

# Sooner Catholic

[soonercatholic.org](http://soonercatholic.org)

December 17, 2023

[archokc.org](http://archokc.org)

*Go Make Disciples*





Put Out Into the Deep

Luke 5:4

# Christmas, communion and the Church

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the marvelous events that surround his nativity. We are drawn into the amazing mystery that the second person of the most holy trinity united human nature to himself and was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are drawn into the mystery that in Jesus Christ, God has become human. This is the mystery of the incarnation.

God always has been present in the world. He is present through his creation. All things come to be and exist only through his creative word. He has revealed his presence through the unfolding of salvation history. He is present in the promises and covenants he made to the patriarchs as well as through the law and the prophets. In the mystery of the incarnation, however, God has transformed his way of being present to his people.

In the incarnation God is no longer only present to his people but he is present with his people. As the prophet Isaiah foretold, “he shall be called Emmanuel,” which means God is with us.

Through the incarnation God is with us in a new way. It is not new in the sense that he has not been with us before, but new in the sense that what he had planned from all eternity now was revealed and made manifest. He always had been with us through his power. But now he draws us into intimate communion with himself as he takes on our humanity.

This communion with us did not end when Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the father. The incarnation, God’s presence with his people, has been extended through time and space in the mystery of the Church. The Church is the mystical body of Christ and in this mystery, God remains present with us. Communion with God is maintained in and through his Church.

During this moment in the life of the Church, the whole Church has embarked upon a process called the synod on synodality, which I have written about in recent months. This synod is an invitation from the Holy Father not only to bishops but to all the faithful, from every state of life, to walk together in commu-

nion with God and one another. In a certain sense, he is calling us to live more authentically the communion of the incarnation that is extended in the life of the Church as the mystical body of Christ.

More than merely some task or program or goal to achieve, the synod is an exercise in ecclesial communion: to draw near together, to draw near to the Lord, and to listen in prayer.

We as the Church in the United States also have been engaged in a simultaneous three-year journey of eucharistic revival. The eucharist is at the heart of the communion of the Church, and so the synod on synodality and the eucharistic revival are providential-

ly occurring side by side and influencing one another.

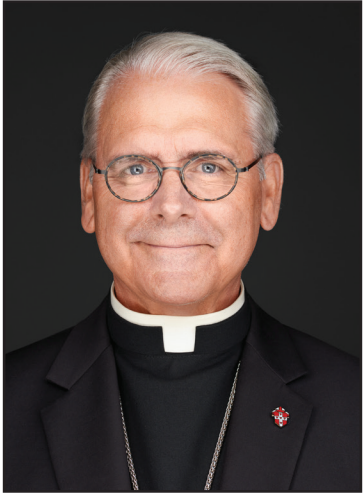
The eucharist is in one sense the seed of the Church’s communion and in another its mature fruit. The eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the eucharist. Our incarnate ecclesial communion is most profoundly expressed and celebrated in the eucharistic

sacrifice, that is, in the Mass.

It is the source and summit of our being Christian together, of living together in faith with Christ. The eucharistic revival must include a revival of our sense of communion, that is, a renewed appreciation and love for the Church, for belonging to the body, and for our duty to care for one another.

An aspect of the mystery, which we celebrate at Christmas, is unfolding for us today in the synod and the eucharistic revival. The communion of the incarnation is experienced today in the communion of the holy eucharist and in the communion of the mystical body of Christ.

It is my prayer in these final days of preparation for Christmas that we would turn our attention toward the communion God has brought us through his son, and that we may recommit ourselves to living this communion each and every day.



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

## Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

Additional coverage of Church and archdiocesan news and events, only on soonercatholic.org.

✓ **Front page photo:** “The Light of the World” (La Lumière du Monde). François Boucher, 1750.

✓ **To send photos,** event information or story ideas, e-mail [communications@archokc.org](mailto:communications@archokc.org).

✓ **For members of** the military, homeless people and animals, the unemployed, the sick and everyone who cannot be with their family at Christmas. May they find the heart and giving spirit of Christ in everyone they meet. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

✓ **Become a seminarian** pen-pal. Seminarians are away from home for months at a time during their formation. While at seminary, they would like to hear from people back home in Oklahoma! To become a Seminarian Pen Pal, go online to [archokc.org/penpal](http://archokc.org/penpal) to find their addresses and write a note.



@archokc



Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

God of love,  
Father of all,  
the darkness that  
covered the earth has given  
way to the bright dawn of  
your word made flesh.  
Make us a people of this light.  
Make us faithful to your word,  
that we may bring your life to  
the waiting world.  
Grant this through  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

O come, Emmanuel! Christmas and the devotion to the Infant Jesus

By Jad Ziolkowska  
The Sooner Catholic

The birth of God as an infant in the poor manger of Bethlehem is the greatest expression of humility. He came to the world in the silence of the night and in simplicity, to bring peace, joy, love and salvation to the fallen mankind.

Although Christ is celebrated as an infant in a special way during Christmas, the devotion to the Child Jesus has extended beyond the Christmas season.

Many saints held a deep devotion to the Divine Child, especially Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (also known as Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face), Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Faustina Kowalska.

Among many practices of venerating the infancy of Christ is the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague. The original statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague is preserved in Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, in the Carmelite church of Our Lady of Victory.

The Infant holds a globe in his left hand with a cross on it, signifying his kingship over the world, while his right hand is lifted in blessing.

An old legend says that the statue was crafted by a pious friar who received a vision of the Infant, although the exact year when the statue was created is not precisely known. The statue is said to have originally belonged to Saint Teresa of Avila, a Spanish Carmelite nun and a doctor of the Church, who offered it as a wedding gift to the royal family of Marie Manrique de Lara y Mendoza (1538-1608), a Spanish noblewoman. After marrying Vratislav Pernstyn, a Czech nobleman, Maria brought the statue from Spain to the Czech Republic in 1555.

In 1587, the statue was inherited as a wedding gift by her daughter Polyxena Lobkovicz, who then donated it in 1629 to the Carmelite Monastery in Prague and the adjoining Church of Our Lady of Victories. The statue of the Infant has been venerated since then for its miraculous healing powers.

During the 30-year War, the Carmelites fled the monastery, while the statue was forgotten in a storage area behind the altar. It was discovered with hands broken off by a priest, Father Cyril. The tradition says that he heard the Infant speak to him, “Have pity on me and I will have pity on you. Give me my hands, and I will give you peace. The more you honor me, the more I will bless you.” These words became the key prayer of the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague.

The devotion has since spread around the world, especially in Spanish-speaking countries. Thanks to missionaries and European immigrants, the devotion reached India, China, the Philippines, South and North America, including Oklahoma, where the National Shrine to the Infant Jesus of Prague was formally established in 1949 in the town of Prague.

It has served thousands of pilgrims as a place of worship, silence, meditation and spiritual discovery of Christ and his teachings.

Jacquelyn Dudasko from Saint Teresa Catholic Church in Okemah has been a frequent visitor to the shrine on her work commutes. She explained the strength and power flowing from the devotion to the Infant Jesus in her life of faith.

“The Infant Jesus of Prague is a beautiful reminder of the humility of Christ coming to us as a child and calling us through his humble life to child-like love, a love that knows no bounds,” Dudasko said. “We can approach the Infant Jesus having no fears, just trust and faith.”

Miceala Tinaco from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Redemptorist) Church in Kansas City, Mo., has been cultivating a devotion to the Infant Jesus and making pilgrimage to the shrine for many years, to ask the Infant Jesus for his help and blessings.

“Christmas is the culmination of our celebrations of Christ as an infant. During this time, we always ask the Infant Jesus to bless and protect our family so that we can gather next year and celebrate Christmas all together again,” Tinaco said.

She also shared the importance of the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague in her hospital ministry. Passing on holy cards with the Infant Jesus to hospitalized patients, she places them right in front of their eyes.

“I want them to see the Infant Jesus first thing when they wake up after surgery or recovery from their sickness,” Tinaco said.

Maria Dolores from Saint James the Greater Church Catholic in Oklahoma City has been visiting the shrine with her family for more than five years to attend Mass almost every Sunday.

“My husband Elias received a grace of conversion from the Infant Jesus during consecration at Mass in 2018. After that we got married here also. There was no other place we could imagine getting married but at the feet of the Infant Jesus,” Dolores said.

She described the relevance and meaning of this devotion in her family life, “We always feel peace and presence of God here. The devotion to the Infant Jesus strengthens our faith and we experience his love in our family and daily life,” Dolores said.

