

Pope Leo XIV: Jesus provides sustenance, not ready-made answers



Pope Leo XIV holds a child dressed as the pope from the popemobile as he rides around St. Peter's Square at the Vatican before his weekly general audience Oct. 15. *CNS photo/Vatican Media.*

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Power, possessions and rank do not satisfy the deep desire for real meaning in life, Pope Leo XIV said.

"It is only the resurrected Jesus who can give the true and lasting peace that sustains and fills us," the pope said in English Oct. 15 during his weekly general audience in Saint Peter's Square.

"We are not truly satisfied with achievements and

passing certainties of this world," he said, "because we are created in the image and likeness of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit we recognize an inexhaustible longing in our hearts for something more."

Greeting Polish-speaking visitors during the audience, the pope said he was joining them in asking for the intercession of Saint John Paul II, whose feast day was Oct. 22.

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Archbishop Coakley on ballot for next USCCB president/vice president

WASHINGTON -- When the U.S. bishops gather in November for their Fall Plenary Assembly, Nov. 10-13, they will elect the next president and vice president for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Archbishop Coakley, currently serving as conference secretary, is among 10 candidates on the ballot.

The president and vice president are elected from a slate of 10 who have been nominated by their fellow bishops.

They are as follows (in alphabetical order):

Bishop Robert E. Barron,
Diocese of Winona-Rochester
Archbishop Paul S. Coakley,
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
Bishop Daniel E. Flores,
Diocese of Brownsville
Archbishop Richard G. Henning,
Archdiocese of Boston
Bishop David J. Malloy,
Diocese of Rockford
Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez,
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades,
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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History, importance of All Souls Day

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

Speaking about his deceased friend Onesiphorus, Saint Paul in 2 Timothy 1:16-18, expresses gratitude for Onesiphorus's loyalty while imprisoned in Rome and prays that he will receive mercy from the Lord on the Day of Judgment. The prayer and the mention of his "household" imply that Onesiphorus was dead when Paul wrote the letter, leading to the conclusion Paul was praying for his dead friend.

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Fr. Christopher Hai Tran, pastor and rector of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus, celebrated an All Souls' Day Mass in 2024 at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery in Prague. *Photo provided.*



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Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B. celebrated the Mass of the Remembrance of the Unborn on Sept. 13 in the Abbey Church. The Mass is held in conjunction with the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Wreaths were blessed and placed at gravesites throughout the state by the Knights of Columbus. *Photos Sean Collins and Br. George Hubl.*



A message from the office of American Indian Catholic Outreach

November is Native American Heritage Month. It's a time to honor the sacrifices and contributions of American Indians to their country, their community and their faith.

It's also a time to remember how cultural awareness can help avoid stereotypes and bring honor and dignity to the many tribes, nations and clans around the world.

During this time of year, many of the Native American "costumes" sold for Halloween and Thanksgiving are not culturally accurate or appropriate.

The regalia worn by American Indians reflects the rich history, tradition and meaning of the clothing, and "costumes" should be avoided.

Resources to help families, schools and parishes appreciate the history of American Indians in Oklahoma and the Catholic Church can be found online at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian – americanindian.si.edu/nk360.



NATIVE AMERICAN MASS

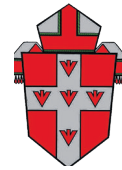
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Counting to 100 with St. Francis of Assisi

Oklahoma City parish celebrates centennial

By Courtney Southerland
The Sooner Catholic

Catholics started filling the pews long ago at what would become Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Oklahoma City.

And they haven't stopped, although the mode of transportation has certainly changed. According to the church website, "in 1906, before we were a parish, Catholics came by horseback and covered wagon for Sunday Mass at the Bishop's chapel."

On Oct. 4, the Feast Day for the parish, Saint Francis of Assisi celebrated 100 years with parishioners gathering for a centennial Mass and Oktoberfest celebration that included inflatables, live music and dancers and food. Several parishioners wore t-shirts to mark the church's special occasion.

The beginning of the church started before Oklahoma was a state. It was in 1925 that Bishop Francis Kelley established the parish, which is the present-day parish hall. The first two pastors at the church were Jesuits, focusing notably on education, charity, humanitarian acts and global policies. Father Van den Hende became pastor in 1927 and established the parish school on 15th street and Youngs Blvd. By 1935, the current pastor, Father Van der Griten, renamed the parish school to Rosary School, after the Dominican sisters who attended Rosary College in River Forest Illinois.

