



SEPTEMBER 2019

WICHITA, KANSAS

Costumes, pumpkins and candy, oh my!

The 37th Annual St. Francis Family Fun Night is set for Oct. 27 from 4-7 p.m.

Fun Night Raffle tickets are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased from any St. Francis or PSR student or from the School or Church office for \$1 or a book of 12 for \$10. You don't need to be present to win. Proceeds support SFA School.

New this year is the 50/50 Raffle. Tickets will be sold for \$10 each or three for \$20. At the close of Fun Night, the winning ticket will be drawn. Half the pot goes to St. Francis School and the other half to the winning ticket holder.

Come to Fun Night for a Frito chili pie dinner and cinnamon rolls, and join in the excitement as the 50/50 pot grows.



Silent Auction includes Dinner with Bishop Kemme

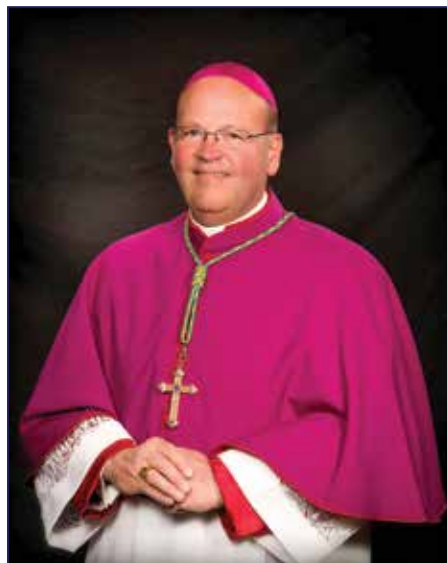


Photo by Pete Iseman

Would you and nine of your friends like to have dinner with Bishop Kemme as your host? You can if you are the winning bidder of this item in Fun Night's Silent Auction. A Dinner for Eight with the Priests and the Wine Pull return as auction items as well.

The Silent Auction preview and early

bidding opportunity will be open in Cana Hall on Oct. 26 from 4-7 p.m. and after all Sunday Masses the weekend of Fun Night.

Special thanks to wonderful parishioners who have donated cash and prizes to help make Fun Night successful. Last-minute donations can be dropped off at the School or Church office.

Keep up to date on everything Fun Night in the Facebook group "SFA Fun Night."

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 4-20.....*See August Vernacular for events occurring on these days*
- 24..... .Discovering Christ, 7 p.m. (1st of 7 sessions)
- 27.....Family Fun Night
- 31 - Nov. 8..Novena for the Deceased

November

- 1.....All Saints Day – Office Closed
- 3.....Daylight Savings Time ends
- 3.....Pastoral Address on Stewardship in Gym, 2:30 p.m.
- 8-9.....Wildfire Retreat
- 13.....Pastoral Address on Stewardship in Gym, 6:45 p.m.

Full calendar available on SFA website

Stewardship Witness: Bekah Iseman

The following is from Bekah's stewardship talk during our annual parish renewal last November.

Good afternoon. My name is Bekah Iseman, and I am a junior at Bishop Carroll. I am here today to talk to you about stewardship. As many of you have heard before, the textbook definition for stewardship is "the grateful response of a Christian disciple, who recognizes and receives God's gifts, and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor."

BUT, have you ever stopped to think about what these words mean to you, personally? In my own life, I decided to break this down into two parts.

The first part – "the grateful response of a Christian disciple, who recognizes and receives God's gifts" – tells me that I need to wake up in the morning and realize that my life and everything in it is a Gift

from God. The second part – "and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor" – tells me that I have the joyful duty of sharing my life with others each and every day.

To do these two things, to me, is to



Pat & Crystal Iseman Family, with Bekah in back

live out the definition of stewardship and become a true missionary disciple in the way that I live my life.

As a child, I practiced stewardship not because I chose to, but because that's just what my family did. So, I did things such as going to people's homes and welcoming them to the

parish, or helping out with cleaning the school on weekends. However, as I grew older, stewardship became a choice that I had to make with every passing day. I realized that if I wanted to embrace stewardship, it couldn't just be a thing that I did here and there when my parents told me to. It had to be a way of life that I chose for myself.

