

THE VERNACULAR

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



Wichita, Kansas

NOVEMBER 2018

Online store opens with SFA merchandise

We are proud to announce a variety of new logo items you can purchase to help show your parish pride. From T-shirts to coasters and blankets to mugs, we offer several options that will let you show your SFA pride.

Select your items, including sizes if applicable, then use your credit card to make your purchase. Orders will be processed, fulfilled and shipped directly to you for a small fee.

Products available at the online store will be updated annually to keep them fresh. Once the initial orders are placed and shipped, depending on demand, orders may be filled on a quarterly basis to keep costs down. Orders placed through Nov. 30 will arrive before Christmas.

You can access this online store anytime at www.stfranciswichita.com by choosing the “Resources” dropdown menu and then selecting “Online Store.”

– Bryan Malone, on behalf of
the Communications Council



Our new wearables and other items feature the new SFA Church logo. See p. 6 for information about the new logo, brand guide and mission.

‘Discovering Christ’ needs you

“In Jesus’ name ...” So many prayers close with this. So many hopes and needs hinging on this prayer. When we close a pray saying this, we show the core of our faith ... that we KNOW that Jesus is the Son of God and we KNOW that all things are possible through Him.

Knowing these things should mean that we know

Jesus personally too. Not just the figures in our mind from beautiful art and depictions we see every day, but that we know Jesus because we have a relationship with Him. We go to Him in joy praising His name and thanking Him.

*Discovering Christ ...
cont. on p. 2*

Discovering Christ ...*cont. from p. 1*

We go to Him in sorrow, begging and asking Him why this has happened. We talk to Him about our day, our lives, the everyday things that annoy us.

Work, love, anger, all these feelings are known to Jesus because we are literally telling him throughout our lives. What a relationship! To have someone that will never abandon us and always, always love us for who we are.

Sadly, this relationship is not held by everyone in our lives. We struggle to understand the nature of perfect love, because nobody on Earth can give that to us. Never flinching, never tiring love is almost impossible to comprehend, given

the nature of the world around us.

The message of Discovering Christ is to teach (and maybe remind) us that this love is for everyone at any time. It is given to us freely and without condition. I hope that our next session of Discovering Christ can bring that message to as many people as possible.

The Discovering Christ program helps us build a relationship with Jesus from the ground up. The lessons we view will make prayer lives better, bring us closer to Jesus, and bring us closer to our parish community. Our next program will be during Lent next year, but now is the time for planning.

To that end, I am personally inviting anybody and everybody to

join our team. On Dec. 8 from 12 to 3 p.m., we will hold a team training in St. Clare Hall.

We need people who can devote themselves to helping others come closer to Christ. We need team leaders to help organize, table leaders to facilitate discussions, and volunteers to bring food for the weekly dinners.

If you would like to be a part of this program or if you have questions, contact me at 371-7647 (call or text) or mekittrell@gmail.com. You can also learn more about Discovering Christ by visiting the www.christlife.org website.

I hope to be speaking with you very soon, and I will be praying for each of you In Jesus' Name. Amen.

– Mark Kittrell

Be a good steward, feel fully alive

We lost a good steward last month. He was a champion for stewardship as a way of life. Bishop Eugene Gerber, the Bishop Emeritus for the diocese, knew what it meant to be a faithful steward.

The word that comes to mind for me when I think of him is gratitude. He was a humble, grateful, faith-filled man who had the courage in 1985 to say to the world that Wichita would be a stewardship diocese. His vision serves as an inspiration for all of us as we continue to practice this way of life that leads us toward heaven.

It is all about gratitude. As Fr. John Lanzrath reminds us when he is asked, "How are you?" he responds, "blessed." Being grateful and counting our blessings is the cornerstone of stewardship. It is not about filling out forms or

meeting requirements.

Stewardship at its core is about making a grateful response, as a disciple of Jesus, for all the gifts we have been given by God. Bishop Gerber understood this central message. He knew that our blessings and gifts changed from year to year. That is the reason we recommit each year to our own stewardship way of life.