The present church, the Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi was built as soon as the war ended. The finished church was dedicated May 22, 1947, by Bishop Eugene McGuinness, and the original date for the dedication was scheduled for Oct. 4, 1946.

Charles L. Monnot was the architect for the colonial style church. The church was completed with Pink Tennessee marble, white Italian marble statues, Bedford blocks and Saint Meinrad sandstone lent solidarity to the structure topped with a red tile roof. The stained-glass windows depicted the scenes in the life of Saint Francis.

Over the years, the school and church have seen many updates; with the most recent improvements being the parish hall renovation, a Family Life Center, church addition, additional school classrooms/playgrounds, parking and landscaping. Throughout the years, the ba-



Archbishop Coakley celebrated the centennial Mass for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Oct. 4 in Oklahoma City. *Photo Chris Porter.*

sic structure of the church has remained the same.

Archbishop Coakley celebrated the centennial Mass, tracing the parish's humble beginnings forward during his homily.

"We're celebrating 100 years of parish life," he said, "it started with small beginnings that were strengthened by the Lord and strengthened by the faith of people like Bishop Meer-schaert, Bishop Kelley and the sisters who came to support the school that was established. These small beginnings have ultimately led us here today. Saint Francis of Assisi has grown to be a flourishing, strong, model parish in our archdiocese."

He also noted that "all God asks of us is to be faithful."

During the centennial Mass celebration, parishioner Cecilia Mandewo shared her thoughts on the day and its significance.

"It's a blessing to attend a church named after Saint Francis of Assisi, because of his heart toward animals and nature," Mandewo said.

"He is not only a saint known for preaching to animals, but he also had a heart for those who were unseen and on the margins of society.

"Having Saint Francis of Assisi as our patron saint also gives us the opportunity to embody those characteristics."

Now, 100 years later, the church continues to grow and serve the community. The current priest, Father John Paul Lewis, said he wants to see more unity, and that his hope for the future is that parishioners would continue to grow and continue to think about the needs that are not met, and how we as a parish can continue to serve others.

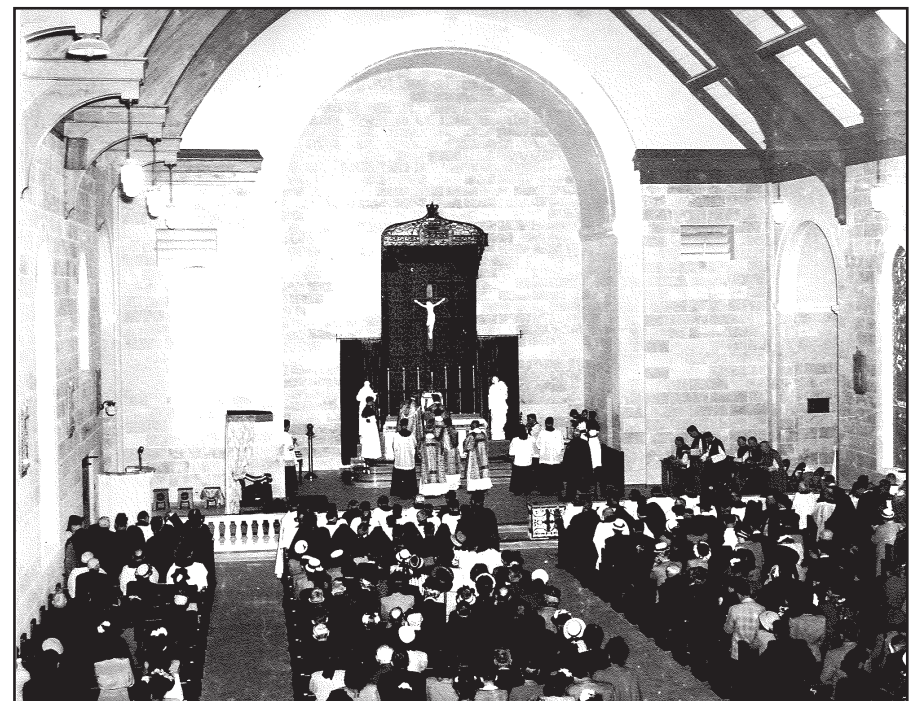
Father Lewis said he would like to "see people reach out more and grow and walk in faith together."

