

# Family prayer activities bring 'spirit' into season

Christmas shopping, parties, family get-togethers. Preparation for Christmas can be a busy and stressful time of year. However unavoidable these activities may be, the Church asks us to take time to step away from the hustle and bustle and prepare our hearts for the beautiful celebration of Christmas.

To this end, the Family Prayer Committee will be sponsoring Family Eucharistic Adoration during Advent. Visiting and adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is an excellent way to still ourselves and reflect on the upcoming celebration of the Birth of our Lord. To encourage families to make Adoration a part of their Advent activities, special family times will

be available beginning Nov. 29, the First Sunday of Advent.

These family times will be during weekends and on weeknight evenings. Sign-up sheets for these time slots can be found in either of the Church walkways beginning Nov. 14. Time slots will be for 30 minutes each. For those who do not wish to commit to a specific time, feel free to bring your family and visit the Eucharistic Adoration chapel (located in the Church's cry room) any time. It is open at all times except during Sunday Masses.

If you are looking for some additional spiritual ideas for your family this Advent season, here are a few suggestions:

- Place an Advent wreath somewhere in your home. Say daily prayers to prepare your family for Advent.
- Talk to your children about St. Nicholas. Celebrate his feast day on Dec. 6. See the Web site [www.stnicholascenter.com](http://www.stnicholascenter.com) for more ideas.
- Attend weekday Mass together as a family. Daily Mass is celebrated at 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and at 8 a.m. on Saturday.
- As a family, read those sections of the Bible that deal with the birth of Jesus, particularly Luke, chapters 1 and 2.

**Prayer ... continued on page 5**



Photo by Randy Guapo

## 2009 Parish Dinner

*The 40th annual parish dinner featured a social hour, a catered dinner and talks by Fr. Daryl and each of the Parish Council members. Approximately 600 parishioners were in attendance.*



Photo by Paul Jasinski



Photo by Randy Guapo



Photo by Paul Jasinski

# SFA holds Prayer Service for Deceased

Each November we remember and pray for those who have died.

On Nov. 8 at 3 p.m., the Bereavement Committee at St. Francis sponsored its first Daytime Prayer Service for the Deceased.

Fr. Daryl conducted the beautiful service, leading the congregation in prayers from Liturgy of the Hours – Office of the Dead.

Those members of our parish who lost an immediate family member this past year received a lighted votive candle in remembrance of their loved one. The candle can be burned through the year as they pray for them.

A reception followed the prayer service in Clare Hall.

Please notify the church office when a loved one has passed away in your family so that we may include them in the Prayer Service For the Deceased next year.



Photo by Rick Reimeyer

*Fr. Daryl gives Connie and Stan Zienkewicz a votive candle during the SFA Prayer Service for the Deceased.*

## Another high school closes



My wife is losing her high school. Regina High in Cleveland, Ohio, is going belly-up at the end of the school year. Kay graduated from the all-girl Catholic school many years ago. (No, I won't say how many.)

She has always had a warm spot in her heart for it. She was active there, heading up the Future Teachers of America and participating in the bowling group. (That's why she and I don't bowl anymore. She's so much better than I am.)

The culprit for the closing? Why it's money, of course.

The acting principal, in a letter to parents of the students, said, "Unfortunately, the economic downturn, demographic shifts and inadequate funds have limited, and in fact reduced, the number of

families who can afford a Regina education."

The school, which opened in 1953, has 217 students. Tuition is \$8,700 a year. (Believe me, it was a lot cheaper when Kay attended.)

So what does this all have to do with us in Wichita? I'm glad you asked.

Are you doing your part in supporting St. Francis of Assisi School and Bishop Carroll High School? Have you checked lately?

Regina High lasted 56 years. We cannot afford to see this happening here.

Think about it.

\* \* \*

On a brighter note, I'd like to thank everyone connected with the Cub Scout pancake breakfast for saving me some blueberry flapjacks. We arrived a little late for our feeding, but they still had plenty left. Thanks guys.

– Tom Suchan

## The Vernacular

This newsletter is published monthly by and for the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. It normally appears the third or fourth weekend of each month. Deadlines are the end of each month. For more information or to submit articles, contact Brent Dick, Communications Commission coordinator, at 721-1530, or Mike Gerik, news editor, at 722-5561, or e-mail at [mgerik@yahoo.com](mailto:mgerik@yahoo.com).

