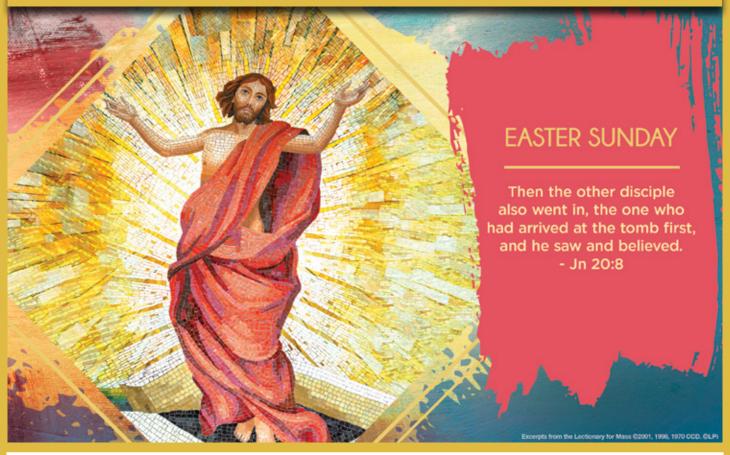


MARCH 31ST, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY



WELCOME!

At St. Francis of Assisi Parish, we strive to be united in the Eucharist and formed as instruments of peace through the practice of stewardship in imitation of God's Triune love. Through the proclamation of the Gospel we invite you to become disciples of Jesus Christ and included within our parish family through worship, fellowship, education, and stewardship.

MASS SCHEDULE

Easter Monday: 8:00 a.m. ONLY Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Saturday 8:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Sunday 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Morning Prayer: Mon. - Sat. at 7:40 a.m. Evening Prayer: Tues.-Fri. at 6:00 p.m.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tues. - Fri. 4:45-5:25 p.m. Saturday 3:00-4:00 p.m. During all Sat. Vigil & Sun. Masses

FATHER'S FOCUS

PART I:

AN IDEAL PARISH IS TRINITARIAN

This is Part 1 of a 15-part series called "The Vision of an Ideal Parish" based on an article by Dr. Peter Williamson in 2016.

This series is intended to return us to our original Faith Forward Vision.

Every vehicle has a carburetor, a central piece of the engine. Every computer has a Central Processing Unit (CPU). Every arch has a central keystone. But what is the central mystery of our faith?

Is it the Eucharist? The Incarnation? The Resurrection? The Eucharist is our act of gratitude for all the good God has done through participation in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. The Incarnation is the moment where God became man in Jesus Christ and united our humanity to his divinity. The Resurrection is God's definitive response to evil, suffering and death: life cannot be destroyed!

Yet these are not the central mysteries of our faith. The Catechism states,

"The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them" (234).

The Trinity, therefore, is the most fundamental teaching upon which all other teachings are founded. The Church is fundamentally Trinitarian; meaning, the life of the Trinity is the wellspring of life from which the Church draws her life. The Church exists for the praise and glory of the Father, through our discipleship in Jesus Christ, empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For this reason, the vision of an ideal parish must be rooted in its Trinitarian identity. The first part of St. Francis' vision statement (see Website) is focused on this Trinitarian identity: *To nourish our love of God through Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

What does it mean for a parish to be 'rooted in Trinitarian identity?' It means that we earnestly strive to fulfill Jesus' prayer, "May they be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us" (John 17:21). We must never undervalue this all-important fact: God is a Trinity of persons, three persons in one God. This means that the fundamental identity of God is a perfect **relationship.** We glorify God when we strive to perfect our relationships. This is why St. John says, "Whoever does not love a brother whom he can see cannot love God whom he cannot see...whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:20-21).

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, for our parish to be Trinitarian we must live in community and in communion with one another. This is why Sunday Mass is never optional. Some people ask, "Why can't I praise God on my own?" The answer is Trinitarian: The God who Himself is a community of persons desires to be worshipped in a community of persons—the parish.

The Trinity is the carburetor that fuels our community, the CPU that informs our life, the keystone that holds our parish together.

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

- Fr. Jarrod Lies, Pastor

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

A STEWARDSHIP MINUTE: SACRISTANS

We here at St. Francis are so blessed to have beautiful Masses throughout the week, holy days of obligation, marriages, and funerals. While these Masses simply could not occur without our dedicated and wonderful priests, they would not run smoothly if it weren't for the often-unseen efforts of our wonderful sacristans.