But most of all, he said his hope for the future of parishioners at Saint Francis is to continue to encounter the Lord.

Courtney Southerland is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.



Rosary Catholic School pictured in 1944. *Photo provided.*



The Solemn Consecration of the new St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church was on May 22, 1947. *Photo provided.*



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in 2025. *Photo Chris Porter.*

Archbishop Coakley celebrated milestone anniversaries during the annual Anniversary Mass on Oct. 5 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Photos Theresa Bragg/Sooner Catholic.





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Nov. 25 and 26: Theresa Bragg, assistant to Abbot Lawrence and director of operations and communications, St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee

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‘The closest you can be to heaven’

College students finding the Catholic faith through campus ministries



SWOSU Catholic, Weatherford



Broncho Catholic, Edmond



Sooner Catholic, Norman

By Everett Brazil, III
The Sooner Catholic

Chloe Bugar, like most students, headed to the University of Oklahoma in search of knowledge.

She found her faith there, too.

“Coming to college was where I started my faith, because that was where I received my First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation,” said Bugar, a health science and technology major from Keller, Texas. “I didn’t grow up Catholic, but grew up non-denominational.”

“This is where I started exploring the Catholic faith.”

Bugar found her Catholic faith through campus ministry at OU, becoming active with Saint Thomas Moore Catholic Church, which operates the Saint Thomas More University and Parish Student Center. The ministry provides a friendly and welcoming place for Catholics and non-Catholics alike on campus, with the hope of engaging the faith or reigniting it.

It’s the same at many colleges across the archdiocese.

In Edmond, the Saint John Catholic Student Center offers daily Mass, bible studies, social events, and other activities in connection with Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church.

At Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, there’s SWOSU Catholic. The Green House is the Catholic Campus Center at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. At Oklahoma City University, the Catholic Student Association is in place.

Lawton, home to Fort Sill, one of the oldest U.S. Army posts in the country, stands as a focal point for the community, along with the Wichita Mountains. It is also home to Cameron University, where Billy Gonsler is the campus minister for Cameron University Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Blessed Sacrament and Holy Family Catholic Churches.

“We have about 12-15 members meeting,” Gonsler said. “We go and have signs, we have tables with signs inviting anyone interested in learning more.”

Tyler Block serves as the student minister at SWOSU, with the assistance of Father Kelly Edwards, through Saint Eugene Catholic

Church in Weatherford.

SWOSU Catholic claims around 20 active members, with several diving deeper into the faith.

“About 25% of our students now are in OCIA,” Block said, referring to the program known as Order of Christian Initiation for Adults.

The program has worked for college students, like Bugar, who has found a deep faith in Christ and the Catholic Church through the program.

“My family wasn’t religious, and it feels so complete and whole,” she said. “When I went to the meetings, I had friends going through (OCIA) and it was comforting to see people at (OCIA) also growing in their faith as a Catholic.”

As for church, that is now the center of her life.

“I always look forward to Mass and receiving the Eucharist, because that is the closest you can be to heaven,” she said. “I can’t even imagine my life without it.”

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

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Archbishop Coakley on ballot for next USCCB president/vice president

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Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger, Archdiocese of Detroit

The president and vice president are elected to three-year terms, which begin at the conclusion of this year's Plenary Assembly. At that time, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, will complete their terms as president and vice president, respectively.

The by-laws of the USCCB provide that the first election is that of the president by simple majority vote of members present and voting. Following the election of the president, the vice-president is elected from the remaining nine candidates. In either election, if a candidate does not receive more than half of the votes cast on the first ballot, a second

vote is taken. If a third round of voting is necessary, that ballot is a run-off between the two bishops who received the most votes on the second ballot.

During the meeting, the bishops will also vote for new chairmen of six USCCB standing committees: Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance; Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs; Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis; Committee on International Justice and Peace; Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People; and the Committee on Religious Liberty. The six committee chairmen elected will serve for one year as chairman-elect before beginning a three-year term at the conclusion of the bishops' 2026 Fall General Assembly. Should any of the candidates for committee chairmanship be elected to fill to a higher office, the bishops' Committee on Priorities and Plans will convene to nominate a new candidate for that committee.