Our life changes each year, and our ability to serve changes over time. We never outgrow or retire from stewardship. Likewise, we are never too young or too busy to practice gratitude to our Creator. Wherever we are right now, we are blessed and gifted.

It is not too late to send a thank you card to Jesus for this year. We are asking for a 100 percent return of every stewardship form that was sent out to parishioners. It is an act of

gratitude to complete your form. It is taking inventory in your life and saying thank you to God for blessing you with this day.

If you have already turned in your stewardship forms for this year, thank you! If you have not, it is not too late. All are welcome at the table. We have a big family here at St. Francis, and we want to make a place for everyone. Come join us and feel fully alive.

Bishop Gerber knew it, and so can you. When we count our blessings, it is so much easier to reach out to another in love. We are called to make a grateful response to God for all the blessings we have received.

May you and your family be blessed this season of Thanksgiving.

– Pat Burns, Director of Stewardship & Finance

God's gift to us: 9 choirs, 3 cities of angels

We believe that heaven and earth are united in a flurry of angelic praise and protection. Jesus Christ himself spoke of our guardian angels when he said, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." (Matt 18:10)

Not only are we protected by our guardian angels, but God gave us the nine choirs of angels so that we might imitate them in

their worship and love. Every time we gather at Mass, every time we unite in family prayer, every time we adore the Lord in the Eucharist, we are surrounded by the nine choirs of angels, as the Psalm says, "In the presence of the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple." (Ps 138:1-2)

The nine choirs of angels belong in the cities, all of which are explicitly mentioned in the Bible. The first city, the most expansive with the most angels, focuses all its energy on the Triune (three-in-one) God Himself, who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This city is comprised of the Cherubim, Seraphim and the Thrones.

The Cherubim are the Highest of the Angelic Order. They praise God's Charity – his Love. The Seraphim praise the Trinity's wisdom. And the Thrones, like great banner bearers and musicians, uplift God's glory and blare angelic music before the Lord. (See Heb. 12:22-24 for an example). How blest are those

Saints who enter heaven and share the eternal blessing – to praise God's majesty forever.

The next city of angels is concerned with the angelic choirs themselves and the angelic battle against demons that rages on, even if we cannot see it. These are the Dominions, the Virtues and the Powers.

These angels are spoken of in Daniel: "Do not fear, Daniel, from the first day you made up your mind to acquire understanding and

humble yourself before God, your prayer was heard. Because of it I started out, but the prince of the kingdom of Persia stood in my way for 21 days, until finally Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me." (Daniel 10:11-13)

The third City comes to the aid of humans most directly. These are the Principalities, Archangels and Angels. The Principalities are to nations, states or communities of people what Guardian Angels are to individuals. Principalities guard nations and cultures. Archangels, such as Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, are giving to a specific task, usually one that changes the course of human history. And our Guardian Angels, our dearest friends, who do so much for us that we will never even know, they protect us as the apple of God's eye.

So, let us honor our angelic friends and protectors, let us learn from them the secrets of worship, and the diligence of watchfulness. God says to each of us what he said to the Israelites, "See, I am sending

an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared." (Exodus 23:20)

Following are two very traditional angelic prayers you can pray with friends and family.

Hear us, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God; and graciously send your holy angel from heaven to watch over, to cherish, to protect, to abide with, and to defend all who dwell in this house. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Visit, we beg you, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive from it all snares of the enemy. Let your holy Angels dwell herein, to keep us in peace; and let your blessing be always upon us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Message From
THE PASTOR

Stewardship Thought

The word "Advent" means "coming" or "coming toward." It has the same roots as the word "arrival." It is our time to prepare for the "coming" or "arrival" of the King – of Christmas. ("Mas" in Spanish means "more," so we might say, in a sense, that Christmas means "more Christ.") Stewardship is sort of an eternal Christmas. Stewardship means, "All that I am and all that I have is in trust (or entrusted) to me from God." Advent is a time of preparation to share in the extravagant goodness and grace of God.

– Ed Laughlin: A Stewardship Approach to Advent

SFA Annual Fun Night: It's a wrap!