Some examples of things that I have gotten to do while living the stewardship way of life are helping with PSR and Little Flowers and attending Parish Work Days. In doing these things, I have learned that stewardship is not always easy, but it IS a rewarding experience when I get to see the outcome of the time, talent or treasure that is given.

Stewardship is not only for the select few or for the leaders of our church. Stewardship is a way of life that we ALL have a duty to embrace, and we can do this by giving of our time, talent and treasure in a variety of ways unique to each one of us.

Thank you for your time, and for your prayerful consideration of the stewardship way of life.

Photo by Pete Iseman

Daytime Prayer Service

Our annual Daytime Prayer Service will be held in the church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3. This service is intended to honor all of our deceased, but to especially focus on those individuals of our parish who have lost an immediate family member during the past 12 months. The service will consist of prayers and music in remembrance. Those family members who have lost an

immediate family member will be called to the altar to receive a lighted votive candle that can be burned for your loved one. Immediately following the service a reception will be held in St. Clare Hall. For more information on the Daytime Prayer Service or the Bereavement Committee, contact Monica Hammer at 651-6102 or hammerkm@sbcglobal.net.



Parish daughter Madelyn Hammer takes a photo with her parents, Kent and Monica, on the day she entered the IHM Convent.

Book explains how to ‘live stewardship’

As a proud, red-blooded American, I tend to believe that our ways are the best. In the same vein, as a member of the Diocese of Wichita, I tend to believe that we know best when it comes to defining stewardship as a way of life. I was skeptical when our pastor gave me a short book to read. It was written by Fr. Darrin Gurr, a Canadian priest from Winnipeg, titled *Living Stewardship*.

Fr. Darrin spoke to my heart on page one of the introduction. “Stewardship is a spirituality – a spirituality intrinsic to who and what God made us to be.”

Wow, this Canadian sounded a lot like the voices from the past who had introduced the concept of stewardship to us here at St. Francis and in our home diocese.

Fr. Darrin goes on to describe his three basic pillars of stewardship. They are gratitude, generosity and living in the present moment. As a diocese, we include making a grateful response in our definition of

stewardship as a way of life. All that we have and all that we accomplish is given to us and made possible by God’s love for us.



Once we are aware of God’s love for us “every moment of our lives” as Monsignor McGread used to say, gratitude naturally comes forth inside us. When we begin to live a life of gratitude, a new sense of appreciation overtakes us. This life in gratitude leads us toward joy, and joy leads us to the Eucharist.

Fr. Darrin’s second pillar of stewardship is generosity. This pillar teaches us that happiness is never found in how much we possess or acquire, but in how much we give away and share. Sacrificial giving alters our life in some way.

This type of giving takes us beyond ourselves and allows God to work wonderfully through us. We become a people who “give until it feels good.” Our need to be generous is always greater than our need to receive. Being generous is more

about the giver than the recipient. It is a freeing experience.

The third pillar of stewardship, as defined by Fr. Darrin, is living in the present moment. This is a pillar that teaches us we always have what we need in the here and now. Don’t rob yourself of the present moment by dwelling on the past or focusing on worries of the future.

We are called to live in the present moment. We are called to live like God. Eucharistic adoration helps us to live in the moment, to just be with God. As Psalm 46 says, “be still and know that I am God.” God dwells with us in the present moment.

Fr. Darrin’s *Living Stewardship* is available in our church library. This book opened my eyes once again to the beauty of this way of life we call stewardship. It is a call to a deeper spirituality. It is a call to be grateful, generous and present. It is a call to holiness.

– Pat Burns,
Director of Stewardship & Finance

SFA Playground Blessing



Photos by Megan Curtis

On Sept. 11, St. Francis School held a blessing ceremony for its new playground. Fr. Jarrod began the service with a prayer, telling the 650 students gathered to remember that “God has blessed us immensely with so many things. May we never lose sight of his almighty goodness.” After a short Scripture reading and prayer petitions, Fr. Jarrod blessed the playground and students with holy water, and students enjoyed popsicles to celebrate.

Christ our hope: In every season of life

This Respect Life Reflection was written by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

From the time we are knit together in our mothers' wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope.

Hope is not false optimism or empty positivity. Christian hope is something much more profound

and goes to the very depths of our identity as followers of Christ.

Hope is the virtue "by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC, 1817).

Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, "God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end" (Spe salvi 31).

Christians know "they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness" (SS 2).

