunteers help set up new equipment on the playground on a Saturday morning in August. Weather and other delays have put us behind schedule; next up is the completion of the new turf.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 29 1 p.m., SFA Filipino Parishioners Mass
- Oct. 2 5:30 p.m., SFA Filipino Parishioners Blessed Virgin Mary of La Naval de Manila Mass & Dinner
- Oct. 4 . . . 3:45 & 6:15 p.m., Pet Blessing
- Oct. 5 Parish Workday
- Oct. 6 Parish Dinner
- Oct. 20 . . . 5-7:30 p.m., Generations of Faith

Stewardship Lay Witness: Ostrom Family

The following is from the Ostroms' stewardship talk during our annual parish renewal last November.

Steve

Stewardship is 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. We hear these words each year as we discern how we may best use our gifts to serve the church.

This year's stewardship theme is "Fully alive as missionary disciples of Christ." This theme encourages each of us to reflect on what our role is as a disciple of Christ. As we contemplate these words, it becomes apparent that once one chooses to become a disciple of Christ, stewardship is not an option but a way of living out the mission set before us.

Going on a mission is not always an easy task and often requires stepping outside of one's comfort zone. As a convert, stewardship was a completely new concept for me. Growing up, my family would place a few dollars on the collection plate and occasionally participate in a church activity.

After we were married and officially joined a parish, it was difficult to fill out the stewardship form – particularly the "treasure" portion. It caused some tension between us because it was foreign to me, and Jenny came from a family where a yearly tithe was pledged. Jenny took to heart the words of encouragement from our parish priest, and we prayed. I finally agreed to a partial tithe.

Through the pillars of prayer and service, and by observing the other faithful stewards around me, I came to realize the importance of giving of

my first fruits. I had grown in my faith and recognized that all that I had was a gift. I pushed outside of my comfort zone and willingly pledged to tithe.

Jenny

I also had my own struggles with stewardship in the early years of our marriage. Our first three children were born in less than four years, and

through the pillar of hospitality, and we began to recognize not only our own gifts, but the gifts of others. We also realized that living a stewardship way of life helps shape future generations.

Our family was given the privilege of working on the former ministry house, now Nazareth, last summer.

This experience highlighted exactly what it means to be involved in stewardship as a parish community. Our children participated and became active missionaries as they recruited friends to help. Our family learned new skills, met new people, and witnessed firsthand the gifts of others in our parish community.

Here at St. Francis, we are blessed with a fabulous Catholic school, a plethora of ministries, great priests and a community of faithful stewards. We have lived in other dioceses, and we

are blessed here in Wichita to have tuition-free Catholic education. We have participated in the other extreme, and paying tuition while tithing can cause a family to scrape the bottom of the barrel. A diocese focused on stewardship leads to schools having a true Catholic identity versus just being elite private schools.

As our family prays how our gifts can best serve our parish in the coming year, we encourage you to do the same. We reflect on these words from St. Luke, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more," (Luke 12:48)

Here in the Diocese of Wichita, a stewardship diocese, we have been entrusted with more. How will your gifts contribute to the Kingdom as we go forward to serve as missionary disciples of Christ?



Photo courtesy of Lifetouch

I felt like I had no energy left to spare. But after attending a few formation talks and spending time in Adoration, I checked the box on the stewardship form to teach a Sunday morning preschool religion class.

I worried about my husband tending to three little ones at home, but as I settled more into this role, I began to see a gift that I didn't know existed – my gift and love for working with children. This encounter led to years of formation that has prepared me to participate as a catechist in a program called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The joy I receive from being a part of this ministry can't be expressed in words, and it all began by stepping outside my comfort zone.

Over the years, we have been involved in various ministries, and each time we said yes, our faith grew, we built meaningful relationships

SFA: Let us work, play, pray together

When my mom and dad were raising us three older boys, they approached Fr. Vincent Eck, their pastor at the time, with a question. (Fr. Vincent came from a family of three priests, several nuns, and married brothers and sisters).

They asked, “Fr. Eck, what did your parents do that fostered so many vocations?”

Fr. Eck answered, “My mom and dad raised us kids on three ideas: we worked together, we played together, and we prayed together.” What a simple formula for raising a family that fosters vocations! Consequently, my parents raised us boys with those same principles.

We worked together. We cleaned the house, washed dishes, mowed the lawn, renovated the house, plugged the backyard with grass, set fences, trimmed trees, and helped dad in the business. We worked together.

We played together. We went camping, went to Wings soccer games, water skied, visited friends, played board games, played ball, watched movies, and laughed with one another. We played together.

We prayed together. We never missed a Sunday Mass; Mom took us kids to daily Mass with her; we prayed a rosary in the morning and, at times, again at night; we prayed before going to bed; we prayed before meals; and we prayed while we were driving. We prayed together.