Jad Ziolkowska is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Photo Jad Ziolkowska/Sooner Catholic





**Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley**  
Archbishop of Oklahoma City  
Publisher

**Avery Holt**  
Interim Editor

**Dana Attocknie**  
Managing Editor

Volume 45, Number 24

Sooner Catholic Newspaper  
7501 Northwest Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132  
(405) 721-1810  
**E-mail:** communications@archokc.org  
**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 32180  
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

**Visit us online at**  
**soonercatholic.org**

**Visit the archdiocesan website**  
**at archokc.org**

**The Sooner Catholic**  
(USPS 066-910) is published  
biweekly except for once in  
January and July by the  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

The newspaper is not responsible  
for unsolicited material.  
Copyright © 2023 Sooner Catholic

Subscription rate: \$35 per year  
for all who are not members of the  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.  
Periodical postage paid at  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

POSTMASTER: Send address  
changes to the Sooner Catholic,  
P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City,  
OK 73123.



The Sooner Catholic  
is supported through the  
Annual Catholic Appeal and Sooner  
Catholic Communications Appeal.



## From the Archives ...

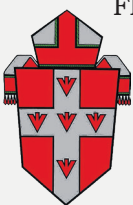
A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

A self-proclaimed “army brat,” Daniel Fletcher always spoke of himself as an almost native Oklahoman as his family moved to Fort Reno when he was 5. He then grew up in El Reno and stated that Monsignor Peter Paul Schaeffer, his pastor, was his inspiration to explore the priesthood.

After a stint at Kenrick Seminary in Saint Louis, he was ordained at the seminary by Cardinal Glennon on June 14, 1917. He was assigned to Holy Family in Tulsa (later the Cathedral) under the tutelage of Monsignor Heiring, himself a Tulsa legend. Receiving his first pastorate in 1919, Union City became his home for the next two years, eventually landing in Sand Springs as the pastor of Saint Patrick Catholic Church for seven years. Saint Francis Catholic Church in Tulsa was next for another seven years.

His next station would define his priesthood as he was named pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church in Tulsa in 1935. This beautiful art deco masterpiece (and Bishop Kelley’s favorite church) would be his home for the next 25 years. While serving this parish, he would celebrate two silver anniversaries, one for his ordination and another for his time as a pastor.

As Tulsa grew, it became apparent that more parishes needed to be carved out of Christ the King Catholic Church. Father Fletcher was instrumental in establishing Ma-



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ARCHIVES



TV host Ed Sullivan, Bishop McGuinness and Monsignor Fletcher, circa 1950.

east and Church of Saint Mary to Brookside. His friendship with the rabbi and community of Temple Israel led to the purchase of their building, which became Marquette Hall and later Fletcher Hall in his honor. This edifice became the parish hall for social occasions and meetings. He also remodeled and installed air-conditioning in both the church and rectory.

For his untiring and unrelenting ministry, he was honored as a domestic prelate, the rank of Monsignor, by Pope Pius XII in 1942. Monsignor Fletcher was elevated to the highest rank of Monsignor in 1949, prothontary apostolic. Relatively few priests in the United States held this title, and it carried with it the honor of being allowed to celebrate a pontifical high Mass,

a privilege usually reserved for the bishop. He availed himself of this right only twice after being so honored.

The good Monsignor was, in short, the consummate servant. Bishop Kelley once stated succinctly: “He is a good shepherd.” He was a trusted voice to three bishops and a font of wisdom. On his 25th anniversary as the pastor at Christ the King Catholic Church, it was recounted that he baptized more than 700 children and witnessed nearly 500 weddings.

Due to declining health, the beloved priest retired at age 70 and died two years later in 1964. The requiem Mass was celebrated at his cherished Christ the King Catholic Church by his friend and bishop, Victor Reed.

# Southwest Liturgical Conference coming to Oklahoma City

The 62nd annual study week of the Southwest Liturgical Conference will be held from Jan. 24-27, both virtually and in-person in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City locations include the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northeast Expressway, and Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, 7336 W. Britton Rd. The 2024 theme is “Eucharist: Forming and Transforming.”

The conference includes five major presentations: Timothy O’Malley, Ph.D., will present “Eucharistic Worship for the Life of the World” at the Catholic Pastoral Center, John Norris, Ph.D., will present “The Church Fathers and Augustine: A Dynamic Understanding of the Eucharist’s Power to Transform Us into the Body of Christ,” Most Rev.

Anthony Taylor, Diocese of Little Rock, will present “Blessed Stanley Rother’s Life and the Eucharist” at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma City, Ximena DeBroeck, Ph.D., will present “The Gift Exchange When We Receive the

Eucharist: Why Liturgical Sacrifice Matters” and the Most Rev. Michael Boulette, Archdiocese of San Antonio, will present “Living our Thanksgiving: Liturgy and Justice.”

Father Stephen Bird, director

altar servers to make a positive difference.”

Early bird registration ends on Jan. 7, and regular registration ends on Jan. 27.

For more information or to register, visit swlc.org.

of the Secretariat for Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, is looking forward to hosting the conference in Oklahoma.

“We will offer you excellent general sessions, helpful workshops, and prayerful liturgies. So, you don’t want to miss coming to Oklahoma City for next year’s study week. We very much hope to see you,” Father Bird said.

Father Zachary Boazman, associate director of the Secretariat for Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, will also present: “Forming



**2024**  
**In Person & Virtual**  
**Study Week**  
**JAN 24-27**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
**Eucharist**  
**Forming & Transforming**





# A special year-end opportunity

As 2023 winds to a close, be aware of an opportunity to help children attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City – and, as a donor, receive a tremendous tax benefit.

The Tax Credit Scholarship program is helping 568 children attend archdiocesan schools this school year. They received opportunity scholarships provided via \$2 million given to the program during 2022 by married couples,

individuals and businesses.

The goal this year is to reach or exceed \$2 million and help even more children.

Donors who make a two-year pledge to the program receive a 75% state income tax credit for the gift. Note: This isn't a deduction, it's a credit, a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income tax liability.

The maximum credit is \$2,000 per year for couples and \$1,000 per year for individuals. Meantime, most legal business entities

(S-corps, C-corps, LLCs, general partnerships, etc.) can get a credit up to \$100,000 per year. If the business operates as a pass-through, the tax credit on the gift can pass through to the owner's personal tax liability.

During 2022, \$1.2 million of the \$2 million raised came from businesses; the owners received \$900,000 back in tax credits.

For people who pay state income taxes and want to support Catholic education, the Tax Credit Scholarship program is



**Owen Canfield**  
Director,  
Tax Credit  
Scholarship  
program

the ticket. The program is a way to redirect tax dollars to benefit students. It's a winner for kids, their families, donors and parishes.

To claim the credit on their state tax returns in the spring, donors must make the first-year gift by Dec. 31 of this year. It's not too late. Go to [tcsok.org](http://tcsok.org) or contact Owen Canfield at [ocanfield@tcsok.org](mailto:ocanfield@tcsok.org) or (405) 709-2700.

Owen Canfield is director of the Tax Credit Scholarship program.

## Direct Your Taxes to Scholarships for Kids

- A gift to the Tax Credit Scholarship program helps pay Catholic school tuition for children whose families might otherwise not be able to afford it.
- With a two-year pledge, couples get a 75% state income tax credit up to \$2,000 each year. Individual filers get up to \$1,000 each year.
- Qualified businesses can receive a much larger tax credit.



Make your two-year pledge before the end of the year.  
Visit: [www.tcsok.org](http://www.tcsok.org) or call Owen Canfield at (405) 709-2700.




Make a gift.  
Receive a tax credit.  
Change a child's life.



**Danube River Cruise**  
Including Munich, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest  
plus an optional extension to Krakow  
with Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio  
Fr. Tim Nolt, Fr. Casey Jones, Fr. Rick Stansberry,  
Fr. Bry Shields, and Deacon Pete Markwald

**11 Day Cruise and Land**  
October 20-30, 2024  
Krakow Extension  
October 30-November 3, 2024

For More Information Contact:  
Select International Tours  
800-842-4842 [jane@select-intl.com](mailto:jane@select-intl.com)  
[selectinternationaltours.com](http://selectinternationaltours.com)

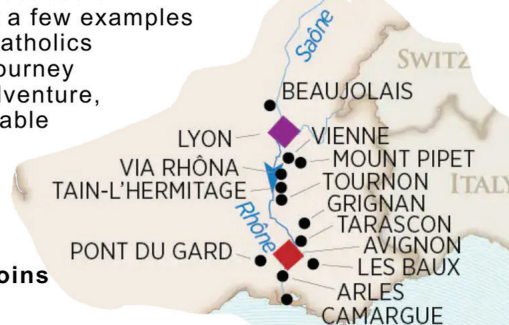


## FR. GOINS RIVER CRUISE PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 24, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

I invite you to join me on a pilgrimage to discover the rich Catholic history and tradition of France. Our 7-night cruise will cover charming cities that hug the Rhone River. One of the most ancient towns in Europe, Vienne, is known for its famous Roman remains. Among the many works left by Romans is a theater where live performances still take place. Avignon is often called the "Second Capital" of the Catholic Church because in the period of 1309-77, Popes took up residence there instead of Rome because of political conditions. These are just a few examples of the well-worn paths of faithful Catholics who walked before our time. Our journey will also allow plenty of time for adventure, exploration, and relaxation that enable travelers to enter even more deeply into the spirit of pilgrimage...