There were lots of firsts at the 36th Annual Fun Night. For the first time, businesses were asked if they would consider giving to our event at levels ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. And give they did. Some of this money was used to give the students big incentives for selling raffle tickets, and that really paid off!

There was quite a buzz going on at the school with big daily turn-ins. St. Francis School and PSR students set a record by selling 20,585 raffle tickets. They earned a Pajama Day to celebrate.

Top sellers Elizabeth Bailey, Sydney Domebo and Collin Stump each took home \$100 cash for their efforts. Top selling classrooms 6A and 2C got pizza parties with WuShock. (He caused a bit of a ruckus on the playground.)

Fun Night weekend was exciting with a big Silent Auction brought to the Church Walkway for the whole parish to preview after Masses. This included the first St. Francis Wine Pull. It seems wine is popular with parishioners!

The Haunted Hallway walked away with the most scares and

squeals from children and adults alike. And in case you missed it, the Fun Night Kitchen had Crab Rangoon on the menu, which of course sold out. There's always next year!

Thank you to everyone who supported St. Francis School by volunteering or making a purchase or donation at this year's Fun Night. Net proceeds were over \$47,000. The parish is evaluating where best to spend that money. More to come on that!

– Angie Lubbers on behalf of
Fun Night Committee



Fun Night Committee members Stephanie Forbes (l) and Michelle Sanders (r), along with raffle coordinator Jamie Fouquet and event coordinator Angie Lubbers, surround WuShock during his visit to SFA to attend pizza parties with 2C and 6A, the top classrooms in raffle ticket sales.





Photos by Jamie Fouquet

SFA students who won prizes in the raffle ticket sales contest pose with their prizes.

Troop 762 lives out 'Scout is Reverent' law



Photo by Sandy Rongish

We walked into Mass, shirts tucked in, ready to participate in Holy Mass together, again, as a troop. We had camped the past two nights at Camp Kanza. We arose before dawn to arrive at Our Lady of Guadalupe in South Hutchinson before 8 am.

People always stop us and ask where we're from. They are happy to see these fine young men in uniforms living one of the Scout laws, "A Scout is Reverent."

This time, as has happened

so often, the priest stopped us and asked where we are from. Someone answered, "Troop 762, St. Francis, in Wichita."

The priest looked happy; he replied that he used to be a Scout with Troop 762! I can't tell you how often the parish priest will proudly recount his years of scouting, the joy and fun, and how it prepared him for life!

As I reflected upon this, it seems to me that scouting really prepares a boy for a life of service to others, to be stewards, and I am not surprised that

so many of our wonderful priests were once in Boy Scouts.

As I looked at our troop members standing with Father, big smiles on their faces, I couldn't help wondering if one of them might answer the call to priesthood one day. If your son is ever interested in learning more about scouting, please feel free to stop by a meeting any Monday at 7 p.m. in Stewardship Hall.

– Sandy Rongish

Parish introduces new logo, brand guide, mission

Together with our pastor and with input from parishioners, the SFA Communications Council has worked for the past several months to develop a new logo, brand guide and parish mission. With the introduction of logo merchandise (see p. 1), the time was right for these changes.

The new church logo is very similar to the school logo, which reflects the close relationship between the two. The new logo will be rolled out in 2019 as we update the many places it is used. The brand guide will be made available to assist the church office and various ministries with correct



logo usage and to ensure consistency in our communications.

Our parish mission is our long-term purpose, while our vision – adopted during the Faith Forward process – is based on our

five-year plan. Our value statement and core values – which we repurposed from our former mission statement – reveal our identity as SFA parishioners.

Mission | To be united in the Eucharist and formed as instruments of peace through the practice of stewardship in imitation of God's Triune love.

Vision | To invite people to

become disciples of Jesus Christ through proclamation of the Gospel and inclusion within the parish family.

Core Values | Worship • Fellowship • Education • Stewardship

Value Statement | We are called to nourish our love of God the Father through Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Centered in the Eucharist, we are developing a faith community through prayer, education, worship and Christian fellowship. As stewards of God's love, we strive to share our gift and talents for the service of God and all His people.

