



JUNE 2020

WICHITA, KANSAS

When should I return to Sunday Mass?

When you feel secure from illness and begin increasing social activities, I would like to invite you to come back to Mass.

Honestly, I miss you! Mass without a full church, well ... it's just not the same. Over the past several weekends, Mass attendance has been steadily growing. When we resumed public Masses, we were at 14% normal weekend attendance. As of June 7, we are at 35% of normal attendance.

Each weekend that our attendance grows my heart expands a little more and my joy grows richer. I didn't realize how much I've missed all of you until I did the First Communion Masses. Seeing children, parents, grandparents and guests in a full Church was, quite simply, refreshing.

I know, too, that many of you are missing public Mass in a fierce way. I have heard many people say that Mass via livestream, while it is a blessing, is just not the same. Watching Mass on a screen may be better than nothing, but there is just no substitute for live Mass. And what's more is this: while praying the Act of Spiritual Communion participates in the graces of Communion, no matter how true that is, it is simply not the



same as receiving the actual Host.

"Host" ... think about that word for a minute. The "host" is what we call the small, round piece of bread that the priest consecrates to become the Flesh of Christ, but as we know, it is also a title given to someone who has invited us to a gathering and provides food and conversation at that gathering. A person "hosts" a party and is therefore called the "host." The point of such a party is to enjoy fellowship.

I think Jesus is wanting to be our Host again in both senses of the term. He wants to host our gathering at Sunday Mass; that is, He wants to provide us with conversation (His Word) and food (His Flesh and Blood). Ultimately, He wants to give us His physical Flesh (the consecrated Host) and unite us into one Fellowship as the Church.

So, knowing that Jesus wants to Host us at Mass, the question we ask is this: When should I return to Sunday Mass? The answer

is twofold: (1) When you are confident your health is protected and (2) When you start freely going to social activities.

As to the first, each person (or parent) must make a personal assessment of the threat the COVID 19 virus presents. Different people are at risk in different ways. Once a person is confident that the risk is minimalized in his or her regard, then he or she should start returning to Sunday Mass.

As to the second, when a person notices that he or she is increasingly going to social activities or entering more social circles, then going to public Mass should be considered a priority as well. We should be consistent in our public activity. Going to the public pool, restaurants, other people's houses, or sending children to sports practices or large play dates are all indicators that one is feeling his or her health is not at risk. When that happens, attending Sunday Mass should become a priority.

Going to Sunday Mass is, quite frankly, irreplaceable. Jesus himself wants to be our Host. And I, along with Him, want to host you at Mass as well. I miss you. I hope each of you feel comfortable to return soon.

Parishioner prepares to start missionary work

To my fellow SFA parishioners: I am Maddy Hammer, SFA and Bishop Carroll grad and daughter of Kent and Monica Hammer. I am pleased to share with you my plans to be a missionary with Ablaze Ministries.

I will be serving the next two years as a full-time youth minister, working with either middle or high school students in an underserved area of the U.S. I am very excited to share the knowledge I learned from attending CYM at St. Francis and from teaching two summers of Totus



Tuus.

To be able to serve these youth, I am in need of financial support, and I am inviting each of you to prayerfully consider joining my support team, either as a monthly donor, a one-time donor, or a spiritual supporter. My hope is that many from my St. Francis family will join in on this wonderful mission

by offering your support. To do so, please visit my personal giving page at https://ablaze.us/team_member/maddy-hammer. For more about the organization, visit <http://ablaze.us/>.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to me about my mission, email me at madelyn@ablaze.us – I'd love to hear from you and would be happy to return your email or call you at your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your support and prayers.

– Maddy Hammer



Lockdown provides time for reflection

These are interesting days in the life of our church. We were having Mass, then we stopped having Mass. Now we have restarted having Mass on a socially distanced basis. People are talking about establishing a “new normal.” I miss the old normal! That may be a sign of my age or my unwillingness to change from what is a comfortable routine for me.

I think that may be one of the lessons of this pandemic and social unrest. I am not sure I am supposed to be that comfortable in this world as a Christian. I like a song by Andrew Petersen that talks about being “shackled by the comfort of my couch.” My life in northwest



Wichita has been built and designed to bring me comfort. I like it when they sing the same songs at church or don't rearrange the aisles at Dillons. I want things to be familiar and easily accessible. Basically, I like having things the way I like them.

The past few months have challenged us and invited us to see things in a different way. As our priests in their homilies have said, this is a time to “look a little deeper.” This is a time to ask questions of ourselves like, does my prayer life matter? How important is the Mass and the Eucharist in my life? These days in isolation are a gift we have been given.

These days are an invitation to

reflect on our lives or they can be a time to binge on Netflix. I certainly have tried to find the time for deeper insight, but also must admit that I have started watching reruns of The Office again.

I am hopeful that whatever this normal looks like, I take the time to make what is important in my life – important. Our God is a good God who showers us with many blessings. May I always remember to make that grateful response to Him for all the blessings I have received.

St Francis of Assisi, Pray for Us!

– Pat Burns,

Director of Stewardship & Finance

BAPTISMS

Corie Lynn, daughter of Trent & Jami Viner, May 2

Sutton Strong, daughter of PJ & Stephanie Forbes, May 23

NEW PARISHIONERS

Derek Simon

Ryan Arnold

Dacinda Musgrove & Tyler

Richmond, 3 children

Stewardship Thought

“Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.”