And so, the principles that Fr. Eck shared with my mom and dad,



and the principles with which I was raised by my parents, are the same principles that are influencing my fatherhood in relation to St. Francis parish. As my birth family worked, played and prayed together; so too, I desire to work, play and pray together with my parish family.

We have an opportunity to do exactly this on the weekend of Oct. 4, 5 and 6.

On Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have our customary pet blessings in front of the rectory. We will play and pray together.

On the morning of Oct. 5, we will have our parish workday. This workday not only accomplishes many needed tasks on our campus for buildings and grounds; it also builds relationships and gives parishioners a chance to work side-by-side with one another. Through working together, we will grow in knowledge of one another and strengthen our ties to our community.

On the evening of Oct. 5, at the 7 p.m. Mass, we will initiate 10 new Catholics into the Church through the RCIA program. What a joy that on the Feast of St. Francis (transferred to Sunday by the permission of Bishop Kemme), we

will welcome new converts to our faith.

On the morning of Oct. 6, we will celebrate Sunday Mass together as a community, centered around the table of the Lord. We will also have the opportunity for confession during Mass, rosaries before Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and a sung Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2 p.m. We will pray together.

To cap it all off, on the afternoon of Oct. 6, we will have our annual parish dinner. Our parish dinner is an explicit act of gratitude for all the stewardship the parishioners of St. Francis have given over the past year. It is an annual update on the “state of the parish” by the council chairs. And finally, it is a night of socializing, conversation, music, singing and dancing (with dueling pianos). We will play together.

When I was ordained I was given the title “Father.” I am a spiritual father. I learned from my parents, who learned from their spiritual father, that a family that fosters vocations is one that works together, plays together, and prays together. I, too, want our parish to be a family that fosters vocations—vocations to the priesthood, vocations to religious life, vocations to marriage – and we will be such a community if only we work, play and pray together.

Please join us on the weekend of Oct. 4, 5 and 6 for any or all of these activities.

Save the date: Parish Dinner

Mark your calendars now for our annual Parish Dinner, which has been moved this year to Sunday, Oct. 6, instead of the November date from previous years.

Permission has been granted by the Bishop for that weekend’s masses to be the Solemnity of St. Francis. We

would like to celebrate this by hosting our annual dinner during the same weekend. Any future parish dinners will fall on the first Sunday following the feast day.

Our theme this year is Octoberfest. The eighth grade choir and Dueling Pianos will return again this year.

It is sure to be a night filled with fun and fellowship. Invitations will be mailed to parishioners in the coming weeks. If you would like to help with the setup of this event, please contact Dana Malone at 648-0689.

Save the date: Fun Night

The 37th annual St. Francis Family Fun Night is set for Oct. 27 from 4-7 pm.

Fun Night is a parish event bringing family and friends together for a safe, fun, family-oriented night of activities during the Halloween season. The evening is filled with room-to-room games, raffles, silent auction, haunted house, homemade goodies and lots more!

Fun Night encourages school and parish involvement, with all proceeds

benefiting St. Francis School. We invite all members of the parish to support this event!

If you would like to donate a prize or cash, please drop it off at, or mail it to, the school or church office. For questions or anything else, call or text Angie Lubbers at 641-5024 or Jamie Fouquet at 518-1157.

If you're on Facebook, you can keep up to date on everything related to Fun Night in the "SFA Fun Night" group.



Fun times at Totus Tuus



Kids and leaders alike enjoy outside time during the annual Totus Tuus retreat at SFA.

QCDs are easy way to help St. Francis

I've met many people who are at the point where they must take Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their IRA, but who haven't yet heard about how they can satisfy their RMD, not be taxed on it, and help St. Francis with what is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

So, I thought I would put together a road map for folks to use in considering whether making this type of gift makes sense for them.

Why make an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift?

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, and have an IRA, the government makes you begin taking withdrawals from that account. This is, of course, so the IRS can tax you on your withdrawals (taxed at your income rate). For many, taking these withdrawals, and incurring the increased taxes triggered by them, complicate their tax situation.

There is a way you can comply with your RMD requirement, not pay one red cent of tax on it, and help St. Francis all at the same time. How does one do this? You can make a gift from your IRA account to help support the work of St. Francis this year and have it count toward your RMD, with zero taxes paid by you or St. Francis, on the entire gifted amount.

An IRA QCD is a way for you to



support St. Francis today without impacting your checking or savings account balance. QCD gifts made from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income. They also count toward your RMD, and therefore can lower your taxable income and taxes.

In addition, making an IRA QCD may prevent you from being bumped into a higher federal or state income tax bracket, hitting the phaseouts on your deductions and personal exemptions, or falling into the Alternative Minimum Tax or incurring the Affordable Care Act tax.

