MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
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 descended from heaven to himself and was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are drawn into the mystery that Jesus Christ, God has become human. This is the mystery of the incarnation. God has always 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. We do not know in the same sense how he made it 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, “be 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 was revealed and made manifest. He always had been with us through his power. But now he draws us into union with himself as he takes us on his humanity.

This communion with us did not end when Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, but was given to the Church from the day of Pentecost. Through the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, the Church is given union with Jesus Christ.

In the mystery of the incarnation, God is present to his people. God has become human. This is the mystery of the person of the most holy Trinity united human nature and that what he had planned before, but new in the sense, he is calling us to intimate communion with himself as he takes on our human nature. The Church, the body of Christ and in this mystery, God remains in communion with us. Communion with God is maintained in and through his Church.

Through the incarnation, God becomes present to his people. Communion with God is maintained in and through his Church.

Archbishop Coakley’s Calendar

The following events are part of Archbishop Coakley’s official calendar.

Dec. 19 – St. Ann Retirement Center Board meeting, 8 a.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
Dec. 19 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Dec. 19 – Archdiocesan Finance Council meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Dec. 20 – Mass and lunch with residents, St. Ann Skilled Nursing Center
Dec. 21 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Dec. 21 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Dec. 21 – Archdiocesan Personnel Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Dec. 22 – Mass, 11:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
Dec. 22 – Archdiocesan Personnel Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Dec. 22 – Archdiocesan Personnel Board meeting, 2 p.m., CPC
Dec. 24 – Mass with Carmelite Sisters, 8 a.m., Piedmont
Dec. 24 – Midnight Mass, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
Dec. 29 – Seminarian Christmas party, 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, OKC
Jan. 4 – Senior Staff meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
Jan. 9 – Presidential Council meeting, 4 p.m., CPC
Jan. 11 – School Mass, 8:25 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Edmond
Jan. 11 – Archdiocesan Review Board meeting, 3 p.m., CPC
Jan. 11 – ACA Mass and Archbishop’s Circle event, 6 p.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond
Jan. 12 – Archdiocesan Catholic School Council, 8 a.m., St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edmond
Jan. 13 – Catholic Foundation Mass and dinner for current and former board members, 5 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OKC
Jan. 14 – Confirmation, 10:30 a.m., St. Matthew Catholic Church, Elk City

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

By Josh Zielinski

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 Therese of Lisieux (also known as Therese 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 Visitation. The infant holds a globe in his left hand with a cross on it, signifying his kingship over the world, while his right hand blesses those beholding him.

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 originated 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 Marguerite de Lara y Mendiburu (1538–1608), a Spanish noblewoman. After marrying Vincentian Priest, a Czech nobleman, Marie brought the statue from Spain to the Czech Republic in 1559.

In 1587, the statue was inherited as a wedding gift by her daughter Polyeanna Lobkovicz, who then donated it in 1629 to the Carmelite Monastery in Prague and the adjoining Church of Our Lady of Victory. 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 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. Jacyclyn Dudasko from Saint Teresa Church in Okemah has been a frequent visitor to the shrine on her work commute. She explained the strength and power flowing from the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague. She said, “Christmas is the culmination of our celebration of Christ’s birth.”

SoonerCatholic.org

The website features information and events, only on SoonerCatholic.org.

God of love, Father and Son, by the darkness that covered the earth bring us 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 beget this life to the waiting world. Grant through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sooner Catholic Staff

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


To send photos, event information or story ideas, email 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 every home we pray in the Lord, hear our prayer.

Become a seminarian pen-pal. Seminarians are away from home for months and that we may reconnect ourselves to living this communion each and every day.

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 recommence ourselves to living this communion each and every day.