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Calling the Polish-born pope a "witness of hope and guide of young people," Pope Leo prayed: "May he inspire teachers, catechists and educators to collaborate with parents in forming the consciences of the new generations."

Before the general audience, the pope received a 12-year-old silver-gray purebred Arabian horse as a gift from a Polish-born horse breeder. Video showed Pope Leo holding its reins and comfortably leading the horse by its bridle in a small courtyard inside Vatican City. The pope often traveled by horse when serving as a missionary in Peru.

The horse, named Proton, was raised at a stud farm in Poland, the Vatican press office said in a statement. Sired by Kahil Al Shaqab, a renowned stallion and show horse, Proton's maternal grandfather is Hlayyil Ramadan, a world Arabian horse champion, who was born and bred in Jordan

by Princess Alia Al-Hussein.

Meanwhile, in his ongoing series of audience talks on the Jubilee theme, "Jesus Christ our Hope," Pope Leo reflected on how Christ's resurrection fulfills the desires of every human heart.

"We live busy lives, we concentrate on achieving results, and we even attain lofty, prestigious goals," he said in his main address in Italian.

"We would like to be happy, and yet it is very difficult to be happy in a continuous way, without any shadows," he said. "We feel deep down that we are always missing something."

However, he said, "we were not created for lack, but for fullness, to rejoice in life, and life in abundance."

"This deep desire in our hearts can find its ultimate answer not in roles, not in power, not in having, but in the certainty that there is someone who guarantees this constitutive impulse of our humanity; in the awareness that this expect-

tation will not be disappointed or thwarted," the pope said.

The risen Jesus "is the well-spring that satisfies our thirst, the infinite thirst for fullness that the Holy Spirit imbues into our hearts," he said. "Indeed, the resurrection of Christ is not a simple event of human history, but the event that transformed it from within."

Just like water quenches thirst, refreshes, irrigates and renders fertile "what would otherwise remain barren," he said, "the Risen One is the living wellspring" that always "stays pure and ready for anyone who is thirsty."

Only Jesus "responds to the deepest questions of our heart: is there really a destination for us? Does our existence have any meaning? And the suffering of so many innocents, how can it be redeemed?" he said.

"The risen Jesus does not bestow upon us an answer 'from above,' but becomes our companion on this often arduous, painful and

mysterious journey," he said. "Only He can fill our empty flask when our thirst becomes unbearable."

Jesus is also "the destination of our journey. Without his love, the voyage of life would become wandering without a goal, a tragic mistake with a missed destination," he said.

Human beings are "fragile creatures," who make mistakes, Pope Leo said. But the faithful can "rise again" with the help of the Risen One who "guarantees our arrival, leading us home, where we are awaited, loved, saved."

To journey with Jesus "means to experience being sustained despite everything, to have our thirst quenched and to be refreshed in the hardships and struggles that, like heavy stones, threaten to block or divert our history," he said.

"In a world struggling with fatigue and despair, let us be signs of hope, peace and joy of the risen Christ," he added.

Spread the word about tax credit program

Did you know Oklahoma taxpayers may use their state income taxes to help children attend Catholic school? If you answered "No," then you aren't alone.

The Legislature approved the Oklahoma Equal Opportunity Education Scholarship Act in 2011, but it remains a secret to many who stand to benefit.

The statute allows individuals and qualified businesses to receive an Oklahoma state income tax credit for donating to a scholarship granting organization, or SGO.

The Catholic Schools Opportunity Fund is the SGO that helps students attending the 18 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. For this school

year, about 685 students are getting tuition assistance, thanks to the \$1.95 million donated by individuals and businesses during 2024. Two-thirds of these students are from families that qualify for free and reduced-lunch meals.

Donors who make a two-year pledge to CSOF receive a 75% tax credit on their gift each year (for one-year pledges, the credit is 50%). Donors may designate their gift to a particular school or to the schools in greatest need.

The maximum tax credit for single filers is \$1,000 per year. For couples, the maximum credit is \$2,000 per year. However, most legal business entities (LLCs, S-corps, C-corps, general partnerships, etc.) can get a credit of up

to \$100,000 per year.

Businesses can tailor their gift amount based on their tax liability and thus erase any state taxes they would have otherwise paid. If the business operates as a pass-through, the tax credit on the gift can pass through to the owner's personal tax liability.

