

Wichita, Kansas

OCTOBER 2016

## Refiner's Fire: Purgatory, indulgences, purification

Ever since we were children we were taught to wash our hands. Even if dirt wasn't visible, we have been taught about invisible germs that need to be washed so that we don't get sick or spread illness. What is true for our hands is also true for our souls: we need to wash our souls of known or unknown faults.

As one Psalm says, "From hidden faults acquit me" (Ps 19:12). As Catholics we know that we "wash our souls," like washing our hands, every time we go to confession.

But sin is not only a "germ" that affects the soul; it also causes damage to the soul. For example, if a person were to break a neighbor's window, they would not only apologize for the damage but they would also have to repair the damage.

So it is with our soul. Sin damages the soul and the Christian moral life works to repair the damage caused by sin.

But what happens if a person dies without restoring the damage caused by sin? Such a person goes through Purgatory. The Book of Revelation states, "Nothing unclean will enter heaven" (Rev. 21:27).

This means that our soul, like our hands, needs to be purified before we enter into the Eternal Kingdom. Just like a young man takes a shower before going out on a date, so too, Purgatory purifies our soul in holiness before it enters into the all-holy presence of God.



Message From  
**THE PASTOR**

Whether in this life or in the next, the damage caused by sin must be repaired. As St. Paul says, "The work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire and the fire will test the quality of each one's work."

Purgatory is a place of purification. Like fire refines gold so Purgatory is the "Day" of the "Refiner's Fire" that heals the damage caused by sin and perfects a soul.

The Good News is this: we can help our loved ones pass through Purgatory and aid the Refiner's Fire. This is the purpose of indulgences: to remit the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven (CCC Glossary). Indulgences are prayers or actions that are blessed by God to help purify one's soul and to correct the damage caused by sin.

We can receive an indulgence on our own behalf or for a deceased loved one. The Book of Maccabees teaches that praying for our deceased loved ones is a "holy and pious thought." Such a prayer makes "atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin" (2 Mac 12:43-44).

I am inviting you to join us in a Novena for Deceased Loved Ones.

This Novena is designed to offer indulgenced prayers and actions on behalf of our loved ones. Like washing hands from visible and invisible germs, let us help purify our loved one's soul from the effects of sin so they can more quickly enter their Heavenly Home.

*(See pages 2 and 3 for more information about the Novena.)*



Photo by Ricardo Reitmeier

More photos from Bishop Kemme's visit to SFA are on page 4.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**SFA Novena for Deceased Loved Ones**  
Oct. 31-Nov. 8

**All Saints Day / All Souls Day**  
Nov. 1 / Nov. 2

**CYM Pizza Party**  
Nov. 20, 3 p.m., rectory

**Solemnity of Christ the King**  
Nov. 20

# We are called to pray for holy souls in Purgatory

Praying for the living and **the dead** is one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. On Nov. 20, the Church will solemnly celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Also on that day, the Year of Mercy, which began last Dec. 8, will officially end. The Doors of Mercy at the Diocesan Cathedral will be sealed.

Just as St. Francis of Assisi will close the Year of Mercy with prayers for the Dead, we can extend these prayers into our Domestic Churches – our family homes.

When we pray for the Holy Souls at home, we can concentrate on our own loved ones. Too often, after we have buried our beloved family members, life gets busy and we forget to commend their souls to the Merciful Heart of Jesus. If still detained in Purgatory, they are yearning for prayers for their release.

As they served us in life, we have the joy of serving them with our prayers. During this November then, let's make a special effort at home to remember the souls of our loved ones.

There is a second benefit of praying for the souls of our loved ones. We are given an excellent opportunity to share our family history with our children who never knew their ancestors. We can share special memories we have of them, especially any stories relating to their faith life. These memories create an inter-generational family bond and provide our children the incentive to remember relatives in their daily prayers.

## Stewardship Thought

Dear Lord, we pray for Your grace and guidance in the forming of grateful hearts as we receive, give thanks and share Your bountiful gifts. We pledge our dedicated response to our call to discipleship in praise of You and in service to all Your children. Amen.

As we pray the “*Eternal Rest*” prayer, our children can be reminded to think of deceased relatives whom they knew or have learned about through our shared memories.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Besides praying for our loved ones, we can teach our children to pray for all the souls in Purgatory. When passing a cemetery or waiting on a funeral procession, we can make the Sign of the Cross and say the “*Eternal Rest*” prayer. Praying in these instances reminds us and our children that even strangers benefit from our prayers for the faithfully departed.

Families are also encouraged to attend the Novena for the Deceased Loved Ones that will be offered from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8 at St. Francis. “(See schedule next page.)” In addition, on Nov. 2, the Church commemorates All Souls Day, a Special Day for praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. If possible, attend one of the daily Masses as a family.

November is also a great time to schedule Masses for our deceased relatives. The Church Office accepts Stipends for Masses and can even help you find a date and Mass time that allows your family to attend the Mass.

When we reach the end of our Earthly life, most of us will go to Purgatory as we will not be fully purified from our sins. There, our one desire will be that many people still living will pray for our quick release. We will especially hope that our own family members remember us with Masses and prayers.