Father Jim Goins



QUESTIONS? CONTACT AMANDA ACHORD  
405-257-0450 [Amanda@aa-travel.fun](mailto:Amanda@aa-travel.fun)



# Ponca City parishioners bring cheer to local families

By Everett Brazil, III  
The Sooner Catholic

A table was covered with Thanksgiving food items inside the McGurk Room at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City. Much of it nonperishable, canned fruit and vegetables, but also stuffing, bread and rolls – a meal ready for a family to take home for the holiday.

Members of the Blessed Stanley Rother Committee organized those items into boxes spread across two neighboring tables, food that would soon be picked up by needy families across the Ponca City community, just one way the church gives back to those in need during the holidays.

Committee members Clea Privett and Linda Brandt, along with volunteer Jodie Schutte, filled the boxes that morning. The parish has been putting the food together for about 20 years.

The process begins several weeks in advance, starting with identifying families who could benefit from those boxes.

"We gather names of people who might need help with a nice meal and other items," Privett said. "We take items every Thanksgiving to assist people in need with utilities, rent, prescriptions, and gas vouchers."

Families themselves can approach the church.

"Some people call the church office for assistance, and some of them are people who have come in for the last several months for assistance," Privett said.

Students at Saint Mary Catho-

lic School also step in to help.

"The school kids collect the food, and then we get either a ham or a turkey to put with the box, and a nice pie, which will make a nice Thanksgiving meal," Privett said.

Only a handful of boxes are made each year, as it gives them an opportunity to make the boxes that much more meaningful for the families.

"We try to keep it around 12. This year, we are doing 11. It just depends on the demand year-to-year," Privett said. "They are notified when to come, and they come and pick it up."

Saint Mary Catholic Church also helps families for Christmas, although in a different way, through a food drive all parishioners can participate in, which includes toiletries and Christmas gifts for the children.

The food and gift drive are facilitated by the Family Life Committee.

Located at the back of the church are two Christmas trees decorated with colorful ornaments. Those aren't typical glass ornaments, however, but requests from the community for food and gift needs. Parishioners can pull the ornament requests from the tree and leave the donations in the back pews of the church.

Known as the Trees of Love, they seek to help the most vulnerable families in the Ponca City community.

While the Thanksgiving boxes only serve about a dozen families, the Tree of Love program serves many more.

"We serve families in the com-

munity in need. The most families we ever served were 40, with food and gifts for the children," Isela Aguilar said. "The gifts are sorted by students at the school and gift-wrapped by parishioners."

The food drive started more than 50 years ago, and similarly to the Thanksgiving meal, it was originally intended for a Christmas meal.

"It started out being a dinner for the families, but then the parishioners kept bringing in groceries, and it turned into two – three weeks (of food) in the box," said Vonda Blando, who has been active with the committee for about 15 years.

The families also come from across the community, those who need a little help during Christmas.

"Some of them come here; some of them are recommended by people from the church, school," Aguilar said. "We do it for the community, all of Ponca City."

Aguilar related that they had more than 30 families identified just after Thanksgiving.

The idea of the Thanksgiving and Christmas drives is a way for the church to reach out into the community, meeting them where they are and helping them in one of the most difficult times of the year.

"This is about giving back and helping the community, helping those less fortunate," Blando said.

Brandt added that "There is a definite need to help people at Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Everett Brazil III is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Christmas Trees of Love are covered in ornaments with the needs of community members at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City. The church has reached out to the community during Christmas for about 50 years. Photo Everett Brazil II/Sooner Catholic.

**OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC RETREAT CENTER**  
**IGNATIUS 3-DAY SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT**

January 11-14, 2024  
\$476 includes:

- 3 nights lodging
- 8 homecooked meals
- Daily Spiritual Direction
- Mass & Reconciliation
- Preregistration Required

Encounter Christ through  
Silence, Solitude, Stillness

**Our Lady of Grace**  
Catholic Retreat Center  
4919 S Fairgrounds, Stillwater, OK

Retreat Center overlooking lake with private bedrooms, fireplace in library, and Chapel.

405.747.5035 [Judene@OurLadyofGraceCatholicRetreatCenter.com](mailto:Judene@OurLadyofGraceCatholicRetreatCenter.com)

**COME OUT OF HIBERNATION** **DONATE BLOOD & SAVE LIVES THIS WINTER!**

**Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, January 16 • 1 - 4 p.m.**  
Catholic Pastoral Center at 7501 NW Expressway, OKC

To make an appointment,  
call 877-340-8777 or visit [obi.org](http://obi.org).

Donors will receive this glow-in-the-dark bear T-shirt!

**Our Blood Institute**

Photo ID required. \*While supplies last.





Archbishop Coakley hosted Advent Lessons and Carols, an evening of choral music, scripture and reflection on Dec. 3 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. *Photos Avery Holt.*



**FEELING ANXIOUS OR SAD?  
HI, I'M HOPE. HOW CAN I HELP?**

Hope is a **FREE** chat service providing encouragement and strategies on how to manage everyday stress and anxiety using Chatbot technology.

Text "Hi" to Hope at 1-202-949-7249 to get instant support or visit <https://www.facebook.com/HopeCCUSA>  
Start Code: CCAOKC

- Hope is confidential, private, and available 24/7.
- Proven, faith-based, emotional and mental support service.
- Hope offers proven technology to offer custom mental health help when and where you need it. She is used by over 13 million users world wide.

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, please contact the  
**Suicide Hotline • 800-273-8255**



Questions? E-mail [counseling@ccaokc.org](mailto:counseling@ccaokc.org)

**988**

**SUICIDE  
& CRISIS  
LIFELINE**



**FOSTERING HOPE**

Meet Jane. Jane has a developmental disability but is high functioning, so most, including her family, thought that she was okay to live on her own once she became an adult. Jane has the mind of a 13 year old and the biggest, loving heart for others. Because of this, living on her own exposed her to horrific experiences, harsh treatments and unimaginable horrors including robbery, sex trafficking, mental abuse, and more. People continued to take from her, leaving her exploited for years.

Her life's trajectory changed drastically when her family stepped in and found the Center of Family Love. For the first time, they felt confident that Jane was in a safe place where she was not only understood but also cherished. The Center was not just a refuge from the harsh realities Jane had faced in the past but a beacon of hope for her future. It was a transformational shift for the family, a change that replaced their heart-wrenching worry with the comforting assurance that Jane was finally safe, loved, and flourishing in her own right.

Jane's narrative is just one among many. At the Center of Family Love, stories of hope, resilience, and transformation are being written every day. Jane's story serves as a reminder that no matter the hardships one faces, love and acceptance can pave the path towards a fulfilling life.

Supporting the Center of Family Love means becoming an integral part of stories like Jane's. It's an opportunity to help create an environment where individuals with intellectual disabilities can thrive and live fulfilling lives. By donating, you're not just contributing financially; **you're fostering hope, facilitating transformation, and challenging societal norms.** You're giving individuals like Jane the chance to live a life they never thought possible.

**JANE**  
*Name changed to protect innocence*



**" I CAN'T IMAGINE JANE'S LIFE WITHOUT CFL. I CRY TEARS OF JOY KNOWING SHE NOW HAS A FUTURE FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES. "**

-FAMILY MEMBER OF CFL RESIDENT, JANE

**Scan the QR code to support!**



Ever Ancient, Ever New  
*A series on Saints with a special devotion to the Eucharist*

# St. John Vianney

By **Jad Ziolkowska**  
*The Sooner Catholic*

Saint John Vianney (also called the Curé of Ars) is venerated as the patron saint of parish priests.

He is most known for his dedication to the Sacrament of Confession and spending daily up to 18 hours in the confessional, with nearly 20,000 pilgrims a year desiring to receive absolution from this holy priest.

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney was born in 1786 in Dardilly, France, to a devout Catholic family of farmers.