These dedicated stewards are working before Mass, preparing the liturgical vessels for use by the priest during Mass (water and wine in the cruets, hosts in the ciboria, chalice dressed appropriately) and place them in their correct locations (credence table, gift table, altar side table). The sacristans ensure the altar is set appropriately; the microphone is on;



books are prepared and open to the correct readings for the liturgical year for the lectors; candles are lit (replaced as needed); and lights are on. They are available to assist as needed before, during and after Mass. They simply and emphatically make sure everything that is needed for the liturgy is in place, when and where it is used. Sacristans also assist with weddings and funerals, playing a pivotal role in preparation for the liturgy behind the scenes and allowing the family to focus on the ceremony rather than the details behind the execution of the liturgy. Then after every Mass the sacristans ensure all items are returned to their appropriate places and the sacristy is tidy and ready for the next sacramental celebration.

When you see these sacristans working before or after Mass – please give them a heartfelt, Thank You – they are fantastic stewards for our parish!

God Bless.

-Stu Meether, Dir. of Stewardship and Parish Life

TIME & TALENT

ADORER NEEDED

Help us keep our perpetual adoration flourishing! Below are the current adoration hours we are needing a parishioner to attend.

To sign up, email Jenny Morgan at mollyshome2@protonmail.com.

Thank you!

Sundays ... 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Fridays 11 p.m. - Midnight

PARISH WORK DAY | APRIL 20, 8:30 A.M.

Help us paint our exterior concrete! If you have your own painting equipment such as paint brushes/rollers please bring them with you.

Contact Stu Meether to sign up! smeether@stfranciswichita.com 316-722-4404

TREASURE



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR PARISH





The Divine Mercy Novena:

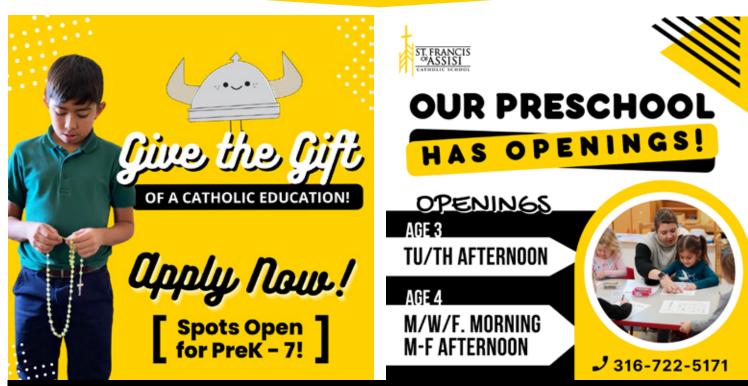
Each evening, March 29 - April 6 at 6:15 in the Church.

The Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration: April 7

- Rosary at 2:15 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:30 p.m.
- Holy Mass at 3:00 p.m. Dessert Social at 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome! Sponsored by the SFA ACTS Community.

VIKING NEWS



CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT 316-722-5171 OR SCHOOL@STFRANCISWICHITA.COM

NOW HIRING! FULL-TIME SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Now hiring a Student Support Services/Guidance Counselor for the 2024-2025 school year. Requirements: Master's degree and a KS teaching license endorsed for secondary school counseling. Duties and Roles: Child Study Team member, Monthly Classroom Visits, Personal Counseling, Student Advocacy, Coordinate testing program, Communication, additional tasks, as needed.

SCAN THE QR CODE or visit www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/careers for full info!





Join one of our ministries and give action to your stewardship:

Contact Stu Meether in our parish office at 316-722-4404 or smeether@stfranciswichita.com for information regarding parish ministries.

MINISTRY & GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

MINISTRY & GROUP EVENTS

Mentions for monthly events, new details, events open to the public and/or new ministries.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP Saturday, April 6 at 8 a.m. Saint Agnes Room

C.G.S. OPEN HOUSE Saturday, April 6 at 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Nazareth House

PARISH GAME NIGHT Saturday, April 6 from 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. Stewardship Hall



Join us in outreach to our homebound parishioners! Sign-up to send letters/cards to parishioners who are currently displaced from our community and help them feel connected!

Contact Monica Peter to volunteer! 316-619-9579 or pete72383@aol.com



Legion of Mary

If you would like to serve Jesus through Mary, join *LEGION OF MARY* for prayer and fellowship! Mondays after the 8 a.m. Mass in St. Agnes. *All are welcome!*



PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

1st Saturdays/Month | 8:00 a.m Saint Agnes Room

Join us in prayer and fellowship, honoring the life and spirituality of Padre Pio!

To join, please call Sandi at 316-722-2115

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) OPEN HOUSE | APRIL 6

Our Nazareth House Open House resumes on April 6 after the 8 a.m. Mass. A tour will be given by our Catechist and a CGS Atrium experience and presentation will follow. Inviting ALL who are interested in our unique CGS education. (Parents, parishioners, potential educators & more!)



