



## Priests share their Christmas wishes for us

### Fr. Jarrod

I love all the lights and decorations of Christmas time! Everything is so beautiful and speaks to such hope and joy. The dark nights are enlightened by the twinkle of millions of lights. During the day, houses flourish with holy and happy decorations.

“It is my sincerest hope that the joy and hope of this season is truly present in your life. So, my wish for you this Christmas season is this: May the light of Christ, which shattered the darkness in Bethlehem, enlighten your soul and bring joy to your family this Christmas season.”

### Fr. Labenz

A blessed Christmas to each one of you! This Christmas, I am reminded once again of the tremendous blessing it is to not only be a priest of Jesus Christ, but to be a priest here at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

“My heart is simply filled with gratitude and thankfulness for

your kindness, your prayers, and for your strong witness of faith, all of which inspires me day by day. Please know of my own special prayers for you and your families as we celebrate together the great and joyful solemnity of Christmas!”

### Fr. Isaac

“Jesus is coming. I pray to the Father that your joyful celebration of Advent and Christmas increases your longing for Jesus and prepares you in the Spirit to receive him. A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas. Thanks for everything.”

### Fr. Haake

“It’s not so simple to keep a low profile where so much is going on. However, besides an occasional foray into the cafeteria for an update on academic chatter and theological trends and some confessions and Masses, most of my time is spent talking one-to-one in the rectory about the Gospel of Jesus following the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. My

clientele includes 12 children (including three nine-year-olds) and 40 adults (including a 74-year-old with an iPad). We’ve found a way to go to Bethlehem through meditation without leaving Wichita, and my wish is that all may find their own way there this Christmas.”

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 1.....Mary, Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation, Office Closed
- 2.....Faculty/Staff Retreat
- 3.....Classes Resume
- 10.....Parish All-Councils Meeting
- 19.....Pastoral Council Leadership Training
- 21.....Martin Luther King Day, No School
- 14-18.....Server Training for SFA 6th Graders
- 26.....Server Training for Homeschool and Public School 6th Graders
- 27.....Knights Basketball Classic
- 27-Feb. 2.....Catholic Schools Week

# We should be like children in pursuit of Jesus

It's hard to say how the mind of a 10-month-old works. One thing I can say is that my grandson, in one area, has the will and determination to achieve his goal. He will crawl across a room, climb over and around a chair, or pull himself up if needed.

He is single-minded in his pursuit...of the remote. I'm not sure if he senses his manly duty to control the remote (just kidding, ladies) or if it is just the right size to hold and chew on. Either way, he has the resolve and laser focus to accomplish his goal of holding, pushing every button and obtaining sole control of this valued household device.

Jesus tells us, "Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." A child



has that fascination that will to accomplish their mission. Sometimes that fascination may just be with the wrapping on the box or a bow on the package, but it is still a sense of wonder and awe.

I think there is a lesson in this pursuit for us. That is how we are to be in pursuit of Jesus – unrelenting, determined and fearless. To be fully alive as a disciple of Jesus calls us to have that childlike wonder and awe. We are called to open ourselves as a child to experience that feeling of gratitude for all the gifts that we have been given. We are invited to not be remote or detached (see what I did there?) but to be centered on Jesus in the Eucharist.

The world will distract us with

buttons, gadgets and gizmos. May our hearts be filled with wonder as we pursue Jesus. May we be single-minded and focused to keep our eyes ever on Jesus.

Oh, come let us adore Him, as the song says. I hope this gives you something to chew on this Christmas season. Guard the remote from the toddlers in your life, but ever admire their pursuit and determination. May you have a blessed Christmas and a holy new year from the entire staff here at St Francis!

– Pat Burns, Director of Stewardship & Finance

## 2018 Turkey Trot



Photo by Liz Clark

Turkey Trot participants pose for a photo at the family walk/run – a new event hosted this year by SFA School. All students and their families were invited to join in the fun.