# Coming home for the holidays

When I entered the seminary, my first years were spent at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minn. Winona was some 700 miles from my hometown of Arkansas City. While I was not the first to move beyond the city limits of the city, I was the first to move that far from home. As I arrived and discovered the schedule for the year, I quickly realized that I would not return home until Thanksgiving break. When the break finally arrived, it was then that I began to really appreciate going home for the holidays. And for the next seven years during my time in the seminary, I would only return home for the holidays.

As it is for so many families, the holidays are a time for our family to get together. With my mom and dad, nine children, seven in-laws and 19 nieces and nephews, it is difficult for all of us to be home at the same time. While we do have



gatherings throughout the year, it is now only Christmas that the entire family is able to come home, home being my parent's house. Every year at Christmas, we find a weekend for all of us to be together. It generally becomes a non-stop gathering for the entire weekend.

During the weekend, we will tell old stories of growing up, new stories of the nieces and nephews, play games, and of course eat way too much food. Every night there are several who will be up long into the night talking and playing cards.

When the weekend is ended and it is time for all to leave, we leave tired from the lack of sleep, but also

renewed from each other's company. It is a long and busy weekend that I look forward to every year. To go home for the holidays means time spent with family.

As we now enter into the holiday season from Thanksgiving through Christmas and New Year's, many of you will be going home to spend time with family. May we also set aside time to spend with our Loving God who continually invites us to come home to Him. As you come to our Lord for Mass, adoration or just some quiet time in the Church, if you know of someone who has been away from our spiritual home for awhile, invite them to come along with you.

On Thanksgiving, we show gratitude for all of our blessings. At Christmas we receive the gift of the newborn Savior and offer gifts to family and friends. Take time this year to bring someone home for the holidays. Give them the gift of God's love and peace.

## Managing your money: Living as married singles?

I was contacted recently by a woman who said she and her husband were living as financial singles. Unfortunately, that occurs more than it should. Why isn't there better communication between husbands and wives when it comes to money?

In many cases, spouses are following their parents' example. Parents tend to talk about money behind closed doors, and not teach their children how to manage it or communicate about it. It shouldn't be a surprise that young spouses have trouble communicating about money as well.

Many households face money problems. In such circumstances, it may seem easier to sweep challenges under the rug rather than raise the issue and have to deal with an impatient or even angry response. Of course, as

problems fester and grow, they become even more difficult to solve.

Finally, some people carry a selfish or immature attitude from their single life into marriage. Once at a seminar, a woman jokingly said, "My money is *my* money; his money is *our* money." We all laughed, but there are many households where such attitudes build inappropriate walls around resources. Selfishness has no place in marriage.

No matter the cause, it's not the Lord's desire that couples live their financial lives as married singles. In Genesis 2:24, we read, "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh."

For tools that can help you bring unity to managing money in your marriage, visit [www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com](http://www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com).

God love you!

– Phil Lenahan

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*(This article provided as a service of the Family Finance Committee.)*

## New Parishioners

**Robert and Carol Kennedy**  
**John and Kirsten Sponsel**, one child

**Chad and Elizabeth Wasson**, one child

# What is Perpetual Adoration?

**P**erpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members of a given parish unite in taking hours of adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament, both during the day and throughout the night, seven days a week.

There should be at least two adorers present, and He must never be left alone. Could not these words of our Lord be applied today:

“Indeed, this is the will of My heavenly Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son, and believes in Him, shall have eternal life. Him I will raise up on the last day.”

Perpetual Adoration at St Francis of Assisi began in February of 1986. Yes, for 33 years now someone has been praying in our chapel all hours of the days and nights! (The only exception is the brief times of closing for Mass on the weekends.) Some of the people who fill these hours have been coming since the first days this chapel opened. If they made it to their hour each week for all those years, these people have spent more than 1,700 hours praying in the Presence of Our Lord Jesus!

How does one spend an hour before Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament?

This hour Jesus wants you to spend with Him is spent any way you want. You may bring your own prayer books, use the books in the chapel, read the Bible, pray the

rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the sweet peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let this discourage you. The mere fact that you spend an hour each week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament pleases Him very much and is in itself a prayer of great faith.

*“Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament has His hands full of graces, and He is ready to bestow them on anyone who asks for them.”*  
– St. Peter of Alcantara

When you are thirsty you get yourself a glass and hold it under the faucet to fill it with water. If you hold it there long enough, it will fill to overflowing. It is the same with your heart! When you come before Jesus you bring your weary soul, thirsting for peace, for grace, for strength to be faithful in your life. You bring your heart to Him and He fills it with His love, grace and peace until your heart is overflowing. No one can walk away from an hour spent with Jesus and not be the better for it.