Questions?



Call/text: 316-871-4008

Email: CGSnazareth@stfranciswichita.com

WANT YOUR EVENT/MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTED IN THE BULLETIN?

Contact our Communicatons Director, Jessie Nielsen with your request.

Jnielsen@stfranciswichita.com

JOURNEY TO A LIFE OF FAITH

Easter stands as the pinnacle of the liturgical calendar, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This sacred season calls us to plunge into the vastness of God's mercy, it is interwoven within our worship, sacramental rites, and particularly evident in the transformative journey undertaken by the Elect through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). It offers a period of spiritual renewal and extends an invitation to everyone - both the Elect and the faithful - to deeply engage with the profound reality of divine mercy. This powerful force of mercy wrapped in love and forgiveness has the capacity to mend hearts, alter lives, and save souls.

"The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning - great is your faithfulness!" (Lamentations 3:22-23)

God's interaction with humanity is characterized by His boundless mercy - a message consistently underscored throughout Scripture and Church teachings. Mercy, as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, represents God's loving response to our vulnerabilities and failings. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16) Mercy as such transcends mere abstraction, manifesting rather as a tangible and dynamic Person who fosters conversion, renewal, and spiritual growth. For the Elect, their journey towards the Easter Vigil encapsulates a testament to this divine encounter of God's mercy. It's a modern-day pilgrimage from the captivity of sin to the freedom bestowed upon the children of God, guided by His compassionate hand. Their path, marked by prayer, education, reflection, transformation, and sincere conversion, mirrors the biblical exodus of Israel, embodying the Church's mission to extend God's mercy to every soul.

"So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began." (Luke 15:20-24)

The message of God's mercy is intricately woven throughout Scripture, demonstrating God's enduring patience and forgiveness from the Old Testament to the New. The Parable of the Prodigal Son stands as a striking testament to divine mercy, portraying a father's boundless love and acceptance, alongside the forgiveness offered to repentant sinners. It is reassuring for us that if we genuinely regret our sins and seek forgiveness, the depths of God's mercy is unfathomable. Alongside Jesus' compassionate appeal from the cross, these stories underscore the immense capacity for forgiveness to which we are all invited to partake in and share. Such tales echo among the Elect and the broader faith community, serving as reminders of the transformative joy and hope accessible to every contrite spirit. The Father's love is unconditional, not based on our holiness or perfection but rooted in the very nature of God as Love. This perfect love knows only the act of loving His creation unconditionally. In turn, our response to His boundless love is to approach Him with a heart of repentant love, reflecting our gratitude and reverence for His divine mercy.

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! (The Exsultet)

During the Easter Vigil, we will hear the melodious proclamation of Easter through The Exsultet. This exquisite prayer resounds with the exultant joy of Easter with its poetic words. Within its verses lies a remarkable notion: the ancient sin of Adam is portrayed as a paradoxical blessing for humanity, for it paved the way for our redemption by our glorious Savior - 0 happy fault, indeed! With the advent of this glorious Savior, the

MORALITY MATTERS CONTINUED

liturgical and sacramental life of the Church blossoms forth. Once more, the Easter Vigil stands as a testament to the reality of mercy, marking the moment when the Elect are fully welcomed into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This sacred celebration, adorned with rich symbols of light and new life, signifies an encounter with divine grace. Following Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday emerges as a poignant reminder of the boundless scope of God's mercy, offering a special opportunity for reflection, reconciliation, and renewal. For the newly initiated, these moments symbolize the inception of a new life in Christ, deeply rooted in the firsthand experience of divine mercy they have encountered.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

The invitation to embrace God's mercy extends beyond Easter, calling the Elect and the entire faith community to manifest this mercy in daily life. Through acts of mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity, we embody the concrete expressions of divine mercy. Participation in works of mercy, communal prayers like the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and fostering an environment of welcome and forgiveness are practical ways in which God's mercy is made manifest in our world. These actions not only reflect our personal experiences of God's mercy but also serve as a testament to the transformative power of divine love in action. As Catholics, being configured to Christ entails embodying the same merciful nature that God has extended toward humanity. This involves engaging in both corporal and spiritual works of mercy as a tangible expression of our faith. Lastly, let us extend a warm and joyful welcome to the newest members of St. Francis of Assisi parish, embracing them with open arms and genuine hospitality.