For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that "the one who has hope lives differently" (SS 2). Christ's promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial.

When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.

Put love into action during Respect Life month

"Christ is Our Hope: In Every Season of Life" was chosen as the theme for this year's Respect Life Month by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities led by Archbishop Joseph Naumann. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between.

During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. The St. Francis of Assisi School students will be involved in numerous activities during Respect Life Week (Oct. 7-11). They will begin each day with a pro-life prayer and come together to pray the rosary for an end to abortion. Their teachers

will lead them in other activities in their classrooms to demonstrate their belief that all life is sacred.

During the week, students will have the opportunity to participate in the Diaper Drive. A playpen will be set up, and students will be invited to donate disposable diapers for infants and toddlers. These diapers will be given to both A Better Choice and Birthline to help with their pro-life ministries.

All parishioners will have the opportunity to become more involved in Respect Life Month through the following activities:

- **Life Chain** – Sunday, Oct. 6 – The Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by

the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. The location for SFA parishioners is the intersection of 21st and Maize Roads from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends, lawn chairs, water bottles and your prayers.

- **Rosary Coast to Coast** – Sunday, Oct. 13 – the 102nd anniversary of the Fatima Miracle of the Sun. Last year, more than 1,200 rosary rallies were held across the U.S., along with those in 50 additional countries. The entire country will plan to pray the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary simultaneously according to the

Respect Life Activities ... cont. on p.5

SFA youth group attends 'Belong' conference

SFA's youth group attended a Steubenville youth conference on Missouri State University campus in July this year. As a chaperone, I expected high energy and engaging music found at a youth conference, but I did not anticipate the power of the one-word theme "Belong."

What a great message for not only the 44 youth from St. Francis and St. Peter parishes, but also for the 10 adult leaders and chaperones on the trip! All were attending by their own choice.

From the blue team jerseys to the thought-provoking talks and sharing, I felt like those around me saw me with God's eyes: loving, accepting and forgiving with unconditional love.

The guest speakers emphasized how much God loves us and how we should always feel welcomed in relationship with Him. He is always waiting ... wanting ... thirsting for us to come to Him. When we feel angry or lonely, call on Him: "Lord, help me to love You more."

When we feel annoyed by others, call on Him: "Lord, help me to love



You in this person." When we feel jealous, call on Him: "Lord, thank you for giving these gifts to this person and for all the gifts You have graciously given to me."

Prayer and Eucharistic adoration were a scheduled part of the conference as well. Since we have returned, I have felt the same feelings of love, joy, confidence and

belonging when I choose to stop and make time to listen to what God is wanting me to do each day.

Being around the youth group in our parish impressed me and stirred gratitude in my heart. I had taken for granted the amount of time, energy and commitment the youth leaders pour into our kids throughout the year. But their efforts create a powerful sense of belonging for our kids, rooted in a deep relationship with God.

The selfless acts of stewardship in this parish allow incredible faith formation and deeper relationships with God through each other. I pray we all may extend an invitation into relationships with God and those around you so you too can experience the comforting feeling that you belong.

– Jenny Stephenson

Respect Life Activities ... cont. from p. 4

time zone of each city. These rosary rallies have intensified due to society's views, which are often contrary to our Catholic beliefs of life from conception to natural death and the sanctity of marriage and family. Our rosary at St. Francis will be prayed in the church beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to a social in Stewardship Hall following the rosary.

- **Parish Diaper Drive** – throughout the whole month of October – This year a new event is being scheduled to complement the diaper drive held at the school. The purpose for the parish's drive is to highlight this year's theme, which encompasses

all people from conception to natural death. Parishioners are invited to donate either disposable baby diapers or adult incontinence items throughout the entire month of October. There will be a collection area in the front walkway for all donations.

All of us at St. Francis of Assisi Parish – young and old alike – can benefit greatly by serving those in need and becoming that witness to our faith. St. Theresa of Calcutta exemplified this very well and was a true model for all of us. She explained it best when she said, "Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service."