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From the Archives …

A self-proclaimed “army brat,” Daniel Fletcher always spoke of himself as an almost native Oklahoman as his family moved to Fort Rens when he was 5. He then grew up in El Reno and stated that Monsignor Peter Paul Schaeffer, his pastor, was his inspiration to enter 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 Herring, himself a Tulsa legend. Receiving his first pastorate in 1919, Union City, became his home for the next two years, eventually leading 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 instrumen
tal in establishing Mauldin to the southeast and Church of Saint Mary in Broxside. His friendship with the Rabini and community of Temple Israel led to the purchase of their building, which became Maquette Hall and later Fletcher Hall in his honor. This edifice became the parish hall for social occasions and meetings. He also remedied 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, prothonotary 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.” Father Zachary Reed.

The Sooner Catholic (ISSN 056-9123) is published bimonthly except for once in January and July by the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material.

Subscription rate: $15 per year for all who are not members of the Catholic Communications Appeal.

Visit us online at soonerocatholic.org

Visit the archdiocesan website at archokc.org

The Sooner Catholic is supported through the Catholic Communications Appeal.

Volume 45, Number 24
Sooner Catholic Newspaper 7501 Northwest Expressway Oklahoma City, OK 73132 (405) 721-1810 E-mail: communications@archokc.org

Mail to: P.O. Box 32180 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

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

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 Northwest 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; Juan Neria, 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 Delfin-Neill, Ph.D., will present “The Gift Exchange When We Receive the Eucharist: Why Liturgical Sacrifice Matters” and the Most Rev. Michel Beaudette, Archdiocese of San Antonio, will present “Living our Thanksgiving: Liturgy and Justice.” Father Stephen Bird, director of the Secretariat for Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, is looking forward to hosting the conference in Oklahoma City. “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 Bouman, associate director of the Secretariat for Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, will also present: “Forming altar servers to make a positive difference.” Early bird registration ends on Jan. 7, and regular registration ends on Jan. 27.
A special year-end opportunity

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.

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 taxscholars.org or contact Owen Canfield at oceancliff@tcsok.org or (405) 709-2700.

Owen Canfield is director of the Tax Credit Scholarship program.

By Everett Brazil, III
The Sooner Catholic

Ponca City parishioners bring cheer to local families

A table was covered with Thanksgiving food items inside the McGruer Room at St. 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-Bolean Outreach 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 member Cleta Privett and Linda Brandt, along with volunteer Jodie Schuette, 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 Catholic School also step in to help.

“The school kids collect the food, and then we get either a ham or a turkey to put on a table, 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 as special as possible for the families.

“We try to keep it around 12. This year, we are doing 11. Just it 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 these community for food and gift needs. Parishioners can pick the ornaments requests from the tree and leave the dona- tions in the back 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 a dozen fam- ilies, the Tree of Love program serves many more. “We serve families in the com-

Community in need. The most fami-

lies we ever served were 40, with food and gifts for the children,” Isela Aguilar said. “Some participants are sort of students at the school and gift-wrapped by parishes.”

The food drive started more than 50 years ago, and similarly to the Thanksgiving meal, it was initially intended for a Christ- mas meal.

“It started out being a din- ner for the families, but then the parishes would bring in groceries, and it turned into two – three weeks’ worth of food,” said Vonda Ilandos, who has been active with the commit- tee for about 15 years. The families also come across the community, those who need a little help during Christ- mas. “Some of them come here; some of them are recommended by people from the church,” Aguilar said. “We do it for the community, all of Ponca City.”

Aguilar related that they had 14,000 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 those who are in need, helping them in their most difficult time of the year.”

“This is about giving back and helping the community, helping those less fortunate,” Brandt 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.

December 17, 2023

Sooner Catholic

Dear Friends in China,

I invite you to join me on a pilgrimage to discover the rich Catholic history and tradition of France. Our 7-day 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 I have personally given concerts. It is a true highlight of the Catholic Church because in the period of 1300-77, Pope Leo took up residence there instead of Rome because of political conditions. These are just a few examples of the well-preserved paths of faithful Catholics who wished before our time. Our journey will allow plenty of time for adventures, exploration, and relaxation that enable us to see more.