### BAPTISMS

- Everlee Gray**, daughter of Greer Huff, Nov. 24
- Rayna Lynne**, daughter of Trenton and Misty Roth, Nov. 24
- Leo Douglas**, son of Brianne Stewart, Nov. 25
- Dylan Alexander**, son of Matthew and Emma Cerre, Nov. 25
- Noah James**, son of Roderick and Monica Heasty, Nov. 25
- Alexander Daniel**, son of Leonardo and Jennifer Zapata, Nov. 30

### NEW PARISHONERS

- Joseph Gorges**
- Jeremy and Brittany Rucker**, 1 child
- Donald and Elizabeth Thorbrugh**

## 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](mailto: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!



# Knights host 31st Annual Basketball Classic

The 31st Annual Basketball Classic for Vocations between the Blue Knights of Knights of Columbus Council #4118 and the Padres (priests of the Wichita Diocese) is Sunday, Jan. 27, in the Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Gym.

Doors will open at 6 p.m.; tipoff is at 7. Donations will be taken at the door. Proceeds from this game are used to support the Council's

religious vocations programs and primarily provide direct financial support to seminarians.

Since it began, this event has raised more than \$55,000 to support religious vocations programs. The Padres lead the series with 17 wins to 13 for the Knights. The Basketball Classic has been blessed to have almost 60 priests, including four bishops, participate.

The Bishop Carroll administration has been instrumental in the success of this program. They have opened their facilities to accommodate the games, first in "the Cave" and now in the beautiful athletic/activities complex. The BCCHS Pep Band and cheerleaders have been an integral part of the festivities since the beginning.

## FUNERALS

**Joan Scott**, mother of Jacque Clupny, Jan White, and James Scott, Nov. 27

**Jolynn Cordell**, sister of Jeff, Jaime, Jerry, Jayand Janel Cordell, and Janis Mertes, Nov. 26

## Stewardship Thought

*"Like Mary, may we nurture the light born within us at Christmas. May we carry it everywhere in our daily lives."*

— Pope Francis

## Bishop visits SFA School



Photo by Liz Clark

During a recent visit to SFA School for lunch, Bishop Kemme signs the cast of Donna M.

## Fr. Labenz teaches class

Fr. Labenz taught a C.E. (elective class for eighth graders) during the first quarter of this school year titled "Faith and Reason: Encountering God in Truth, Beauty and Goodness."

I participated in a few of his classes, and I was left in awe at God's goodness and love. I sat down with Father to learn more.

**What was your inspiration for this class?**

I've always had a desire to teach in a classroom setting.

My mom has taught at Trinity Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Hutchinson for the past 10 years, so I grew up seeing the joy and the energy that being a teacher has brought to her life. I started mulling the idea over in my head when one of the seventh graders told me at lunch that I should teach a CE course.

I thought, "Yeah, I could do that!" From there, I gauged the interest of the students (which was high), I came up with an initial theme (seeing our faith in a new light), then I proposed the

idea to Fr. Jarrod and Mrs. Carter. Both were extremely supportive and helpful.

**What were your goals for the class?**

I had three primary goals for the students: 1) I wanted them to fall in love with their faith, especially with the Mass, and to be captured with wonder and awe at the truth, beauty and goodness of God. 2) I strove to challenge them to think and reason on a whole new level,

so that they could see reality from a more transparent lens and a new point of view. 3) I aimed to equip them with a key tool for evangelization by asking them to give their kerygma (explaining what they believe and why they believe it) to our kindergarten classes.

*To be continued in next month's issue.*

— Emily Savage, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries



# St. Hubert group has cold weekend adventure

On Nov. 10, a group of brave St. Francis boys and dads who are part of SFA's Knights of St. Hubert group embarked on a cold-weather camping adventure to Eureka Lake. Scheduled a month in advance, it was a little colder than expected. A snowstorm hit a couple days earlier, and when we arrived the lows were around 20 degrees, with winds in the 15-20 mph range making it feel even colder.

When we arrived, the boys were quickly drawn to a cluster of remaining snow and enjoyed a snowball fight. Afterward, we toured the available campsites before eventually finding one largely protected from the wind by a hill and trees. The added benefit of the location was a native limestone camp stove/fireplace, so we got to work scavenging for wood.

Afterward, each boy practiced starting a fire with a flint striker and some tinder, and in very little time we had a roaring fire on our hands and a good supply of firewood to get us through the night.

One of the reasons we chose Eureka Lake was the wonderful waterfall at the spillway. This area is known for its abundance of Greenwood County fossils, and the group quickly learned why – everyone found evidence of when Kansas was under a vast ocean, with many brachiopods found dating back in time 300 to 400 million years.