– St. Ignatius of Loyola

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. Travis Kelly, 729-9445, is the Communications Commission coordinator.

Deadlines for submitting information are the beginning of each month.

New volunteers – especially reporters, photographers and layout editors – are always welcome.

RCIA program brings 16 neophytes into Church

Praise be to God for the 16 people who were received into full communion with the Church through our RCIA program on Pentecost. They began their RCIA journey during the first week of September.

Each Wednesday a group of children, taught by Scott Carter and Marcia McAnarney, met at the Good Shepherd House to learn about the Catholic faith. They had the unique experience to use Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, along with the traditional catechism, to open and shape their hearts to Jesus.

At the same time, a group of adults were being catechized by Fr. Drew and Jeremy Lezniak. Each week they read and discussed various topics about our faith. We had plenty of time for fellowship as we shared a meal together. These meals have become a wonderful

RCIA tradition, and we are so grateful for the many stewards that make them possible.

Of course, our year didn't end quite as planned, but not much in life and our journey to Jesus does. While there was some



Photos by Megan Curts

disappointment that our elect were not able to participate in the Triduum and Easter Vigil, God had a beautiful replacement plan. As we celebrated Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary and the apostles, the Holy Spirit also descended upon our elect.

Jessica Lopez, Sabrina Gallo, and Gabriella Holt were baptized, and received Confirmation and Eucharist.

Chase Clynch, Christopher Davis, Hunter Daigle, Jonathan Efinger, Evan Rosales, Mikaela Samuel, Aimee Standley, Isabel Velazquez-Wallace, Jessica Velazquez-Wallace, Eli Velazquez-Wallace, Cody Waite, Ronald Watson, and Lindsay Weller received Confirmation and Eucharist.

An already joyous occasion was made even more special when three of the RCIA adults were able to receive their first communion alongside their family members. Chris Davis was joined by his son, Beckett. Cody Waite was joined by his stepson, Roman Molina.

Jessica Lopez was joined by her nephew, Kyson Meyer.

Please continue to pray for our neophytes as they continue to embrace all that the Church teaches and believes!

– Melissa Lezniak



SFA helps with pandemic relief in India



As part of Covid-19 pandemic relief, the Diocese of Khamamm distributed 100 grocery kits to 100 families in leprosy colony. Fr. Kiran would like to thank St. Francis parishioners for their continued support and ask for continued prayers for the Lord to free us from this pandemic.



Photos by Fr. Kiran

First Communicants have special day at last

The St. Francis of Assisi second graders and PSR students finally got to celebrate their First Holy Communion the first week of June. After preparing and waiting since March, the second graders were very eager and a little nervous to

receive Jesus in such a special way.

The second graders were able to celebrate with their immediate families. The night was made extra special by the musical talents of Mallory Borland, Rob Tierney and Baylor Booth. Despite the changes

and delays, the sweet second grade smiles proved just how special and exciting it was to receive Christ into their hearts.

– Anna Debus



Photos by Heather Munk



Fr. Isaac leaves SFA: ‘This is not goodbye’

“Christians don’t say goodbye” – I think C.S. Lewis said that. So, I’ll just say, “See you soon.”

I love you guys and my heart hurts to leave. This hurt is a gift, though; it makes me look forward even more to when we get to be together forever on this new earth and new heaven that has been promised to us who live in Jesus.

I’m confident the Father has much joy and adventure planned for



me at Holy Savior. The Eucharist I’ll celebrate there is the same celebration y’all celebrate here. The Kingdom is at hand!

Thanks for everything, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, thanks a thousand times. Thank you to God for bringing us together. See you soon.

– Fr. Isaac

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

Hospitality is manifested in an open and welcoming spirit: a willingness to drop what we are doing and receive the other person when they need us. We are reminded of the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah to the three strangers (Gen 18:1-10). In welcoming the

strangers, they were welcoming

God. If we wish to grow in hospitality, we would do well to emulate their example.

Service

Jesus Christ taught by preaching, but He also gave us examples of His preaching in action. We should learn from Him how to live our lives, and how to lead each other by example. – St. John Chrysostom, “A Year with the Church Fathers” by Mike Aquilina



FUNERALS

Chuck Hein, husband of Jean, father of Stacy Bennett, Shelley Hein, Juli McClure, Erin Weber & Jodi McAninch, May 2

Faviola Russell, mother of Richard Russell, Martha Devine and Robert Russell, May 5

Thelma Dreiling, mother of Charlene Dreiling, Dennis Dreiling, Ruth Blick, Richard Dreiling, Mark Dreiling & Carol Critchlow, May 18

Barbara Faber, wife of Joe, mother of Dale Faber, Steve Faber, Tom Faber & Sheryl Dohrer, May 22

Elizabeth “Kate” Williams, mother of Daria Marie Nelson, Nova “Jennifer” Moraine, Valerie Alexander, Michael Scriven & Jared Scriven, May 28



“Keep holy the sabbath day.”

Exodus 20:8

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e-Vernacular Only

Due to the current pandemic and a need to reduce expenses where we can, we will use email and social media only to distribute the Vernacular for the foreseeable future. There will be no hard copy of the parish newsletter mailed to parishioners for the next few months, after which we will decide what to do about future issues. Thank you for your understanding.