During the French Revolution, and the anticlerical regime of that time, he was prepared for his First Holy Communion in a private home by two nuns and received the sacrament at the age of 13 in a neighbor's kitchen. He witnessed many loyal priests living in hiding, risking their lives to administer the holy sacraments. Vianney admired them as heroes fighting for Christ.

He was ordained as a priest in 1815, and was sent three years later to the small town of Ars with 230 residents.

Father Manelli, O.F.M. Conv., S.T.D., described the priestly life of Saint John Vianney in Ars, in his book "Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love." Upon his arrival to Ars,

someone said to the young priest with bitterness, "Here there is nothing to do." The saint replied, "Therefore, there is everything to do," and he immediately began his pastoral work. He dedicated all his efforts to provide spiritual care to the faithful, visited the poor, restored the church, organized patronal feast days and founded a shelter home for girls.

Saint John Vianney was known for rising at 2 a.m. and praying at the altar in the dark

church, reciting the Divine Office and preparing himself for Holy Mass. After the Eucharist, he made thanksgiving prayers, and remained in prayer until noon, always kneeling on the floor without any support, with a Rosary in his hand and his eyes fixed on the tabernacle.

He was keeping vigils, spending many hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament and fasting to assist the reparation of sins of the faithful he confessed.

Emphasizing the value and spiritual merits of the Eucharist, he used to preach, "All the good works in the world are not equal to the

drop of water in the ocean. They can no more be separated."

Because of his deep devotion to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, he encouraged and drew many faithful to Christ. He understood that the loving relationship with God requires reciprocity, "When we go before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open his. We shall go to him; He will come to us; the one to ask, the other to receive. It will be like a breath from one to the other."

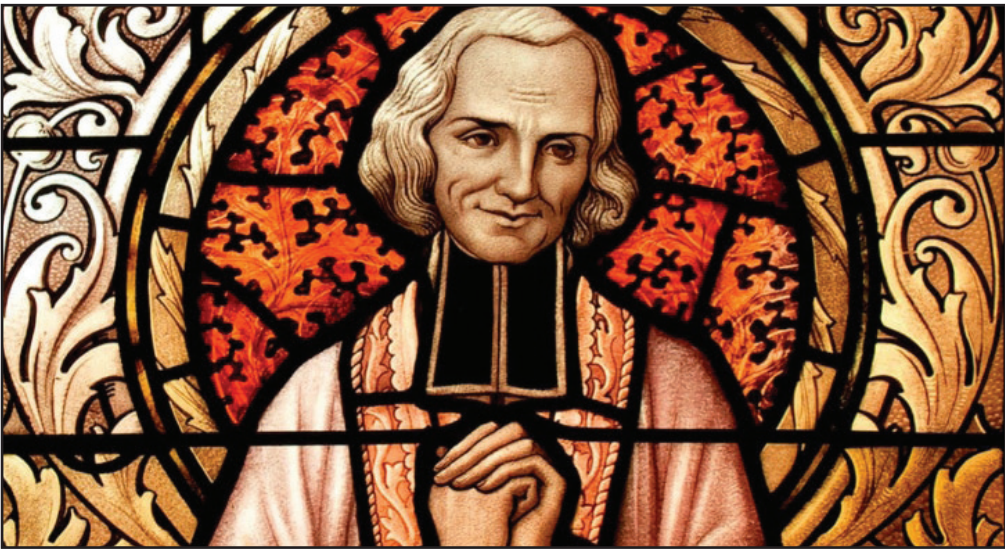
His teachings always highlighted the simplicity of heart in prayer, "When we speak to Jesus with simplicity and with all our heart, He does like a mother who holds her child's head with her hands and covers it with kisses and caresses." John Vianney died in 1859 at the age of 73. He was beatified in 1905 by Pope Saint Pius X and canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI who also proclaimed him the "heavenly patron of all parish priests throughout the world."

Saint Vianney's advice about adoration is universal and timeless for all Catholics, "When you awake in the night, transport yourself

quickly in spirit before the Tabernacle, saying: 'Behold, my God, I come to adore you, to praise, thank, and love you, and to keep you company with all the Angels.'"

Information compiled from the Real Presence Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association, the Vatican News and the Catholic Encyclopedia.

*Jad Ziolkowska is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.*



*St. John Vianney*

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison, for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man."

Speaking about spiritual blessings of the Holy Communion, he used to say, "Without the Holy Eucharist there would be no happiness in this world; life would be insupportable. He who communicates loses himself in God like a





Parishioners from the new San Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio Catholic Church, a mission of St. Peter Catholic Church in Woodward, celebrate Mass weekly in a parishioner's garage. Fr. Cristobal DeLoera recently purchased a church building to renovate using funds from the Annual Catholic Appeal. *Photos Avery Holt.*



# Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Parishioners from Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine held a cavalcade (procession) on Dec. 9 at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine to honor St. Juan Diego on his feast day. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

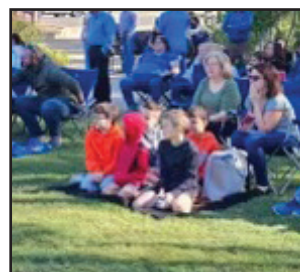


Parishioners from Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine held an apparition play and an Our Lady of Guadalupe festival on Dec. 10 at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*





Parishioners from Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine held morning prayers/Mañanitas and a Rosary on Dec. 12 at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine. *Photos Avery Holt/Sooner Catholic.*



Parishioners at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore commemorated the 125th anniversary of the church with an outdoor Mass and a festival on Oct. 8 at Central Park in Ardmore. *Photos provided.*



Mrs. Ania Romo's Spanish classes presented their annual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on the feast day, Dec. 12, at All Saints Catholic School in Norman. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, holds great significance as she is credited with bringing blessings and miracles to people around the world after her apparition to St. Juan Diego in 1531. *Photos provided.*



Students, staff and faculty at St. Joseph Catholic School in Enid held a school Advent prayer on Dec. 4. *Photos provided.*

## Rare Italian art exhibition opens at Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

NORMAN, Okla. – A new exhibition introducing the vibrant art history of Arezzo, Italy, is open at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma, marking the first time these Renaissance paintings, jewelry, textiles and illuminated books have ever been exhibited outside Italy.

Organized by the museum and guest curated by art historian Nicoletta Baldini, Treasures of Tuscany: Renaissance in Arezzo is the first international exhibition devoted entirely to the Artinian Renaissance, featuring artworks drawn from more than 20 Italian institutions and private collections.

"This is the first time any of the artworks have ever left Italy," said Thomas Smith, Wylo-dean and Bill Saxon, director at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. "These objects will only be on view at the Fred

Jones Jr. Museum of Art before returning to their homes in monasteries, museums and private collections in Tuscany."

Between 1470 and 1530, Renaissance artists in Arezzo – one of Norman's sister cities and home to the OU in Arezzo study abroad program – created magnificent paintings, textiles and liturgical objects for the Catholic Church and wealthy patrons. However, Arezzo's artistic contributions have long been overlooked, overshadowed by those of nearby Florence.

"The exhibition not only highlights paintings created by Arezzo's greatest Renaissance artists, but it also includes manuscripts, early printed books, textiles, reliquaries and precious objects intended for worship that were created in the same period," Baldini said. "Together, these works illustrate the richness of

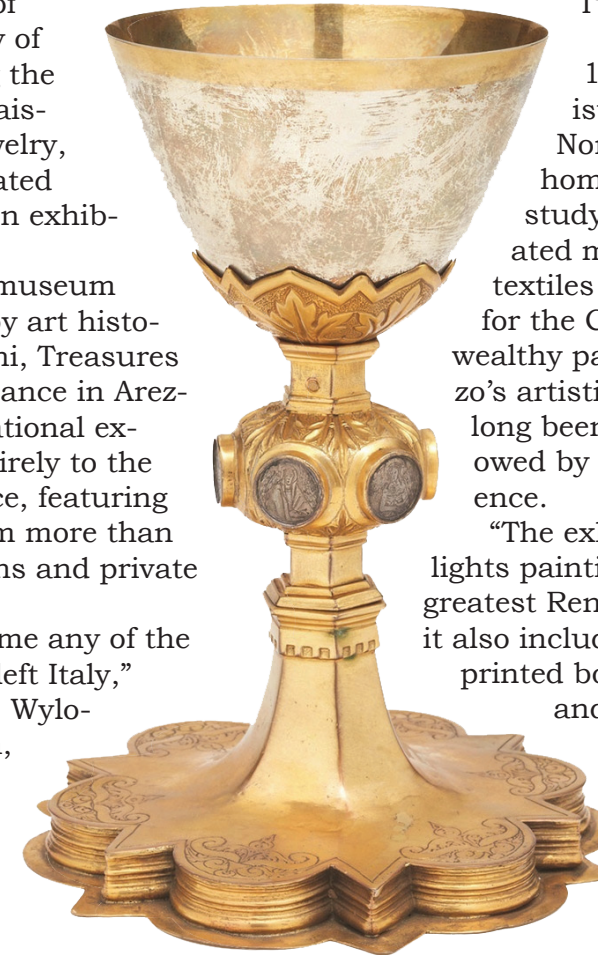
Arezzo's artistic heritage."