BAPTISMS

Macie Jade, daughter of John and Stephanie Leland, Aug. 3

Max Ignatius, son of Jerrod and Alison Schuster, Aug. 24

FUNERALS

Colleen Fuchs, wife of Don, Aug. 3

Ruth Krueger, Aug. 5

John Connelly, husband of Phyllis, Aug. 5

Dolores Hemmen, Aug. 14

Jamie Tran, parents Doat and Duc, siblings Tracy, Jessica and John, Aug. 10

Herb Shaner, husband of Rita, Aug. 16

Patricia VonFeldt, wife of Ervin Rosemond, Aug. 22

Anthony (Tony) Wondra, husband of Rosemary, father of Tonya Bevis, Aug. 23

Patricia Kluss, wife of Jerry, Sept. 3
Brian McDaniel, husband of Wilma, father of Becky McDaniel, Mary McDaniel, Chris Lager, Julie Morgan and Mike McDaniel, Sept. 4

Stewardship Focus: Pillars of Life

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

Hospitality

Ultimately, all teachings on hospitality come together in the Eucharist, in which we welcome Christ into our hearts, offering all that we are to him. Like the centurion whose words we echo at every Mass, we do not feel worthy to receive Christ (literally, to have him under our roof), but we need his love and redemption to heal us. Christ invites us to his feast and offers himself as our bread and our home: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:56).

The early Christians understood the connection between receiving Christ in the Eucharist and sharing



hospitality with others. In Acts, we read that "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts" (Acts 2:42, 46).

Their homes truly were domestic churches with doors open to receive others.

Hospitality is Biblical – and It's Not Optional, Emily Cook (This Rock, February 2006)

Service

Community service is the giving of ourselves to help others rather than

a "project completed" or "hours counted." As Jesus said, "For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve." (Mark 10:45)

Stewardship Thought

He then took a little child whom he set among them and embraced, and he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child such as this in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me." –

Mark 9:36-37

NEW PARISHIONERS

Jason & Sandra Werner, 2 kids
 Albert & Teresa Jirak, 9 kids
 Todd & Courtney Enders, 3 kids
 Cody Grisamore
 Aaron & Monica Leiker, 2 kids
 Antonio & Delilah Huerta, 4 kids
 Ryan & Daniele Schroeder, 4 kids
 David & Kaylee Dockers, 1 child
 Becke Riman
 Michael & Barbara Outhouse
 Dr. Clinton & Valerie Whiteley, 5 kids

St. Therese Girls Club Service Project



The outgoing Radiant Roses St. Therese Girls Club group, led by Linda Fox and LeAnn Simon, complete a final act of stewardship before heading to high school. The girls shopped for Birthline this summer, purchasing more than 50 items with funds the group earned over the years, then delivering and putting away the items.

Photos by LeAnn Simon

Genesis 18 inspires examination of conscience

As I try to imagine myself in the following reading – Genesis 18:1-8 – I see two keys:

- Abraham is a devoted servant of God.
- Abraham not only has the desire to serve others, he has the intent.

Intent is the state of a person's mind that directs their actions toward a specific object; firmly or steadfastly fixed or directed; having one's attention sharply focused or fixed on something; being determined and resolved, having the mind or will fixed on a goal.

Now the Lord appeared to Abraham by the terebinth of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, Abraham saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing

to the ground, he said: "Sir, if I may ask you this favor, please do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest yourselves under the tree. Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little

food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way."

The men replied, "Very well, do as you have said."

Abraham hastened into

the tent and told Sarah, "Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls." He ran to the herd, picked out a tender choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then Abraham got some curds and milk, as well as the steer that had been prepared, and set these before the three men; and he waited on them under the

tree while they ate.

Examination of Conscience

- Do I eagerly move to greet others?
- Do I humble myself before others?
- Do I request to serve others, considering it a favor to me?
- Do I consider and attend to the comforts of others?
- Do I call myself, consider myself the servant of others?
- Do I freely offer my resources, for the sake of others?
- Do I pursue the needs of others – enthusiastically, readily and lavishly?

"No one should seek his own advantage, but that of his neighbor ... just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved (1 Corinthians 10:24, 33)."

May it be our prayer and our intention that humble service for others becomes pervasive in our parishes, our diocese and our community.

– Kathy Parsons



Mary's Birthday Party



Photos by Rick Reitmeyer

The Legion of Mary hosts SFA School's second graders every year to celebrate Mother Mary's birthday. They prayed the Rosary together and had dessert. The Legion gave each of the children a rosary to keep, and Father Isaac blessed their rosaries.



Abundant Life

*"I came so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly.*

John 10:10

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