Deeply the Pope's

Father Jim Goins

QUESTIONs? Contact Amanda AchorD 405-357-0450 Amanda@aa-travel.com

FR. GOINS RIVER CRUISE PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 24, 2024

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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.

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 we matter the kindness one shows, love and acceptance can pave the path towards a fulfilling life.

In this world; life would be insupportable. He replied, “Therefore, there is everything to do,” but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man.”

The Sooner Catholic family of farmers.

Read more about St. John Vianney at https://www.soonercatholic.com.

St. John Vianney
The Sooner Catholic

December 17, 2023
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.
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.

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

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.

Parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Enid held a school Advent prayer on Dec. 4. Photos provided.

Sooner Catholic 12  December 17, 2023

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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 Artimino 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, Wyly-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 the 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 of 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/fjjma.

The 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 American students in Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1893 to 1995.

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.

To schedule an interview, call (405) 737-3056 or email oralhistory@okcatholicnativeproject.org. Learn more at archdiocese.socatholicnativeproject.org.

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 60,000? Join us in Indianapolis as we ask Him to renew our love of the Eucharist, breathing 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
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 and help facilitate marriages, family, and parenting education. Essential responsibilities include providing educational events and resources, mentoring couples, offering workshops, and providing ministry services. The candidate should have a theological education and experience in marriage and family enrichment. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

Office manager – OKC
An office manager for the Office of the Chancellor at the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an office manager. Essential responsibilities include providing administrative support to the Chancellor, preparing and maintaining records, and supervising and managing daily operations of the office. The candidate should have at least five years of experience in office administration. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

Chief financial officer – OKC
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a chief financial officer. Essential responsibilities include overseeing the day-to-day financial operations of the archdiocese, developing and maintaining budgets, and monitoring financial performance. The candidate should have at least ten years of experience in financial management, including experience in financial planning and analysis. Send cover letter and resume to humanresources@archokc.org.

Role involves recruiting, gathering, coordinating, and distributing marketing and communications materials, technology, strong planning and organizational skills, data analysis, and coordinating annual events. The role is part of the overall strategic plan to contribute to the cultivation of mission employees (retiree, work and community building), to encourage and foster participation of Catholic Constitutional right to recall the need for prayer, the People of God in Germany: I want to recall the need for prayer, adoration, and petition to 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, and in our homes. It is confirmed that this is where the Lord is waiting for this way. About which, perhaps a few things may be observed:

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

As suggested in this space before, some of those in charge of the “Synodal Path” may have been regarding the “Synodal Path” as a useful instrument to clear 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, and perhaps the “Synodal Path” will yet prove to be a stalling horse was advised to trot.

Which might suggest that German Catholicism is not regarded by certain Roman circles as being on the brink as much as “at the cutting edge.”

George Weigel’s “The Catholic Difference” is syndicated by the Catholic Policy Center, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.

The Catholic Difference

George Weigel
Dines and Public Policy Center

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

TO SEE MORE JOB OPENINGS, GO ONLINE TO ARCHOKC.ORG / JOBS-BOX.
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 Jesús Cristo. 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. Tal como lo predijo el profeta Isaías: “Le pondrán el nombre de Emmanuel, que quiere decir Dios con nosotros”. "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".

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”. "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".

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 el misterio de la Iglesia como Cuerpo Místico de Cristo. Más que una simple función, un programa o objetivo por cumplir, el sínodo es un ejercicio de cuidarnos los unos a los otros. Un aspecto del misterio que celebremos en la Navidad, se revela 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.

La vida de la Iglesia como Cuerpo Místico de Cristo es la fuente y cumbre de nuestra vida cristiana. Es la esencia de nuestra vida en la comunión de 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 noche y cumbre de nuestra vida cristiana, es común de nuestra vida juntos en la fe en Cristo. El Avivamiento Eucarístico debe incluir un renovado compromiso de cuidarnos los unos a los otros. Un aspecto del misterio que celebramos en la Navidad, se revela 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.

"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".