Treasures of Tuscany opens with views of 15th-century Arezzo followed by notable examples of paintings and goldsmithing completed for area churches. The powerful Medici family is present through reproductions of Eleonora di Toledo's jewels and clothing (Eleonora, the first wife of Cosimo I de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, was a patron of artists and the Boboli Gardens that overlook Florence). The exhibit concludes with contemporary jewelry and textiles from the province of Arezzo, which remains a producer of gold and textiles today.

Treasures of Tuscany is generously supported by a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

The exhibit will be on display through Jan. 28.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors. Information and accessibility accommodations are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting [ou.edu/fjima](http://ou.edu/fjima).



### THE OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC NATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT



[oknativeschoolsproject.org](http://oknativeschoolsproject.org)  
[info@oknativeschoolsproject.org](mailto:info@oknativeschoolsproject.org)

#### OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC NATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

**TIME:** Schedule an interview between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**DATES:** Thursday, Jan. 4; Friday, Jan. 5; Saturday, Jan. 6

**PLACE:** Hominy Friends Meeting House, 510 Friends Road (Indian Village), Hominy, OK 74035

To schedule an interview, call (405) 721-1810 or e-mail [info@oknativeschoolsproject.org](mailto:info@oknativeschoolsproject.org). Learn more at [archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject](http://archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject).

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and St. Gregory's Abbey launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project to better understand the history and experiences of Native American students in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965.

As part of the project, an independent oral history interviewer will be conducting interviews with Native American students (or their descendants) who attended an Oklahoma Catholic boarding school. The interviews are by appointment only.

JULY 17-21, 2024  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress  
Revival in the Air

# Will YOU be there?



## You Don't Want to Miss This Moment

We know what happens when two or more are gathered in the Lord's name—but what happens with 80,000?! Join us in Indianapolis as we ask him to revive our love of the Eucharist, breathing his life into our dry bones. Then, we will be sent back to our communities to invite others to know Jesus. Our nation and our world will never be the same.

VISIT [ARCHOKC.ORG/NEC2024](http://ARCHOKC.ORG/NEC2024)



# Jobs Box

**Coordinator of marriage and family enrichment – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a coordinator of marriage and family enrichment to serve in a ministerial role as a resource for the pastoral care and ongoing formation of marriage, family and parenting. Provide opportunities for healing by meeting the needs and addressing difficulties that arise in marriage and family life. Responsible for fostering an environment for missionary discipleship to flourish in the home and creating initiatives to strengthen marriages, facilitate deeper conversions and foster greater family connections. Demonstrate excellence in imparting human formation (relational dynamics and communication). This is a part-time position, requiring one-two days per week in the office. A bachelor's degree in marriage and family ministry, theology, psychology, or related field plus a minimum of three-five years of ministry experience, and experience in ministering to marriages and families as well as a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church is required. Send cover letter and resume to [humanresources@archokc.org](mailto:humanresources@archokc.org).

**Coordinator of marital discipleship – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a coordinator of marital discipleship to serve in a pastoral role as a resource for fostering and cultivating missionary discipleship within marriage and family life. Responsible for developing and maintaining programs that contribute to the cultivation of missionary discipleship (retreats, workshops and community building events), that encourage and foster parish-based initiatives which center around marital discipleship, for both English speaking and Spanish speaking communities. Role involves recruiting, gathering, forming, and collaborating with parish and regional leaders involved in discipleship efforts. This is a part-time position, requiring one-two days per week in the office. A bachelor's degree in marriage and family ministry, theology, psychology, or related field plus a minimum of three-five years of ministry experience, and experience in ministering to marriages and families as well as a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church is required. Ability to communicate in English and Spanish strongly preferred. Send cover letter and resume to [humanresources@archokc.org](mailto:humanresources@archokc.org).

**Cook/Cocinero – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an experienced cook to assist with meal preparation at the Catholic Pastoral Center. This position will allow a flexible work schedule that will include some evenings and most weekends. A minimum of two years' experience in food prepara-

tion and catering service preferred. Customer service experience a plus. High school diploma a must. A background check and safe environment training will be required. Send cover letter and resume to [humanresources@archokc.org](mailto:humanresources@archokc.org).

**Office manager – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an office manager who will provide executive level administrative support to the Secretariat for Clergy and Consecrated Life. This position is self-directed, operates under minimal supervision and independently manages the daily aspects of the office, including budget, annual events and seminarian application processes, as well as meetings and appointments for the vicar for priests, vocations director and director of the permanent diaconate. Seasonal and recurring work requirements include organizing and coordinating annual clergy events. The office manager will also provide support to clergy, seminarians, prospective seminarians, deacon candidates, parishes and archdiocesan offices. Assist with website design and maintenance, social media, and practical application of technology, strong planning and organizational skills. At least three years of office experience, including experience in event planning, as well as demonstrate proficiency with computers and Microsoft Office programs. Send cover letter and resume to [humanresources@archokc.org](mailto:humanresources@archokc.org).

**Administrative support – OKC**

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an administrative support person to provide administrative and clerical support for the offices of youth, young adult and campus ministry and the Bl. Stanley Rother Institute. Responsibilities will include maintaining the calendar of events for Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, including updating and confirming registration status; working directly with accounts payable files and ensuring proper and timely invoicing and payments and coordinating and distributing marketing and communication needs. Must have at least three years of office experience and demonstrate proficiency with computers and Microsoft Office programs. Send cover letter and resume to [humanresources@archokc.org](mailto:humanresources@archokc.org).

**Maintenance assistant – Shrine**

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is seeking a part-time maintenance assistant (less than 20 hours per week). Flexible schedule with some weekends required. The successful candidate will work primarily in the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine facilities, including the church, Pilgrim Center and associated grounds. Work performed will include general maintenance, cleaning and grounds keeping, including daily on-site review of the buildings and

grounds. Must have knowledge of occupational hazards and safety precautions involved in general building and maintenance work. At least three years of commercial facility maintenance, construction or similar experience required. Send cover letter and resume to [humanresources@archokc.org](mailto:humanresources@archokc.org).

**Chief financial officer – OKC**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a chief financial officer (CFO) to direct and oversee financial activities, work closely with the executive director, board of directors, finance committee, and auditors to provide financial assistance and analysis and reporting of all financials. Degree in accounting, business accounting, or finance required; Certified Public Accountant designation preferred; five-plus years' experience in fund and functional accounting required; experience in a Non-profit environment preferred; knowledge of Blackbaud Financial Management Software desirable. Send cover letter and resume to Dcn. Dave Ashton at [dashton@ccaokc.org](mailto:dashton@ccaokc.org).

**Financial grant compliance officer – OKC**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a financial grant compliance officer to manage grants administration operations, grantee contract requirements and performance; draft grant and other contracts; maintain grant records; monitor and report on grant strategy budgets; and ensure compliance with organizational and federal/state rules and regulations. Must have a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, economics, or other suitable field of study required; three plus years' experience in accounting, financial reporting, accounts payable, payroll, accounts receivable; experience with grant administration preferred; non-profit experience preferred; excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting methods. Proficient in Microsoft Office and other computer applications, such as Excel. Send cover letter and resume to Dcn. Dave Ashton at [dashton@ccaokc.org](mailto:dashton@ccaokc.org).

**Receptionist – Mustang**

Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mustang is seeking a part-time receptionist to support the parish offices and staff members. The qualified candidate will need to be bilingual (Spanish and English) and have a working knowledge of a multi-line phone system and Microsoft Office. Contact Dcn. Paul Lewis, director of administration, at (405) 376-9435 or [plewis@holyspiritmustang.org](mailto:plewis@holyspiritmustang.org).

**Science teacher – Edmond**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School in Edmond is seeking a middle school science teacher and/or long-term substitute.

Send resume to Principal Nicole De Longe at [ndelonge@seasok.org](mailto:ndelonge@seasok.org).

