March Generations of Faith speaker to share his personal experiences with St. Teresa of Calcutta

In Pope Francis’ canonization homily of St. Teresa of Calcutta, also known as Mother Teresa, he said, “Mercy was the salt which gave flavor to her work; it was the light which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.” He added, “May she be your model of holiness.”

This spring’s Generations of Faith session is scheduled for 5 p.m. on March 15. Fr. John Lanzrath, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in El Dorado, will be sharing his personal experience working alongside the present-day Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

Please join us as we learn more about Mother Teresa’s example and teaching during our next Generations of Faith, an opportunity for fellowship and intergenerational spiritual formation.

The evening will begin at 5 with hors d’oeuvres followed by our speaker and a short prayer service, ending no later than 7:30 p.m.

K of C’s Lenten Fish Fry finds new home at SFA

The Knights of Columbus Council 4118 is moving its Friday night Fish Fries – held annually during Lent – to St. Francis this year. They will be 5-8 p.m., March 13 and 27, in Cana Hall, with proceeds going toward charitable activities, CYM and St. Francis School projects.

The full menu will consist of fried fish, baked fish, buttered corn, green beans, potatoes, mac & cheese, egg drop soup, veggie lo-mein, veggie fried rice, desserts, and drinks. Suggested donation for the meal is $8 for adults and $5 for kids 12 and under.

Fried fish eggrolls will also be available at 3 for $2; they can be pre-ordered to ensure availability by calling or texting Long Pham at 993-7144 (be sure to specify March 13 or 27).

UPCOMING EVENTS

7 .................First Communion Retreat, PSR 2nd Grade
13 ........... Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, 5-8 p.m., Cana Hall
15 .... Generations of Faith, 5 p.m., Gym
18 ..................CYM Fully Alive Retreat
19 ........... Mass of Healing & Anointing, 11 a.m., Church
21 ..................PSR First Communion, 5 p.m., Church
21-22 ..................Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC)
22 ........... First Communion, SFA Grade School, 1 p.m., Church
27 ........... Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, 5-8 p.m., Cana Hall
28 ... Man Fully Alive Men’s Conference

Full calendar available on SFA website.
Fighting for Your Marriage comes to SFA

All married couples of the parish are invited to Fighting for Your Marriage, a series to help strengthen and communicate within your marriage. This program is open to all married couples, no matter the stage of their lives.

Our current culture creates many obstacles that often make marriage difficult to last “all the days of our lives.” Each couple can do specific things to avoid conflicts that can threaten their relationship and instead grow closer to each other.

This series offers time-tested skills to help couples figure out how to navigate their marriage journey successfully. Couples will gain a greater understanding of the importance of prayer in marriage, the personality style of your spouse, how to communicate without fighting, having fun and friendship, how to love your partner well, and more.

There will be six sessions, to be held Saturday afternoons, Feb. 29 through April 4, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Clare Hall. Childcare is available free of charge. Learn more and register at 2020-fighting-for-your-marriage-series.eventbrite.com or contact Shalina Grotts at shalina_13@hotmail.com.

Save the Date: April 4 is next Parish Workday

Several jobs will be available for anyone interested in helping at the Parish Workday on April 4. Keep an eye out for an opportunity to sign up online. This is a great way to practice stewardship and help alleviate the parish’s maintenance and improvement costs.

Volunteers Abigail Lyle, Riley Malone, Fr. Andy Walsh, John Pearson, Josh Vo and Erika Pearson pause for a photo during the Spring 2018 Parish Workday.

BAPTISMS

Morgan Fern, daughter of Jacob & Misty Pauly, Jan. 4
Aubree Grace, daughter of Tyler & Megan Lopez, Jan. 19

FUNERALS

Mary Ann Blue, Jan. 9
Cecilia Bourbonnais, mother of Margaret Drescher & Clay Bourbonnais, Jan. 10
Gerald Beat, husband of Grace & brother of Alvin Beat, Jan. 14
Carole Ranney, mother of Jeff Ranney, Jan. 31

Stewardship Thought

“(Lent) is a period of spiritual ‘combat,’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.”