Mediante la Encarnación, Dios está con nosotros en un sentido de que no haya estado con nosotros antes, sino nuevo en el sentido de que lo que ha sido planeado desde toda la eternidad, es ahora revelado y hecho manifiesto. Siempre ha estado con nosotros a través de su poder, pero ahora nos llena con una comunión más íntima consigo mismo al asumir nuestra humanidad. Esta comunión con nuestros 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 el misterio de la Iglesia, por lo que el Sínodo sobre la Sinodalidad y el Avivamiento Eucarístico se desarrollan de forma paralela y se influyen mutuamente. La Eucaristía es, por una parte, la esencia 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. En 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 renovado compromiso de cuidarnos los unos a los otros. Un aspecto del misterio que celebramos en la Navidad, se revela 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".

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Services and Events

**Serra Club meeting**
Serra Club of Oklahoma City meeting is 11 a.m. on Feb. 19 at Catholic Charities in 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 Education, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Visit sercokc.org.

**Blood Drive**
A blood drive will be held 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Oklahoma City. To make an appointment call (877) 340-8777 or visit obi.org.

**Southwest Liturgical Conference**
The Southwest Liturgical Conference, “Eucharistic: 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 Delbrock, Ph.D., and More Rev. Michael Bocquet. Register at wlc.org.

**School bus route**
Okarche Catholic School in Okarche has a bus route with stops at the Catholic Pastoral Center and Colony Point on the Northwest Expressway in Okarcha.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Feb. 2-4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northeast Expressway in Oklahoma City. For more information or to register, contact Bryan and Karen Behl at lkbahrndr@gmail.com or (405) 850-4274. Visit www.wmeok.org.

**Magic at The Mount Galas**
The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Maestros at The Mount Gala is Feb. 10. For more information, visit 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 Dr. Alex Kroll. The gala supports the Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers. Visit greenzienga.org.

**Married couples retreat**

**National Eucharistic Congress**
The December Bishop Cookley and other members of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will celebrate the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, Ind. Visit archokc.org/nec2024.

**Italy pilgrimage**
Join Fr. James Wickersham for an all-inclusive pilgrimage to the great Italian cities and sites of Rome, Florence, Assisi, Capri, Venice, Pompeii, Amalfi Coast, Assisi (St. Francis), Guadalupe, LaVerna, Sierra, Florence and Venice, plus an optional extension to Krakow. Visit selectinternationalusa.com. Contact (908) 842-4842; janje@select-intl.com.

**River cruise pilgrimage**
Join Fr. Jim Greene on a seven-night cruise pilgrimage Oct. 30-31 that includes 10 cities that hug the Rhone River in France. Contact Mary Tarn herachard (905) 257-0450; amanda@aa-travel.usa.

**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 1960. To contribute documents, photographs or an oral history, e-mail info@okcatholicnativeproject.org. Leave name, contact information at okcatholicnativeproject.org.

Read Archbishop Cookley’s column

Eucharistic Adoration
Eucharistic Adoration takes place every Thursday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, from Noon to 12:45 p.m. at St. Francis of Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pas- toral Center, 7501 NE 63 St. in Oklahoma City. The special emcees are Fr. William Novak, V.G. and Dr. Alex Kroll. The gala supports the Sanctuary Women’s Development Centers. Visit greenzienga.org.

**Shrine volunteers**

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**Arkansas Blood Drive**
A blood drive will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 13 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Democratic Republic of the Congo. For more information, call (877) 340-8777 or visit archokc.org.

**Christmas wreath making**
The meeting is at Innocents’ conference in the Order in Oklahoma City. Contact Toni Harrelson (405) 341-2199, (405) 694-1291.

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**Feast of St. Thomas Becket**
Visit rothershrine.org/volunteer.

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**Feast of the Holy Innocents**
Visit rothershrine.org/volunteer.

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**November Birthdays**
For the month of November, visit rothershrine.org/volunteer.

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**MDRT, SKC**
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.
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.