**Business manager – Weatherford**

St. Eugene Catholic Church in Weatherford is seeking a part-time business manager to work mostly on-site one or two days per week, with the pastor, secretary and bookkeeper. (This job would not replace the secretary or bookkeeper.) Must have experience specifically in the Catholic parish context. Responsibilities would include but not be limited to: Forming a precise parish budget; navigating parish financial reporting to the archdiocese and other institutions; directing best practice for tracking and presenting financial information to the parish; coordinate payments and payment schedules to vendors/contractors etc.; assist with fundraising efforts; advise in other areas of parish office operations. Pay determined by experience/availability. Contact Fr. Kelly Edwards at [kelly.edwards@archokc.org](mailto:kelly.edwards@archokc.org).

**Musician/music coordinator – Hinton**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hinton is seeking a musician/music coordinator to choose liturgically/seasonally appropriate music; guide the choir; and coordinate rehearsal times outside of Mass. Mass is at 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning. \$30/Mass. Ability to play piano or guitar greatly preferred. Contact Fr. Kelly Edwards at [kelly.edwards@archokc.org](mailto:kelly.edwards@archokc.org).

**Residential support specialist – OKC**

Willow Pregnancy Support is seeking an evening and/or weekend residential support specialist to assure the well-being and safety of residents ensuring compliance with the rules and regulations and home functions with minimum interruptions and in optimum condition. This is an overnight position with staff accommodations. High School Diploma; must pass OSBI background check; valid driver's license with good driving record for insurability and must agree to random drug testing. Send cover letter and resume to Melissa Clark at [mclark@willowpregnancy.org](mailto:mclark@willowpregnancy.org).

**Music director – Del City**

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Del City is seeking a choir director/pianist position for three weekend Masses, funerals and Holy Days. Working knowledge of the Catholic Mass and "Breaking Bread" collection is helpful. Must enjoy working with small, diverse groups of singers (one group per Mass), select music for each Mass and have a vision for Easter and Christmas celebrations. Salary negotiable. Call the parish office in the morning at (405) 677 4873 or e-mail [stpaulch@coxinet.net](mailto:stpaulch@coxinet.net).

To see more job openings, go online to [archokc.org/jobs-box](http://archokc.org/jobs-box).

*The Catholic Difference*

# German Catholicism: on the brink or at the cutting edge?

On Nov. 10, a "Synodal Committee" created by the recently completed German "Synodal Way" met for the first time. The committee's mandate is to prepare the foundations for a "Synodal Council" of laity, clergy, and bishops to govern the Catholic Church in Germany from 2026 on. The idea of such a "Synodal Council" has already been rejected by the Holy See. And in a recent letter to four German laywomen who had resigned from the "Synodal Way" to protest deviations from settled Catholic truths and practices, Pope Francis reiterated that the "Synodal Council" cannot be reconciled "with the sacramental structure of the Catholic Church."

The Pope also said this about the current state of Catholic affairs in Germany:

"Instead of seeking 'salvation' in ever new committees and discussing the same topics with a certain self-absorption in my "Letter to the People of God in Germany" I wanted to recall the need for prayer, penance, and adoration, and invite people to open up and go out to meet 'our brothers and sisters, especially those who are abandoned on the steps of our churches, on the streets, in prisons and hospitals, squares and cities.' I am convinced that this is where the Lord will show us the way."

About which, perhaps a few things may be observed:

Doesn't "seeking 'salvation' in ever new committees and discussing the same topics with a certain self-absorption" describe precisely what Synod-2023 did for four agonizingly long weeks two months ago — and what the preparatory local, national and continental "phases" of the Synod on Synodality were doing, at a great cost in time and money, for the past two years?

Why is "salvation" in quotation marks in the Pope's letter? Is it because he's referring to "saving" the institution of the German Church, which is hemorrhaging congregants (and thus losing revenue, because fewer self-identified Catholic congregants means the institution gets less of a cut of the German Church tax)? Given the German context, that suggests why "salvation" was put in quotation marks. But it might also be noted that the theme of salvation in its full biblical and theological sense — and the corollary notion of the Lord Jesus as the unique and sole savior of humanity — was not explored in any great depth during Synod-2023, or during the German "Synodal Path."

Which leads to a third point: The Pope suggests that institutional German Catholicism will save itself by opening itself up to the poor, displaced, and marginalized in society. The German Church already does that, however, maintaining

(with the help of the Church tax) a considerable network of social service agencies and programs. If meeting the marginalized were the answer to contemporary German Catholicism's religious ennui and evangelical anemia, the German Church would have become a powerful engine of the New Evangelization decades ago.

But it didn't, and it isn't. The reason why has little or nothing to do with a failure to meet the marginalized, and everything to do with that loss of faith in Jesus as Lord, and in the Church as his sacramental Body in the world, that turns local Churches into non-governmental organizations doing good works. Meeting the Lord Jesus in Word and Sacrament is (to borrow from the Pope's letter) "what will show us the way."

It was interesting that, at Synod-2023, the "hot-button" issues beloved of the German Synodal Way were, in the main, not pressed by Germans, but by others. The president of the German bishops' conference, Bishop Georg Bätzing, oozed "gemütlichkeit" throughout, a smile constantly on his face. Perhaps this deliberately low profile reflected a recognition by the German bishops' leadership that it would be inadvisable to inflame things in Rome, given their fractious situation at home. But another reading of those tea leaves is possible.



**George Weigel**  
*Ethics and Public Policy Center*

As suggested in this space before, some of those in charge of the "Synod on Synodality" may have regarded the German "Synodal Path" as a useful instrument in clearing the path for a dramatic reconfiguration of Catholic self-understanding and governance, moving the goalposts so far to the left that the old 50-yard line of the Catholic Vital Center would now be the old left end zone. Those of that cast of mind may not have wanted the Germans to get so far out front as to give the whole game away before Synod-2024 meets next October; so the German stalking horse was advised to trot, not gallop.

Which might suggest that German Catholicism is not regarded in certain Roman circles as being "on the brink" so much as "at the cutting edge."

*George Weigel's column 'The Catholic Difference' is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.*



# ASK THE FATHERS

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Christ the King Catholic Church



Fr. Wolf



Fr. Irwin



Fr. Stansberry



Fr. Goins

Join us for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and faith! This event will be an open Q&A with a panel of 4 priests answering faith-related questions from the crowd.

Hosted by Adam Minihan and David Niles of the Catholic Man Show



### Purchase tickets & sponsorships at [www.OKCR.org](http://www.OKCR.org)



## Lánzate a lo más Profundo

Luke 5:4

# La Navidad, la comunión y la Iglesia

En la Navidad celebramos el Nacimiento de Jesús y los maravillosos acontecimientos que rodean su Natividad. Nos adentramos en el sorprendente misterio de que la segunda Persona de la Santísima Trinidad asumió la naturaleza humana y nació de la Santísima Virgen María. Nos sumergimos en el Misterio de la Encarnación: Dios se hizo hombre en Jesucristo.

Dios ha estado presente en el mundo siempre y sigue presente a través de su Creación. Todas las cosas son y existen gracias a su Palabra creadora. Ha revelado su Presencia a través de todo el desarrollo de la Historia de la Salvación. Está presente en las promesas y alianzas que hizo con los patriarcas, así como a través de la Ley y los profetas. Sin embargo, en el Misterio de la Encarnación, Dios transformó su manera de hacerse presente ante su pueblo.

En la Encarnación, Dios ya no sólo está presente para su pueblo sino con su pueblo. Tal como lo predijo el profeta Isaías: "Le pondrán el nombre de Emmanuel, que quiere decir Dios con nosotros".

Mediante la Encarnación, Dios está con nosotros de una manera nueva. No es nueva en el sentido de que no haya estado con nosotros antes, sino nueva en el sentido de que lo que había planeado desde toda la eternidad, es ahora revelado y hecho manifiesto. Siempre ha estado con nosotros a través de su poder, pero ahora nos lleva a una comunión más íntima consigo mismo al asumir nuestra humanidad.

Esta comunión con nosotros no terminó cuando Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos y ascendió a la diestra del Padre. La Encarnación, la presencia de Dios con su pueblo,

se ha prolongado en tiempo y en espacio en el misterio de la Iglesia. La Iglesia es el Cuerpo Místico de Cristo y, en este misterio, Dios permanece presente con nosotros. La comunión con Dios se mantiene en y a través de su Iglesia.

En este momento de la vida de la Iglesia, la totalidad de la Iglesia se ha embarcado en un proceso llamado el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad, sobre el cual escribí hace unos meses. Este Sínodo es una invitación del Santo Padre no sólo para los obispos, sino para todos los fieles, de cualquier estado de vida, para caminar juntos en comunión con Dios y los unos con los otros. En cierto sentido, nos está llamando a vivir más auténticamente la comunión de la Encarnación que se prolonga en

"En estos últimos días de preparación para la Navidad, rezo para que centremos nuestra atención en la comunión que Dios nos ofrece a través de su Hijo, y para que nos comprometamos siempre a vivir esta comunión todos los días".

la vida de la Iglesia como Cuerpo Místico de Cristo.