– Ann Walden, Communications Council member

CYM Nerf War



Photos by Molly Bogner

A thousand foam bullets and a few dozen tables scattered the SFA gym on Oct. 24, setting the perfect scene for an epic CYM nerf war. More than 60 high schoolers ducked and dodged as they fought to be the last man standing. The crossfire was fierce, and the competition was tense. Every model of nerf gun was present, but only the very best sharpshooters were victorious.



WYV

..... cym

WINTER

WONDERLAND

December 2018

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- 2 • COFFEE AND ROLLS • 9:30 AM - NOON • WALKWAY
 5 • THE MASS EXPLAINED • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 9 • BREAKFAST WITH SANTA • 9:30 AM - NOON • CANA HALL
 12 • CONFIRMATION PREPARATION • 6:30 - 8:00 PM • CANA HALL
 12 • GAME NIGHT • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 19 • HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 26 • NO CYM • MERRY CHRISTMAS

WYV

January 2019

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- 2 • NO CYM • HAPPY NEW YEAR
 6 • COFFEE AND ROLLS • 9:30 AM- NOON • WALKWAY
 9 • CONFIRMATION PREPARATION • 6:30 - 8:00 PM • CANA HALL
 9 • HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 15-20 • MARCH FOR LIFE
 16 • PRO-LIFE ROSARY • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 23 • CONFIRMATION PREPARATION • 6:30 - 8:00 PM • CANA HALL
 23 • OPEN GYM • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 30 • BREAKOUT SESSIONS • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM

WYV

February 2019

❄️

- 6 • PIZZA PARTY AND GAMES • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 10 • COFFEE AND ROLLS • 9:30 AM- NOON • WALKWAY
 13 • THE MASS EXPLAINED • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 16-18 • TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC) RETREAT • SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER
 20 • HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM
 24 • COFFEE AND ROLLS • 9:30 AM- NOON • WALKWAY
 27 • FR. LABENZ • 8:00 - 9:30 PM • CYM ROOM



Photo by Molly Bogner

BAPTISMS

- Joseph Gregory**, son of Keith and Kristal Lang, Oct. 6
Miles Mason, son of Mason and Abigail Felter, Oct. 7
Tallulah Noel, daughter of James and Aubrey Balman, Oct. 7
Nora Claire, daughter of David and Lisa Thach, Oct. 13
Briar Jane, daughter of Michael and Teresa Petersen, Oct. 14
Ezekiel Francis, daughter of **Michael and Monica Borger**, Oct. 14
Boden Alexander, son of Daniel and Christina Douglas, Oct. 20

FUNERALS

- Donald Miller**, husband of Mary, father of Blake and Brian Miller, and Jackie House, Oct. 5
Nancy Schmidt, wife of Irvin, mother of David and Lori Schmidt, Oct. 8
Patricia Peeler, wife of Robert, mother of Tom, Tim and Craig Rhodes, and Rhonda Giauque, Oct. 9
Donald Smith, husband of Patricia, and father of Emily, Elizabeth, Katherine, Daniel and William Smith, Oct. 23
Helen DiFalco, sister of Virginia Sachs, Carole Kellogg and Nancy McPhail, Oct. 27

NEW PARISHIONERS

- Donald and Carol Steiner**
Leonardo and Jenny Zapata, 1 child



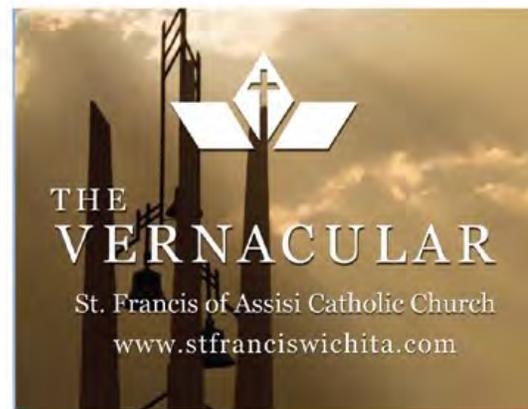
ST. FRANCIS
OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH



*“He sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God”
Luke 9:2*

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Fun Night Wrap-up
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