During this month of November, let's begin or strengthen that tradition within our own homes. For additional resources on Praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, see the Parish Prayer Committee Racks in the main Church walkway and in the Clare Hall walkway.

– Lisa Martin

## FUNERALS

**John Gutierrez**, father of Lisa Collins and John Gutierrez, on Sept. 2

## BAPTISMS

**Isabelle Cecilia**, daughter of Jonathan and Norma Garcia, on Sept. 17

**Keon Patrick**, son of Timothy and Sara Berry, on Sept. 18

**Camdyn Josephine**, daughter of Dustyn and Erica Morgan, on Sept. 25

**Willa Lisieux**, daughter of Cody and Jessica VenJohn, on Sept. 25

## SFA SOCIAL SITES



If you're on any of these social sites, please take a few minutes to follow or like us:

- [www.facebook.com/kssfachurch](http://www.facebook.com/kssfachurch)
- [www.instagram.com/kssfachurch](http://www.instagram.com/kssfachurch)
- [www.twitter.com/kssfachurch](http://www.twitter.com/kssfachurch)

### Youth Ministry

- [www.facebook.com/sfacym](http://www.facebook.com/sfacym)
- [www.twitter.com/sfacym](http://www.twitter.com/sfacym)

### Fr. Jarrod Lies is online!

- Follow him at [twitter.com/FrJLies](http://twitter.com/FrJLies)
- Visit [www.stfranciswichita.com](http://www.stfranciswichita.com) and click on “Fr. Jarrod’s homilies” to listen to any of his past sermons.

Spread the word!

## NEW PARISHIONERS

**Raymond and Sandra Demuth**  
**Patrick and Jessica Hannon**, 1 child  
**Jeffery and Elyse Janzen**, 1 child  
**Matthew and Stacy McGuire**, 3 children

# Novena for deceased: How big could it be?

Over the past several Sundays ... you have been reading passages in the weekly bulletin about sin, death, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, eternity and salvation. While we should think about all of these in everything we do each day, they are especially timely now.

From Monday, Oct. 31, through Tuesday, Nov. 8, we have a wonderful opportunity to not only get our own

souls “Heaven ready,” but also, to get very many souls, even of our deceased loved ones, immediately out of Purgatory and into Heaven to join the Church Triumphant.

The event is called The SFA Novena for Deceased Loved Ones.

More information about the event can be found in recent bulletins, and a complete explanation of this discipline within the Church will be given the first evening of the Novena, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

While God’s graces can never be

quantified, let me explain, from the Handbook of Indulgences, given in Rome at the Apostolic Penitentiary.

We have approximately 8,500 members in our parish here at SFA. As you might remember from recent passages in the bulletin, no soul may enter Heaven with any blemish (venial sin or any punishment due to sins you have committed throughout your life) on his or her soul. If a soul

is in the state of serious (mortal) sin, the soul will have condemned itself to Hell for all eternity.

There is no hope, no reprieve, no chance, and no appeal in Hell. Attaining our eternal salvation is the single most important affair we have in this

life. What a misfortune it is to have failed in the greatest purpose of our life. While your sins are forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the punishment due for every sin you have ever committed in your life is still there, unless reconciled. A

plenary indulgence does exactly this.

There are several ways you can earn a plenary indulgence for yourself. The one requirement for all of these ways is to be “fully” disposed. This means that within a few days of performing the indulgenced work, you must be free of all attachment to sin; make a good confession; receive the Holy Eucharist; and say prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father (Our Father, Hail Mary or other prayers you might want to say).

You can offer a plenary indulgence each day of the Novena for a deceased loved one in Purgatory. If your loved one is not in Purgatory, our Blessed Mother gives the plenary indulgence to the next soul in line.

Few things could ever match the gratitude of a Poor Soul in Heaven, praying for you, in all that you do. According to a private revelation given to St. Gertrude, 100 percent participation by the 8,500 members in our parish will result in more than 75,000 souls entering Heaven, and each of us gets our souls Heaven ready too.

How much more special – and big – could an event be?

– Charlie Traffas

## Prayer of St. Gertrude

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

## Little Flowers celebrate St. Therese



Photo by Becky Hawk

Members of SFA’s Little Flowers group enjoy a Feast Day Celebration for St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower.



Photo by Crystal Iseman

## Novena Schedule

- Oct. 31 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Presentation by Fr. Jarrod
- Nov. 1 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Rosary
- Nov. 2 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Scriptural Meditation
- Nov. 3 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Adoration
- Nov. 4 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Stations of the Cross
- Nov. 5 – Before 5 p.m. Mass – Rosary
- Nov. 6 – Before 10 a.m. Mass – Rosary
- Nov. 7 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Adoration
- Nov. 8 – After 5:30 p.m. Mass – Closing Presentation