Más que una simple función, un programa o un objetivo por cumplir, el sínodo es un ejercicio de comunión eclesial: Para unirnos entre nosotros, acercarnos juntos al Señor y escucharlo en la oración.

Nosotros, como Iglesia en los Estados Unidos, también estamos comprometidos en un proceso simultáneo de tres años llamado Avivamiento Eucarístico. La Eucaristía está en el corazón de la comunión de la Iglesia, por lo

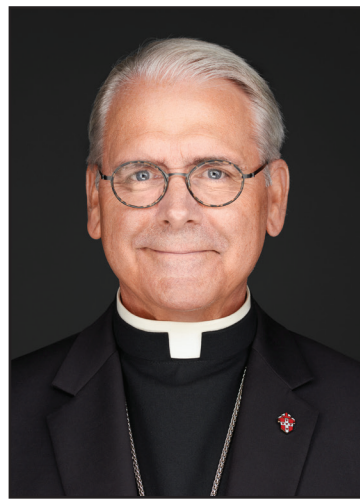
que el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad y el Avivamiento Eucarístico se desarrollan providencialmente de forma paralela y se influyen mutuamente.

La Eucaristía es, por una parte, la semilla de la comunión de la Iglesia y, por otra, su fruto en pleno. Esto significa que la Eucaristía hace a la Iglesia y la Iglesia hace la Eucaristía. Nuestra comunión eclesial encarnada se expresa y se celebra más profundamente en el Sacrificio Eucarístico, es decir, en la Misa.

Es la fuente y cumbre de nuestra vida cristiana en común, de nuestra vida juntos en la fe en Cristo. El Avivamiento Eucarístico debe incluir un reavivamiento de nuestro sentido de comunión, es decir, un aprecio y amor renovados por la Iglesia, por pertenecer al Cuerpo y por nuestro deber de cuidarnos los unos a los otros.

Un aspecto del misterio que celebramos en la Navidad, se revela hoy para nosotros en el Sínodo y en el Avivamiento Eucarístico. La comunión de la Encarnación se vive hoy en la comunión de la Sagrada Eucaristía y en la comunión del Cuerpo Místico de Cristo.

En estos últimos días de preparación para la Navidad, rezo para que centremos nuestra atención en la comunión que Dios nos ofrece a través de su Hijo y para que nos comprometamos siempre a vivir esta comunión todos los días.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

En diciembre 2, El Movimiento de la Renovación Carismática Católica celebró su convivio navideño anual en la iglesia de Holy Spirit Católica en Mustang. *Fotos proveídas.*



El movimiento de Talleres de Oración y Vida celebraron su Misa de envío 2 de diciembre en la Iglesia de San Eugenio Católica, recibieron y enviaron a tres nuevas guías para el movimiento. Misa celebrada por El Padre Rodrigo Serna en compañía de Diacono Adolfo Alemán. *Fotos proveídas.*



¿TE SIENTES ANSIOSO O TRISTE?  
HOLA, SOY HOPE. ¿CÓMO PUEDO  
AYUDAR?

Hope es un servicio de chat GRATUITO con el propósito de brindar ánimo y estrategias para saber cómo manejar el estrés y la ansiedad que vivimos diariamente, utilizando la tecnología Chatbot.

Envíe un mensaje de texto con "Hola" a Hope al 1-202-949-7249 para obtener apoyo instantáneo o visite <https://facebook.com/HopeCCUSA>  
Código de inicio: CCAOKC

- Hope es confidencial, privado y está disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana.
- Servicio comprobado en emoción y apoyo mental, y basado en fe.
- Hope ofrece tecnología comprobada para ofrecer ayuda personalizada para la salud mental cuando y donde la necesite. Es utilizada por 13 millones de usuarios en todo el mundo.

Si tiene pensamientos suicidas, comuníquese con la  
Línea Directa de Suicidio – 800-273-8255

**CARIDADES CATÓLICAS**  
Arquidiócesis de la ciudad de Oklahoma  
Brindando Ayuda · Creando Esperanza · Sirviendo a todos

**Catholic  
Charities  
USA.**  
Working to Reduce Poverty in America

¿Preguntas?  
E-mail [counseling@ccaokc.org](mailto:counseling@ccaokc.org)

REPORTAR ABUSO O  
COMPORTAMIENTO  
INAPROPIADO  
CON UN MENOR  
INMEDIATAMENTE



Póngase en contacto con las  
autoridades locales y el  
Departamento de  
Servicios Humanos:

**(800) 522-3511**

Coordinadora  
Arquidiocesana de  
asistencia a víctimas:

**(405) 720-9878**

Todos los adultos de Oklahoma tienen  
la obligación de informar; es obligatorio  
informar incluso de la sospecha de  
maltrato; la denuncia debe hacerse  
inmediatamente; si un niño está en  
peligro inmediato, llame al 9-1-1.



# Briefs

### Serra Club meeting

The December Serra Club of Oklahoma City meeting is 11 a.m. Dec. 19 at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, 1232 N. Classen Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Celebrate Mass in the St. Teresa of Calcutta chapel, a light lunch and guest speaker Sr. Kay Powers, former superintendent of Catholic schools, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Visit [serraokc.org](http://serraokc.org).

### Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Catholic Pastoral Center conference center. To make an appointment, call (877) 340-8777 or visit [obi.org](http://obi.org).

### Southwest Liturgical Conference

The 62nd annual Study Week of the Southwest Liturgical Conference, “Eucharist: Forming and Transforming” will be held Jan. 24-27 virtually and in-person at the Catholic Pastoral Center and Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. The conference includes presentations from Timothy O’Malley, Ph.D., John Norris, Ph.D., Most Rev. Anthony Taylor, Ximena DeBroeck, Ph.D., and Most Rev. Michael Boulette. Register at [swlc.org](http://swlc.org).

### School bus route

Holy Trinity Catholic School in Okarche has a bus route with stops at the Catholic Pastoral Center and Colony Pointe on the Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Contact [jenkins@holytrinityok.org](mailto:jenkins@holytrinityok.org) or call (580) 471-8140.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Feb. 2-4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. For more information or to register, contact Bryan and Karen Berland at [bkberland@gmail.com](mailto:bkberland@gmail.com) or (405) 850-4274. Visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

### Magic at The Mount Gala

The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Magic at The Mount Gala is Feb. 10. For more information, visit [mountstmary.org](http://mountstmary.org).

### Green Tie Gala

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will host its annual Green Tie Gala at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63 St. in Oklahoma City. The special emcees are Fr. William Novak, V.G. and Fr. Alex Kroll. The gala supports the Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers. Visit [greentiegala.org](http://greentiegala.org).

### Married couples retreat

A Domestic Church married couples retreat is Feb. 23-25 in Norman. Contact [okc@domesticchurchfamilies.com](mailto:okc@domesticchurchfamilies.com). Register: [domesticchurchfamilies.com](http://domesticchurchfamilies.com).

### National Eucharistic Congress

Join Archbishop Coakley and other members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City at the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, Ind. Visit [archokc.org/nec2024](http://archokc.org/nec2024).

### Italy pilgrimage

Join Fr. James Wickersham for a pilgrimage Sept. 16-29 to the great Italian cities and sites of Rome, Monte Cassino, Sorrento, Pompeii, Amalfi Coast, Assisi (St. Francis), Gubbio, LaVerna, Siena, Florence, Padua (St. Anthony), and Venice. Trip is 14 days including travel. Visit [206tours.com/cms/frwickersham](http://206tours.com/cms/frwickersham) or call (800) 206-8687.

### Danube River Cruise

Join Fr. Rick Stansberry and Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio on a Danube River Cruise pilgrimage Oct. 20-30 that includes Munich, Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest, plus an optional extension to Krakow. Visit [selectinternationaltours.com](http://selectinternationaltours.com). Contact (800) 842-4842; [jane@select-intl.com](mailto:jane@select-intl.com).

### River cruise pilgrimage

Join Fr. Jim Goins on a seven-night cruise beginning Oct. 24. The cruise will cover cities that hug the Rhone River in France. Contact Amanda Achord at (405) 257-0450; [amanda@aa-travle.fun](mailto:amanda@aa-travle.fun).

### Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of Tulsa and St. Gregory’s Abbey launched the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project to better understand the history and experiences of Native students in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965. To contribute documents, photographs or an oral history, e-mail [info@oknativeschoolsproject.org](mailto:info@oknativeschoolsproject.org). Learn more at [archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject](http://archokc.org/oknativeschoolsproject).