You can benefit from giving from your IRA if any of these apply to you:

- You wish to make a significant gift without using cash or other assets.
- You do not need all or a portion of your IRA income.
- You are paying too much in taxes and are looking to reduce your income and tax liability.
- You either itemize deductions or not; because a QCD gift can reduce your income and taxes, you can still benefit from charitable giving even as a non-itemizer.

What if you have a 401(k), 403(b) or other retirement plan?

This gift opportunity only works

for IRAs. If you own another type of qualified retirement plan, you must first make a tax-free rollover of funds into an IRA. Then you can make the gift from the IRA account to support St. Francis.

How can I make an IRA rollover gift?

Contact your IRA plan administrator (or broker) to learn their procedure for making a QCD gift to St. Francis. To qualify, it must go directly from your plan to St. Francis. If it is paid to you, it will be treated as a regular taxable distribution from your IRA. To learn more about the benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover gift, please contact me in the church office.

– Travis Pearson,
Parish Life Administrator

BAPTISMS

Benjamin Michael, son of Michael & Emily Knee, June 23

Caroline Paige, daughter of Anders Herpolsheimer & Morgan Borrego, June 23

Brooks William, son of Brent & Lindsay Riley, June 23

Alec Corbin, son of Donald & Elizabeth Thornbrugh, June 29

Sophia Rose, daughter of Clint & Amanda May, June 30

Gracelyn Mae, daughter of Bradley & Jenna Scott, July 7

Karely Marleni, daughter of Jordan McAnarney & Azucena Monterrosa, July 7

Blayke Lynn, daughter of Jeff McAnarney & Brandi Marlow, July 7

Gianna Solange, daughter of Ernesto Gallo & Maria Perez, July 20

Azoria Bra'awn, daughter of Lexi Eck, July 21

Charlotte Rose, daughter of Ryan & Gabrielle Dick, July 22

Averie Jo, daughter of Carlos and Shana Garcia, July 28

Hudson Robert, son of Jonathan & Lyndsey Jenesse, July 28

Sign up now for Parish Directory photo session

Lifetouch is coming to SFA to photograph families for our Parish Directory Oct. 1 through the first week in November. Appointments are available during the hours of 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays in

Clare Hall Basement.

Families who sign up to be photographed will receive a FREE 8x10 print. Sign up for your appointment now at booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/bombdn54.

Stewardship Focus: Pillars of Life

This is a regular series created by our Stewardship Council, shedding light on the four Pillars of Life: service, prayer, formation and hospitality.

Service

Someone once said: "Don't give till it hurts; give till it feels good." So, why is it that some of us shy away from giving our time and talent, i.e., stewardship? Why would we not embrace the chance to do things that are so rewarding and fulfilling in the end, things that make us happy?

It is human nature to find happiness in giving of ourselves. Christ made us that way. He made us in His likeness, to love and to serve. The next time an opportunity arises where you can give something of yourself to others, don't hesitate, justify, squirm or postpone that chance. I hope Christ sees a good and faithful steward in me.

Prayer

At times we can find prayer distracting, boring or dry. Distractions are normal, especially when we are reading or recollecting. We can overcome them by acknowledging the distraction, asking for the grace to

focus, and loving more intensely in those moments.

Many of the saints struggled with prayer being boring or dry. When we experience this, let us remember that God never allows us to endure a period of trial that will not lead to abundant graces.

Difficulties strengthen our faith and purify our love.

Formation

"For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building."

– 1 Corinthians 3:9

Hospitality

In the early Church, some of

the faithful retreated to the desert to live a life of solitude, prayer, fasting and meditation to grow closer to God. Yet, Thomas Merton writes that hospitality trumped all other spiritual practices. These fourth century desert Fathers would cheerfully break their fast and prayer to graciously receive guests.

"All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."



'Hail Mary' Clarification

The "Flame of Love" article in the July Vernacular gave the impression that the "Hail Mary" prayer was changing. We regret any confusion this caused. A group has received permission to add a petition to the prayer when they are saying the "Flame of Love" Rosary. This does not mean that the "Hail Mary" itself or the Rosary has changed.

The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary has been approved by the Church through Cardinal Peter Erdo, Archbishop of Budapest. If you want to pray that version of the Hail Mary by yourself, feel free. Prayers can be said multiple ways. However, if you are leading a public Rosary, stick to the original, unless you made it known in advance that on that day and time it's the "Flame of Love" Rosary.

Stewardship Thought

"We are at Jesus' disposal. If he wants you to be sick in bed, if he wants you to proclaim His work in the street, if he wants you to clean the toilets all day, that's all right, everything is all right. We must say, 'I belong to you. You can do whatever you like.' And this is our strength. This is the joy of the Lord." – St. Teresa of Calcutta

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. It can also be emailed to parishioners upon request.