CONCLUSION: EMBRACING GOD'S MERCY IN ACTION

In the journey through Easter and the transformative experience of OCIA, we are reminded of the profound reality of God's mercy. This divine mercy, woven

throughout Scripture, Church teachings, and sacramental life, is not merely a theological concept but a living Person who calls us to conversion, renewal, and compassion.

As we immerse ourselves in the liturgical celebrations of Easter, particularly during the Easter Vigil where we hear the resounding proclamation of The Exsultet, we are invited to reflect on the paradoxical beauty of humanity's redemption through the fault of Adam. This joyful fault, earning for us our glorious Redeemer, speaks volumes about the depths of God's mercy. Moreover, as we witness the initiation of the Elect into the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, we witness firsthand the transformative power of divine grace. These sacred moments mark the beginning of a new life in Christ, rooted in the personal encounter with divine mercy.

Our faith calls us to embody God's mercy in our daily lives. Through corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, we become instruments of God's love and agents of His mercy in the world. In welcoming the newly initiated members of St. Francis of Assisi parish with warmth and joy, we extend the same hospitality and love that God showers upon us. Together, as a faith community rooted in the mercy of God, let us continue to journey forward, embracing God's mercy in action, and sharing His love with all whom we encounter.

Jeremy Lezniak OCIA Director and Catechist Theologians Guild



[Left to Right] Jeremy Lezniak, Brad Turner, Amy Phelps, Father Jarrod, Matt Wagner, Kayla Norrod, Eric Bratt, Chris Bradfield.

Welcoming you as a Member of the Body of Christ; The Church, and as a Child of God!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Weekday Liturgical Stewards

Monday, April 1, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Heather Gregg

Altar Servers C. Graham / H. Graham / J. Winslow / E. Reetz

Monday, April 1, 5:30 p.m.

NO MASS

Tuesday, April 2, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Server H. Nguyen / J. Sladek / C. Trager / M. Zimbelman

Tuesday, April 2, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Roger Kerschen

Wednesday, April 3, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Dave Carter

Altar Server B. Prichard / J. Plank / O. Richards / M. Seiler

Wednesday, April 3, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Agron Owen

Thursday, April 4, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Server G. Robles / N. Veith / L. Zarchan / M. Barles

Thursday, April 4, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Rebecca Dugan

Friday, April 5, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Students

Altar Servers P. Bluml / L. Burke / J. Iseman / L. Shideler

Friday, April 5, 5:30 p.m.

Lector Mary Treinen

Saturday, April 6, 8:00 a.m.

Lector Cynthia Powers

ELIJAH CUP

April 6-7: Chris Stewart Family

Please check in with the priest before Mass.

To sign up, call Nan at 721–3727



OFFERTORY SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 6

5:00 p.m. Michael & Casey Lager

7:00 p.m. David & Marcia Wasinger

Sunday, April 7

8:30 a.m. Silvia Hernandez Lange 10:00 a.m. Ryan & Stephanie Farley 11:30 a.m. Clinton & Jamie Kissling

1:00 p.m. Erica Morgan

Weekend Liturgical Stewards

Saturday, April 6 | 5:00 p.m.

Lector: Aaron Owen **Commentator:** Mason Fouquet

Master Server: Sam Pirtle

Servers: P. Pirtle / A. Veith / S. Veith

EMHCs: D. Becker / C. Kenton / J. Yager

Saturday, April 6 | 7:00 p.m.

Lector: Maria Douglas **Commentator:** Kelby Schawe

Master Server: John Rongish

Servers: S. Nuessen / B. Prichard / M. Barles

EMHCs: M. Buchanan / S. Buchanan / B. Spaulding

Sunday, April 7 | 7:00 a.m.

Lector: Kathy Robben **Commentator:** Greg Peter

Master Server: MASTER SERVER NEEDED
Servers: E. Saville / M. Musa / T. Hay
EMHCs: S. Bennett / J. Ward / J. Bauer

Sunday, April 7 | 8:30 a.m.

Lector: Haley Albers **Commentator:** Ryan Biedron

Master Server: Evan Megee

Servers: P. Harrison / N. Pham / H. Stuchlik

EMHCs: J. Hampton / P. Harding / M. Rosenboom

Sunday, April 7 | 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Monica Kaul **Commentator:** Adam Hein

Master Server: Teagan Farley

Servers: N. Hein / M. Hein / J. Winslow EMHCs: J. Burns / P. Burns / M. Hammer

Sunday, April 7 | 11:30 a.m.

Lector: Devona Lies **Commentator:** Kathleen Timmermeyer

Master Server: Caden Meier

Servers: V. Allmond / L. Riggs / C. Martinez EMHCs: J. Cerre / S. Cerre / Z. Cerre

Sunday, April 7 | 1:00 p.m.