### Read Archbishop Coakley’s latest pastoral letter

Archbishop Coakley’s new pastoral letter, “On the Unity of the Body and Soul: Accompanying Those Experiencing Gender Dysphoria,” is available for reading at [archokc.org/pastoral-letters](http://archokc.org/pastoral-letters).

### Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration takes place every Thursday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, from Noon to 3:50 p.m. in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway. The period of adoration will conclude with benediction.

### Shrine volunteers

The success of the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine greatly depends on volunteers who are willing to contribute their time. Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities. Visit [rothershrine.org/volunteer](http://rothershrine.org/volunteer).



## Are you listening?

By Sally Crowe Nash

In the past when I prepared for a long car ride, I brought a book to read. Now, I sync my phone to the car, download some podcasts and I check the Oklahoma Catholic Radio website for the current program schedule. Deacon Larry Sousa, Al Kresta and Bishop Baron, just to name a few. As I listen, I am prompted to be disposed to God and what he asks of me.

Previous generations, in their quest for knowledge, pondered world events, from natural disasters to world wars, and their meanings and effects on mankind.

The COVID-19 pandemic produced personal sorrow and some trials in my life that continue to this day. God’s grace has sustained and guided me to be grateful nevertheless. I credit that to what I have learned via Catholic radio programming. What seems hopeless in the eyes of men and women is not so to God. If you listen to programs like “The Journey Home” or “Make Straight the Way,” you will hear of example after example of the least likely individuals becoming God’s chosen messengers, today, not just thousands of years ago. That reality of God reaching out to the ordinary for extraordinary purposes is enough for me to discount despair.

The habit of praying without ceasing, which comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:16, developed for me over years of listening to Catholic radio. All through-

out the day, prayers like the Angelus, the Rosary and even Mass are broadcast on Catholic radio for listeners to experience together. This has guided me to other prayers and devotions such as the Divine Mercy chaplet.

A friend of mine introduced me to the Saint Andrew Novena, which began Nov. 30, Saint Andrew’s feast, and continues to Christmas Eve. I am limited here to explain its practice and history in detail, but I can tell you that this two-sentence prayer epitomizes God’s extravagant grace in the face of human obstacles. It proclaims what God’s almighty power and wisdom has bestowed on us despite all the forces and odds against it.

The gifts and consolation that come from prayer do not bestow earthly rewards to us, rather they soften our hearts and allow us to be receptive to grace that prepares us for the life to come. Praying the Saint Andrew novena is not going to make you the next PowerBall winner. God’s hope is for you to get to know him. You then fall in love because you realize his greatest desire for you is to become what he created you to be. Working toward that potential is hope in action.

Whatever God gives you, a robust faith that comes from using tools like Catholic radio will fortify you to face any of the myriad of trials in this life. Replace despondency or resignation to the temporal world with hope and acts of love. They display the boundless, life-affirming provision of God.



OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC RADIO

OKCR.ORG

LISTEN ONLINE

[okcr.org/listen](http://okcr.org/listen)

**OKLAHOMA CITY & TULSA**  
Oklahoma City - 97.3 FM  
Tulsa - 94.9 FM

**AROUND THE STATE**  
Broken Arrow - 102.9 FM  
Clinton - 98.3 FM  
Edmond - 100.9 FM  
Elk City - 100.7 FM

Lawton - 88.3 FM  
Ringwood - 104.9 FM  
Enid - 104.9 FM  
Shawnee - 107.1 FM  
Woodward - 93.3 FM

**SPANISH STATIONS**  
East OKC - 97.7 FM  
West OKC - 99.3 FM

# Calendar

This calendar only covers the two weeks between issue dates and may not reflect all of the calendar items. To see a full calendar, go to [sooneratholic.org](http://sooneratholic.org).

December			
17	Third Sunday of Advent.	29	Feast of St. Thomas Becket.
19	Serra Club of Oklahoma City meeting, 11a.m., Catholic Charities, 1232 N. Classen Blvd, Oklahoma City. Visit <a href="http://serraokc.org">serraokc.org</a> .	29	Fifth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.
21	Feast of St. Peter Canisius.	30	Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.
23	Feast of St. John of Kanty.	30	Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, <a href="mailto:potato.lang@gmail.com">potato.lang@gmail.com</a> .
23	Pray the Rosary for Life, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Church, 500 Alameda St., Norman. Contact Connie Lang, (405) 249-1041, <a href="mailto:potato.lang@gmail.com">potato.lang@gmail.com</a> .	31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
24	Fourth Sunday of Advent.	31	Feast of St. Sylvester I, Pope.
25	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas).	<b>January</b>	
25	Catholic Pastoral Center closed Dec. 25-Jan. 2.	1	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.
26	Feast of St. Stephen.	1	The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord.
27	Feast of St. John, Apostle and evangelist.	1	New Year’s Day.
28	Feast of the Holy Innocents.	2	Feast of Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen.
		3	Christmas weekday.
		3	The Most Holy Name of Jesus.
		4	Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
		5	Feast of John Neumann.



**Ranked the #1**  
**Knights of Columbus**  
**Agency in the Order in**  
**2015, 2017, 2018,**  
**2019 and 2020.**



**Kevin Pierce**  
*General Agent*  
**SKC**  
**FICF, FSCP, CLTC**  
Office: 877-707-0752  
Cell: 405-514-7660  
[kevin.pierce@kofc.org](mailto:kevin.pierce@kofc.org)



**Trey Welker**  
*Assistant General Agent*  
**MDRT, SKC**  
**FICF, FSCP, CLTC**  
405-850-4092  
[treywelker@kofc.org](mailto:treywelker@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1038, 1537, 2974, 3220, 3309, 12669



**Lance Dufour**  
**MDRT, SKC**  
**FIC**  
918-550-0886  
[lance.dufour@kofc.org](mailto:lance.dufour@kofc.org)  
Councils: 962, 1302, 3167, 4519, 4804, 7395, 8433, 18010, 11734, 14220, 14248, 14448, 15785, 17559



**Chad McAuliff**  
**MDRT, SKC**  
**CLU, ChFC, RICP, FSCP, FICF**  
918-284-0685  
[chad.mcauliff@kofc.org](mailto:chad.mcauliff@kofc.org)  
Councils: 7392, 4721, 6606, 11959, 9737, 6935



**Michael Dalby**  
**FICF**  
405-638-1274  
[michael.dalby@kofc.org](mailto:michael.dalby@kofc.org)  
Councils: 965, 1287, 2604, 4889, 5168, 8523, 9900, 11648, 11909, 12819, 12382, 16367



**Bobby Stevens**  
**MDRT**  
**FSCP, FICF**  
405-534-0397  
[bobby.stevens@kofc.org](mailto:bobby.stevens@kofc.org)  
Councils: 775, 1104, 1677, 9333, 9668, 10388, 11194, 11633, 13313, 14106, 15834, 17383



**Mike Maggio**  
**MDRT**  
**FICF, CLTC**  
405-697-8820  
[michael.maggio@kofc.org](mailto:michael.maggio@kofc.org)  
Councils: 916, 949, 1053, 1903, 3336, 4026, 4042, 5266, 5396, 9583, 11135, 11237, 16214



**Devon Soukup**  
**MDRT, SKC**  
**FICF, FSCP, CLTC**  
405-505-6030  
[devon.soukup@kofc.org](mailto:devon.soukup@kofc.org)  
Councils: 767, 5440, 6478, 8633, 12108



**Yo hablo español**  
**Max Yardley**  
**MDRT**  
**FICF, FSCP, CLTC**  
405-570-2179  
[max.yardley@kofc.org](mailto:max.yardley@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1018, 4598, 4601, 5354, 6477, 16048



**Jake Stone**  
**MDRT, SKC**  
**FIC**  
405-923-3048  
[jake.stone@kofc.org](mailto:jake.stone@kofc.org)  
Councils: 1044, 3101, 3113, 1533, 9334, 10822, 13366, 14744



**Yo hablo español**  
**Edgar Garcia**  
405-815-7017  
[edgar.garcia@kofc.org](mailto:edgar.garcia@kofc.org)  
Councils: 5160, 5759, 8204, 9901, 12518, 12605

**LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES**

Life insurance, annuities, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510 1-800-380-3995. © Knights of Columbus



**Knights of Columbus**  
Pierce Agency

**For over 140 years, Knights of Columbus has helped generations of Catholic families find financial stability and security.**





Students from Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King with a Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Del City followed by a Eucharistic Procession to their school on Dec. 1. People from St. Paul Catholic the Apostle Church joined in the procession, including a 90-year-old parishioner. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