It is easy to begin a Holy Hour commitment. You simply choose the hour that best suits your schedule for the week to be able to come and spend an hour with Jesus. We need to have at least one adorer present each hour, but there can be as many

signed up as fit in the room. No limit! So, as you look through the book for a time that fits for you, don't worry if there are others coming at the same time.

There is a log book in the chapel. You may come at any time and look at the timesheets to see what time might best fit with your schedule.

Feel free to write your last name and first initial under the time slot of your choice. Be sure to add your phone number. You are set! Begin coming at the time you chose and sign your initials each week when you arrive. Wait until the next person arrives before you leave.

If this time doesn't work out for you, you are free to change at any time.

If you have any questions, call Sandy at 721-1758.

*“For One in such a lofty position to stoop so low is a marvel that is staggering. What sublime humility and humble sublimeness, that the Lord of the Universe, the Divine Son of God, should stoop as to hide Himself under the appearance of bread for our salvation! Behold the humble way of God, my brothers. Therefore, do not hold yourselves to be anything of yourselves, so that you may be entirely acceptable to One Who gives Himself entirely to you.”* – St. Francis of Assisi



## Shoe collection



Time to clean out the closets! Delano 4-H members from SFA are collecting shoes for the third year. You may drop them off in the box in the front entrance hallway. For more information, contact Randi Thimesch at 371-4320. Thank you for your support.



## Baptisms

**Levi Joseph**, son of Ryan and Laura Sponsel, on Oct. 4

**Madison Renee**, daughter of Matthew and Emily Stuever, on Oct. 17

See printed version for financial report

## Prayer ... continued from page 1

- Pray together a family rosary, especially meditating on and discussing the Joyful mysteries. If you are not able to pray an entire five decades, say one. Rosary pamphlets are available in the Family Prayer Committee Resource Rack in the Main Church and St. Clare Hall walkways.

- Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and discussing the week's Gospel ahead of time. For young children, activities pertaining to the Gospels can be found in the wooden boxes by the statues of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus and St. Joseph near the church entrances.

- From Dec. 16-24, pray the Christmas Novena (copies located in the Family Prayer Committee Resource Racks). This novena focuses attention intensely on our expectation of the coming King using the "O" Antiphons that are prayed at Mass each of the last days before Christmas.

Additional ideas can be found on the "Preparing for Advent" flier located in the Family Prayer Committee Resource Racks.

- Family Prayer Committee

## Funerals

**Berna M. Blick**, mother of Michael Blick, Terry Dittrich, Lynne Negrete, on Oct. 9

**Georgia R. Peter**, daughter of Monica and Greg, sister of Luke, Mary Jo, on Oct. 29

**Mary I. Hilger**, sister of Oca Milom, on Oct. 30

**Special Events, Holy Days***Dec. 8*

- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity); Holy Day of Obligation

*Dec. 12*

- Our Lady of Guadalupe (feast)

*Dec. 25*

- The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (solemnity); Holy Day of Obligation

*Dec. 28*

- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (feast)

**Regular Meetings***Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29*

- Immaculate Heart of Mary Rosary Group, 7:30 p.m., church

*Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28*

- Legion of Mary, after 8 a.m. Mass, St. Bonaventure Center (former rectory)

*Dec. 8*

- Parish Nurse Ministry board meeting, 7:30 p.m., St. Agnes of Assisi Ministry house

*Dec. 13, 27*

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 7-8 p.m., St. Agnes of Assisi Ministry house

*Dec. 17*

- Alzheimer's Support Group meeting, 7 p.m., St. Agnes of Assisi Ministry house

*Dec. 20*

- 50 Plus Club, 6 p.m., St. Clare Hall

**SFA School***Dec. 8*

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception; no classes

*Dec 11*

- 8th Grade Breakfast, school

*Dec 21*

- Christmas parties, school

*Dec 22*

- Christmas Holiday dismissal, 1:15 p.m.

*Dec 23-Jan. 4*

- Christmas Holidays; no classes

**Other***Dec. 6*

- Wedding Anniversary Mass, 8:30 a.m., church

*Dec. 13*

- Baptism Class, 7 p.m., St. Bonaventure Center (former rectory)

*Dec. 31*

- Vernacular deadline (calendar items, articles)

**SFA's Spooktacular Fun Night**