We also got to experience modern Kansas wildlife when we discovered a skunk nested in the nearby outhouse – luckily no one found out the hard way!

After a chilly night, we revived the fire and appreciated our breakfast

burritos more than we normally would have. We closed with a discussion of the homeless: how it can happen, how difficult life is for them securing food and water while sleeping outside many nights, and how compassion is necessary to truly understand their situation.

Given our sub-freezing night in tents, the boys seemed to really connect. We shared a final couple prayers and headed back to our lives of comfort. We would urge you to take a moment as you nestle into your warm bed tonight to reflect upon how lucky you are, to give proper thanks, and to pray for the less fortunate.

If you are interested in learning more about this St. Francis father/son outdoor group, contact me at (316) 609-8596.

– Arian Fouquet



Photos by Arian Fouquet

*St. Therese Girls Club*

# SPAGHETTI *Dinner*



10:45 AM ~~to~~ 6:00 PM

*Meal* .....

All You Care To Eat: Spaghetti, Green Beans & Fazoli's Breadsticks, Plus A Dessert



*Italian Soda* ..... \$1

Handmade Creamy Soda, Assorted Flavors  
*While Supplies Last*

*Carry Out Pies* ..... \$15

Handmade Pies: Cherry, Apple, Apple Crumb, Peach & Blueberry  
*While Supplies Last*

## SFA starts contemporary worship program

Just one semester into his role as music and band teacher at SFA School, Rob Tierney has assumed an additional title: Director of Contemporary Worship for the parish. In this newly created role, he will focus on music for Wednesday and Saturday evenings, as well as coordinating music for daily school Masses, which will include contemporary music along with our tradition of organ and acapella singing.

“I look forward to using my skills and experience as the Lord calls me to do so,” Tierney said in an introductory letter provided to the Parish leadership councils. “Contemporary music, when done with the highest level of excellence, can be a very attractive form of worship. We will always have a goal to add to a prayerful experience for all and not distract from it. Other genres of music, as well as silence, will continue to be used, including Gregorian chant and traditional choral and organ music.

“I look forward to working with the many talented and gifted musicians of the parish, both those who have recognized their gifts and are already sharing them and those parishioners who have not yet recognized their gifts or who have not shared it yet with the parish. If the Holy Spirit is calling, it will be an honor to lead

you.”

Tierney brings to this job a varied background. Originally from Harwinton, Connecticut, he attended the Crane School of Music SUNY Potsdam for a Bachelor of Arts in music education, followed by a Master of Music in classical trombone



*Rob Tierney*

performance from the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Following college, he spent 11 years teaching band in public schools in New York and Kansas. During this time, he also performed professionally with orchestras, chamber groups, rock and jazz bands, and gave of his talent as stewardship to his parish as cantor and accompanist.

Five years ago, he left teaching to answer a call from the Lord to work full time for his home parish, St. Mary in Newton. As pastoral assistant, he took on many roles, including music director, director of religious education, chair of stewardship, communication director and building project manager.

Tierney and his wife, Charisse, have been married for 16 years and will continue to live in Newton and remain members of St. Mary Parish. They have seven children; the oldest is a freshman at Bishop Carroll and the youngest just a few months old. The children are Owen, James, Hazel, Henry, Faith, Zelig and Charlotte.

“I am humbled, overjoyed and grateful for this appointment to work in this musical leadership role for St. Francis,” Tierney said. “I have spent my life pursuing my love for Christ, bringing others closer to Him, and using the gift of music to impact others.”

In announcing this change, Fr. Jarrod said: “Sr. Stephanie Heskamp will remain as Music Director for the parish, overseeing music for Sunday Masses. We thank her for her many years of service coordinating music for our school Masses.”

– Ann Walden

## 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. 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.

# CYM feasts on pie at annual 'Give Thanks' event



The St. Francis of Assisi CYM enjoys its annual Thanksgiving Tradition at its Nov. 28 meeting: "Be Grateful, Give Thanks, and Eat Pie!" CYM members are grateful to the volunteers from the parish who baked and donated 15 pies of various flavors and 15 cases of water for the event.



Photos by Aiyssa Standridge





Merry Christmas

*“I proclaim to you good news of great joy”*  
*Luke 2:10*

Our Priests' Christmas  
 Wishes for Us  
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Contemporary Music  
 Comes to SFA  
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