— Pope Benedict XVI
Loyal Chiefs fan never lost faith in team

Loyalty. Faith. Belief. These qualities have served me well in my life as a Christian and as a Kansas City Chiefs fan. For as long as I can remember, I have been a faithful member of the Chiefs Kingdom. There were many lean years where my loyalty was tested.

My first game at Arrowhead, we walked up game day and bought tickets 20 rows up from the field. We lost to the Browns on a late field goal, 6–3. Still my loyalty, faith and belief grew. This was my team.

We had a guy named Mike from Bishop Carroll, so at least I had someone to believe in. We passed on some Hall of Fame quarterbacks and drafted a guy named Todd. (That one still hurts a little). The decades passed, but my loyalty didn’t waver. Sunday after Sunday – okay, really year around with the draft, OTAs, summer camp and preseason – I watched and had faith in my team.

Through Derrick and Deron, a Priest and even an Elvis, I believed. More decades passed, and the drought wore on. My loyalty remained true; the Chiefs were my team. Would fortunes ever turn? Then, like Woody in Toy Story, we found our Andy! He assembled a team that we could believe in.

It was time to draft a quarterback again. This time we got a Pat. I liked him right away. He was no Todd or Elvis or Steve or even a Joe. I saw Pat throw a ball, and I really started to believe. The Chiefs would spot teams 24 points in the playoffs and still beat them by 20.

Our faith grew until there was just one game left. With seven minutes to go, we were down by 10, and we still won by 11! Did I believe? Yes, I did! Because, for as long as I can remember, all I’ve had was belief. Victory was sweet. Our team had a parade and our quarterback went to Disneyland.

Sometimes belief is all we have.

Being loyal to our team is not always easy. The pain and sacrifice (I hate to bring up Todd again) make the victory that much sweeter.

As we approach this Lenten Season, let us be strengthened in our belief. Let us remain loyal to our Christian calling to serve and sacrifice for our Lord and our St. Francis parish team. Let this Lenten Season bolster our faith and lead us toward that ultimate victory at Easter.

Go Chiefs and always keep believing. Here at St. Francis, we are on a winning team.

– Pat Burns
Director of Stewardship & Finance

Jubilation! This is the scene at the Burns home as the game clock ticked to zero on Superbowl Sunday.

Vernacular Mailing Opt-Out

Would you like to receive the Vernacular via email, instead of receiving the print version in the mail? If yes, please send your name and email address(es) to sfac@stfranciswichita.com – with the subject line of “Vernacular Mailing Opt-Out” – and we will email you a link to the monthly parish newsletter each month and remove your household from the Vernacular mailing list. This is optional, but will help us save on postage for those who prefer to receive the newsletter this way. Thank you!
SFA School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2020 was a week filled with prayer and activity at St. Francis School. Wichita Adore Ministries (WAM) provided a dynamic worship experience with a schoolwide “Jam for the Lamb” and classroom adoration on Monday, Jan. 27, to kick off the week. After Mass, students lined the hallways for a Eucharistic procession to the school gym, where students sang along to praise and worship music provided by WAM’s praise band. Adoration continued throughout the day with classes and parent volunteers. It was a moving experience for students and teachers alike.

For 24 hours from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning, St. Francis of Assisi School hosted its first Day of Giving through the National Catholic Educational Association. This is a national day to celebrate Catholic schools that SFA elected to participate in this year. Due to the incredible generosity of parents, grandparents, staff, alumni, and even students, the school exceeded its original goal of raising $2,500. Within the 24-hour timeline, the school raised $3,278, and several other gifts were made after the official Day of Giving had ended.

Holy Trinity Catholic Books & Gifts hosted a “Pop-up Shop” in the school library on Wednesday. Ten percent of proceeds, totaling $355.50, went back to the school in the form of credit to Holy Trinity’s store.

Also on Wednesday, hundreds of visitors joined students for Grandparent Bingo throughout the day. The school cafeteria was filled to the brim with people.

Thursday’s Religion Bowl brought together schools from across Wichita, including Magdalen, St. Thomas Aquinas, Blessed Sacrament and St. Peter. Seventh and eighth grades competed head-to-head in Jeopardy-style rounds. One of St. Francis School’s eighth grade teams took first place in its division!