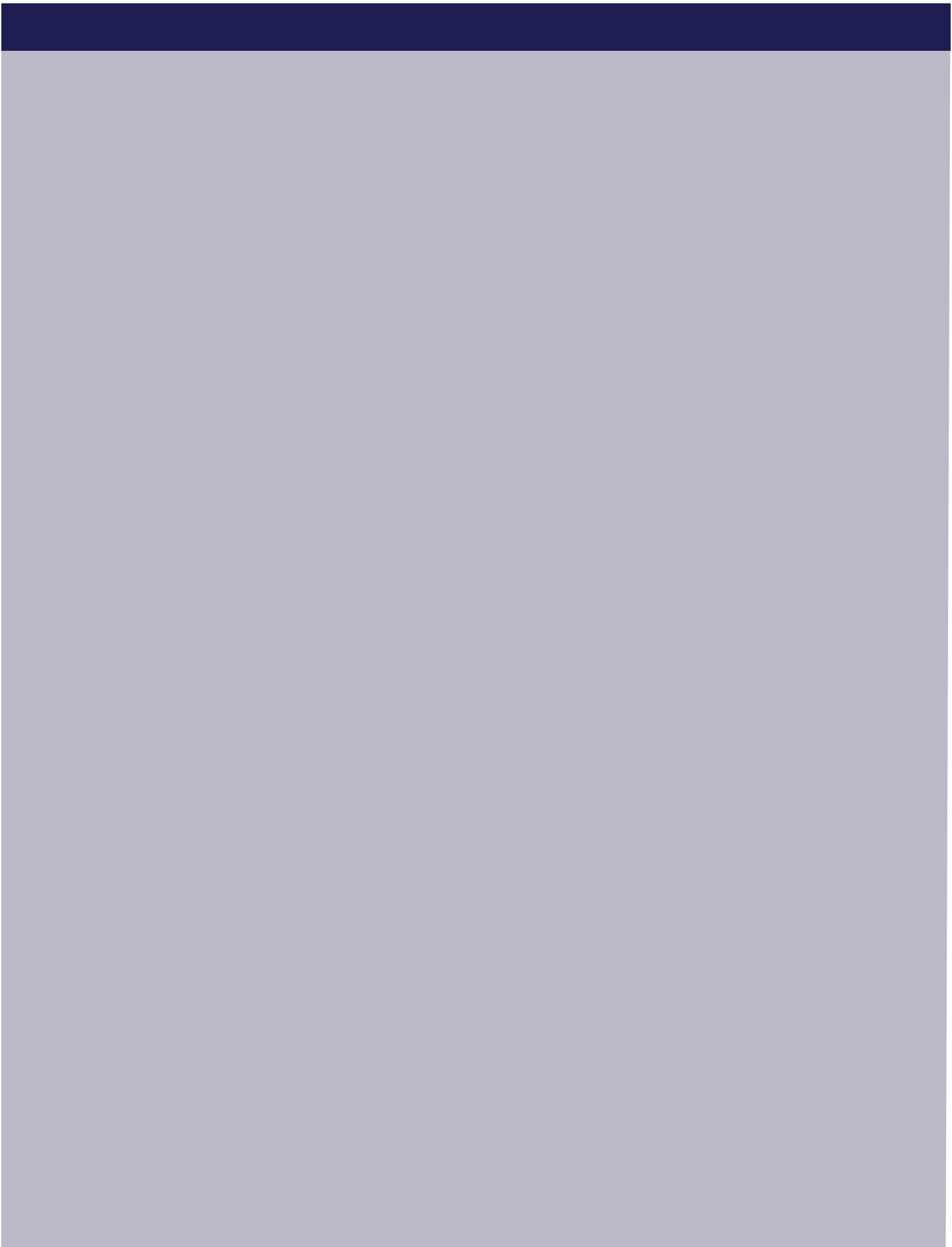
To submit articles, high-resolution photos or story ideas, send an email to sfavernacular@gmail.com. Deadlines are the 10th of each month. Contacts for the Vernacular are news editor Lanette Belton, 722-3952, and copy editor Ann Walden, 249-2430. New volunteers are always welcome.

FUNERALS

Dory Troilo, husband of Irene,
July 15
Maria Wood, July 25
Steven Lange, husband of Janet,
July 25

NEW PARISHIONERS

Jordan Bartz
Nicholas & Crystal Clupny, 4 kids
Elizabeth Hancock
Matthew & Monica Roeser, 2 kids
Christina Vasquez





Friday, October 4:
Pet Blessings



Saturday, October 5:
Parish Workday

*St. Francis
of Assisi*
Solemnity Weekend
Celebration



Saturday, October 5:
RCIA Candidates Enter the Church



Sunday, October 6:
Parish Dinner

I have filled artisans with the Spirit of God. . .in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, and in carving wood.

Exodus 31:3-5

Work, Play, Pray
- page 3 -

Pillars of Life
- page 6 -

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