# Bishop spends weekend visiting SFA



Photo by Crystal Robinson



Photo by Ricardo Reitmeyer



Photo by Sean Beebe



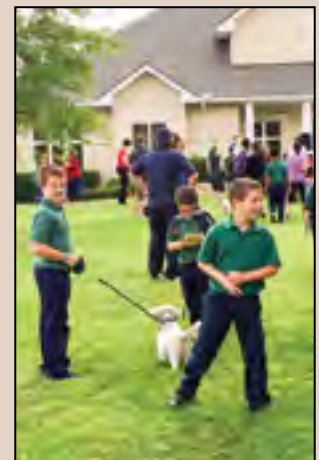
Photo by Ricardo Reitmeyer

*In an effort to get to know the parishes and the needs of the diocese, Bishop Kemme is visiting every parish in the diocese of Wichita. In September he came to St. Francis to meet with the leadership councils, hear confessions and celebrate Masses. His visit was very successful. He was very impressed with the life of St. Francis, enjoyed talking with the councils, praying with the parish and encouraging his priests.*

## Blessing of the animals



*On Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, parishioners bring their pets to the annual blessing of the animals on the front lawn of the rectory.*



Photos by Crystal Iseman



## Lanzrath speaks of mercy at GoF event



At the October Generations of Faith event, guest speaker Fr. John Lanzrath speaks to attendees about the life and work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The theme was "Through the Eyes of Mercy."



Photos by Ricardo Reitmejer

## RCIA brings 21 new Catholics into the Church

An unusual summer edition of RCIA has just completed at St. Francis, with 21 participants entering the Catholic Church at the 7 p.m. Mass on Oct. 1. These new Catholics, along with their sponsors, have been attending classes since May.

Of the "elect," four were catechumens (not previously baptized) and 17 were candidates (already baptized). The catechumens were baptized, received the Eucharist for the first time, and were confirmed. The candidates entered into full communion with the Church by receiving Eucharist and being confirmed.

This is the first year we have done a summer session of RCIA. Some of the elect were from other parishes but came to SFA for RCIA because of the special summer session.



Photos by Ricardo Reitmejer

# SFA announces endowment for long-term needs

As we think of our family, our domestic church as called by St. Pope John Paul II, we plan how we will take care of our family's short-term needs such as food, clothes, shelter and transportation. We need and use these so we can be protected and have the ability to perform our daily tasks and responsibilities.

While it is critical to keep our domestic church running on a daily basis, our domestic church also has long-term needs. In addition to raising our children in the Catholic faith, the long-term needs include higher education, health care, maintenance of our home and cars, and savings for the future to cover unforeseen events.

If we only plan for our short-term needs, we may get by for a while; however, our minds, or maybe our conscience, constantly remind us of what would we do if something unforeseen happens. Would we be prepared and where would the funds come from? Would our domestic church survive an unforeseen event?

This is where long-term planning becomes critical to the success of our domestic church. Long-term needs require planning on our part to prepare for and put aside funds.

Our parish church, St. Francis of Assisi, is no different than our domestic church. It also has short- and long-term needs.

As parishioners, we expect the lights to be on, the air conditioning or heating to work, the grounds to be maintained, and to have highly qualified teachers and staff members for our school and church to be successful. These only occur when we contribute to meet those short-term needs.

As parishioners, we also expect the parking lot to be smooth, the grounds for our children to play safe and secure, advanced technology for our school, our small children to have fun and safe playground equipment, our high school children to have a productive meeting place for CYM, comfortable meeting rooms

with advanced technology for RCIA and other adult education events, good equipment and uniforms for our sports teams, and roofs over our heads that don't leak. These only occur when we plan and put aside funds for long-term needs.

We are very fortunate at St. Francis of Assisi to have had forward-thinking pastors who have placed a premium on our parish's long-term needs. Fr. Jarrod continues this in his quest to build up the parish's savings. To do this, an endowment fund has been established.

The endowment fund will be called the Msgr. Thomas McGread Stewardship Endowment Fund. As some of our longer term parishioners remember, Msgr. McGread was a long-time pastor of St. Francis of Assisi. In fact, he was the "father of stewardship" as he prayerfully considered and brought forth the stewardship way of life for this parish, which, aided by Bishop Emeritus Gerber's vision, has spread throughout the diocese.

Msgr. McGread was a forward thinking pastor who recognized the future needs of the parish, and found ways, with the help of parishioners of all levels of means, to fund those needs. Accordingly,

it is most appropriate to name the only endowment fund for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish after this visionary pastor.

The Msgr. Thomas McGread Stewardship Endowment Fund can be funded by several types of contributions: a one-time offering, a monthly offering or by a legacy offering through a will, trust or by a beneficiary designation.

An excellent way to make a gift to the Endowment is through a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA. If you are 70½ you know you have to take required minimum distributions from your IRA. You can make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA and satisfy your minimum distribution requirement, and it will not count as taxable income to you (and the Endowment will receive the full distribution you designate).

Take stock of your gifts from God and become part of the family of St. Francis that shares its gifts by an offering to the Msgr. Thomas McGread Stewardship Endowment Fund for the welfare of your domestic church's Catholic way of life and the continuity of that way of life through our parish church.

– *Stewardship Beyond Committee*



KC (Kindergarten Class C) hosts a blessing for their new classroom, which was finished this summer just in time for the start of school.

## 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](mailto: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.



# REFINER'S FIRE



## The Day will disclose it

1 Corinthians 3:13

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