Throughout the week, students participated in service projects to give back to the community. Fourth graders traveled to the Kansas Food Bank to assemble meals, and kindergarteners in Ms. Wellbrock’s class help assemble saint tags for other students. The entire school participated in a jeans and sweats day fundraiser for Walk in Sister’s Shoes, an extension of the St. Katharine Drexel School Fund.

To kick off several mornings of Catholic Schools Week, the Home & School Association provided doughnuts to students and families with “Start the Day at SFA.” Parent volunteers showed outstanding stewardship throughout the week. Parents provided food for a teacher luncheon honoring school faculty and staff, and stepped in to cover classes so that teachers could have an extended lunch period.

The week closed on a high note with a school-wide pep rally featuring the teacher vs. eighth-grade student basketball game. The middle school band and cheerleading team set the tone for an exciting competition! Ultimately, the teachers won – but the crowd cheered loudly nonetheless.

St. Francis School extends its thanks to all who made Catholic Schools Week incredible. Home & School, parents, grandparents, and of course our incredible students made this Catholic Schools Week a week to remember!

– Rebecca Vodola

Photos by Rebecca Vodola
Men of St. Francis: Be ‘Fully Alive’

A dynamic conference for men – Man Fully Alive – is coming to Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School on Saturday, March 28, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It features Chris Stefanick, founder of RealLifeCatholic, as well as Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray, creators of the hit documentary “I’ll Push You”. All three are internationally acclaimed speakers. In addition, Bishop Kemme is an inspired supporter of the conference and will be participating with us.

SFA parishioner Jim Rundell reflected on his experience at last year’s Fully Alive conference: “I was invigorated in support of my daily journey as a Catholic. I experienced a feeling of strong fellowship with many men of our diocese as well as experiencing Christ-filled moments throughout the day. “The conference created a renewed sense of purpose for us as Catholic men seeking to serve as disciples of Christ, navigating a challenging secular society,” Rundell said. “It was especially encouraging to see a number of fathers and their high school and college sons attending together; a great opportunity for young men to witness what it means to be a man “fully alive” in their faith.”

Reservations can be made at catholicmensconference.com; the cost is $39 including continental breakfast and lunch. Fathers can bring their high school or college age son for only $19. Bishop is calling for a thousand men of the diocese to attend this inspiring event – an encounter with Jesus Christ, fully alive as his disciples. Let that include a large contingent of St. Francis men.

– Dave Carter

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.

Prayer

In “Time for God,” Fr. Jacques Phillippe discusses five dispositions of the heart to help us develop and maintain a fruitful life of prayer.

1. Faith – We must have faith in God’s Presence.
2. Fidelity – The quality of prayer will be the fruit of fidelity of prayer.
3. Purity of Intention – The pure of heart sincerely desire to forget themselves in order to please God in everything. God asks us to spend time with Him in prayer, and we in turn pray to please God.
4. Humility – Humility allows us to accept things as they are and to trust God in everything. We must abandon ourselves to God and to the fulfillment of His Will.
5. Determination to Persevere – We should ask for the gift of perseverance in prayer, realizing that without prayer we cannot receive graces from God to become holy. St. Teresa of Avila said, “The most important thing is to have a strong resolute determination not to stop until you reach the sources of the living water.”

Hospitality

Based on biblical teachings, and especially on Jesus’ identification with the stranger in Matt. 25:35 and his teaching on the necessity of welcoming “the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” to our dinner tables (Luke 14:12–14), a distinctive understanding of hospitality emerged in the first centuries of the Church. Leaders insisted that Christian hospitality ought to focus on welcoming the vulnerable and the poor into one’s home and community of faith. – Christine Pohl, “Hospitality, a Practice and a Way of Life”

NEW PARISHIONERS

Nicole Bateson, 1 child
Georgia Gilliom, 1 child
Jeff & Cheryl Gorges
Libby Heimerman
Michael & Casey Lager, 2 children
Allana Ornelas, 1 child
Paul & Kathleen Robben
David & Joyce Rush, 1 child
William & Kara Shideler, 4 children
Janet Shultz
Greg & Tracy Valcouré

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.
MAN FULLY ALIVE

CHRIS STEFANICK
JUSTIN SKEESUCK
PATRICK GRAY
BISHOP CARL KEMME

3.28.2020 | Wichita, KS | $39

catholicmensconference.com
“O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay.”

Daniel 9:19