Lector: Marilyn Holloway **Commentator:** CJ Damm

Master Server: Branton Nguyen

Servers: H. Borrego / L. Kelly / J. Petersen **EMHCs:** J. Phelps / R. Phelps / L. Faber



THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH



NO CONFESSIONS DURING MASS ROSARY GROUP Church, 5:00 p.m. DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 1

SCHOOL AND PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

MARIAN MANTLE ROSARY GROUP Church, 8:30 a.m.

LEGION OF MARY St. Agnes, 9:00 a.m.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m.

FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY GROUP Clare Hall, 6:30 p.m.

NO 5:30 P.M. MASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

MORNING BIBLE STUDY St. Agnes, 8:30 a.m.
ROSARY GROUP St. Joseph's, 1:00 p.m.
LORD'S DINER VOLUNTEERS Lord's Diner, 5:30 p.m.
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m.
IMMAC. HEART OF MARY ROSARY GP. Church, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP St. Joseph, 6:30 a.m. SHEKINAH PRAYER GP. Stewardship Hall, 6:00 p.m. DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m. OCIA Clare Hall, 6:30 p.m. PSR Cana Hall, 6:30 p.m. TRAD. MUSIC PRATICE Clare Music Rm., 7:00 p.m MEN'S MUSIC PRATICE Clare Music Rm., 8:00 p.m CYM Meet in Holy Hallway, 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

MORNING ROSARY GROUP St. Agnes, 10:00 a.m. DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m. CALLED & GIFTED Cana Hall, 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

MORNING BIBLE STUDY St. Agnes, 8:30 a.m. DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP St. Agnes, 8:00 a.m.
CT. GOOD SHEP. OPEN HOUSE Nazareth House, 8:30 a.m.
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA Church, 6:15 p.m.
PARISH GAME NIGHT Stewardship Hall, 6-11 p.m.

Mass Intentions April 1 - 7		
Monday, 01	8:00 a.m.	† Robert Kolstead
_	5:30 p.m.	No Mass
Tuesday, 02	8:00 a.m.	† Mary & John Beat
	5:30 p.m.	Dean Martin Family Spec. Int.
Wednesday, 03	8:00 a.m.	† Fr. Nicholas Ast, OSB
	5:30 p.m.	† Shea Snyder
Thursday, 04	8:00 a.m.	† Yvonne Bosken
	7:00 p.m.	† Ryan Summers
Friday, 05	8:00 a.m.	Mary Bird Special Intention
	5:30 p.m.	† John Todd
Saturday, 06	8:00 a.m.	Anne & Darryl Lutz Family Spec. Int.
	5:00 p.m.	† Johanna Gnad
	8:30 p.m.	Dec. Mem. of Loughman & Alberts Families
Sunday, 07	7:00 a.m.	† Dennis Seiwert
	8:30 a.m.	Robert & Mary Estock Spec. Int.
	10:00 a.m.	Branden & Jenny Stephenson Family Spec. Int.
	11:30 a.m.	Florence ONeal Spec. Intention
	1:00 p.m.	† Patrice Heinz
	3:00 p.m.	For the People

Follow Up ON SOCIAL MEDIA @KSSFAchurch @SFAvikings

the QR code to sign-up for our Flocknote eblasts!



DIRECTORY

PARISH STAFF

Fr. C. Jarrod Lies	frlies@stfranciswichita.com
Fr. Andrew Meng	frmeng@stfranciswichita.com
Fr. Bhaskar Mendam	frmendam@stfranciswichita.com
Stu Meether, Stewardship/Parish Lin	fesmeether@stfranciswichita.com
Heather Kilian, Financial Controller.	hkilian@stfranciswichita.com
Emily Savage, Youth Director	esavage@stfranciswichita.com
Jessie Nielsen, Communications	jnielsen@stfranciswichita.com
Mary Carter, School Principal	316.722.5171

PARISH OFFICE

Office......316.722.4404

*This number is for emergencies too. Listen to the directory options.

Website.....www.stfranciswichita.com
E-mail.....sfac@stfranciswichita.com
Address......861 N. Socora, Wichita, KS 67212

SCHOOL

Phone	316./22.51/1
E-mail	school@stfranciswichita.com
Address	853 N. Socora, Wichita, KS 67212

Prayer

God, I thank you for bringing Jesus back to life.

Mission for the Week

Bake Resurrection Cookies with your family tonight. You can find the recipe online at https://www.aroundmyfamilytable.com/resurrection-cookies/

Sharing the Gospel

It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tomb stone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However, they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead!

Now color the picture!



Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