This program allows individuals and businesses to take their income taxes, which they must pay anyway, and redirect them to help students get a first-rate Catholic education. It is the best vehicle for those wanting to help Catholic schools.

Pledges may be made now with the 2025 donation payable any time before the end of the year. Gifts can be paid monthly via



Owen Canfield
Director of the
Catholic Schools
Opportunity Fund

credit card or bank draft. Qualified charitable distributions from traditional IRAs also are accepted.

To make a pledge or learn more, contact me at ocanfield@csfok.org or (405) 709-2700 or visit www.csfok.org.

If you already give to CSOF, thank you – and please spread the word.

Owen Canfield is director of the Catholic Schools Opportunity Fund.



The Catholic Daughters Chapter Saint Jude No. 2166 hosted the 38th annual Block Rosary on Oct. 11 at Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton. *Photos Jolene Schonchin/ Sooner Catholic.*



An Evening with Andreas Widmer

Andreas is a former member of the Swiss Guard under Pope John Paul II and author of the book, *The Pope and the CEO*, which describes the ten lessons he learned from the late pope about leadership and the centrality of the human person in work.

Please join us for a fun evening replete with cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres.

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6:00-8:00 PM**

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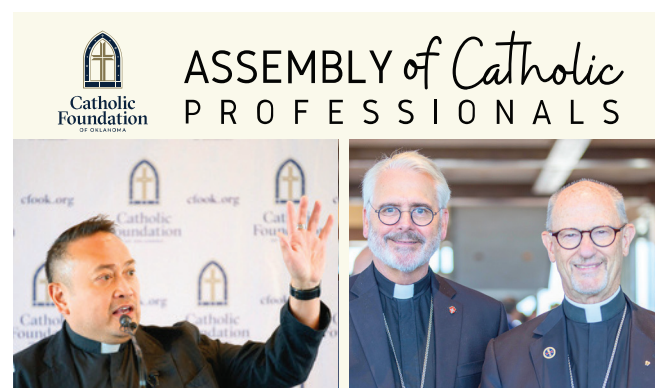


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Moments at the Mount

MSM teams thrive on the court and on stages

On the road to state

Rocket athletes, actors and academic competitors alike have been working hard toward one goal all semester: making it to state.

The competition kicked into high gear in early October, with the Mount Saint Mary volleyball team taking on Bishop McGuinness, while the cast and crew from play production performed “Mockingbird” at the Regional 5A One Act Competition.

One student, Desiyah Williams, competed in both events.

The busy day started with Williams arriving at Classen SAS around 7:30 a.m., where she and the students from play production spent the next nine hours participating in the competition and watching the competing shows. Around 4 p.m., she left the competition before the results were announced and headed to Bishop McGuinness, where she played middle blocker in the volleyball match. Four hours later, as the Lady Rockets were completing their win over the Fighting Irish, Mount Saint Mary was announced as the champion of the Regional 5A One Act Competition.

Along with the first-place trophy, the cast was also recognized for excellence in technical theatre and two individuals, Gabe Homeyer and Kozette Nguyen, were named to the All Star Cast. It was a big day for both Rocket teams. The One Act cast and crew will go on to compete at the state competition on Nov. 1.

The Rocket volleyball team kept winning, a week later capturing the regional championship to advance to the state tournament, played Oct. 23-25.

To add to those winning records, the Mount’s Academic Bowl team is now No. 1 in its district. The Academic Bowl pits two teams of four against each other, where competitors are quizzed in general knowledge, math and science computation. Earlier in October, the Rockets beat Tuttle 180-120 and Bridge Creek 220-130, elevating them to first place.

Growing in faith at Kairos

“This was the most influential religious experience I have ever had in my life,” said Isabelle Boeckman, Class of 2026, when speaking about the annual Kairos retreat.

Three times a year for the past 28 years, Mount Saint Mary has taken junior and senior students on the Kairos retreat. The weekend away from the busyness of life gives students and teachers a chance to reconnect with God and grow in their relationship with him.

“The word Kairos means God’s time,” said Kathryn Pickens, MSM class of ’07. “Kairos is a time to reconnect our relationships with God, ourselves, and each other.”

Brian Boeckman, a senior theology teacher at The Mount, was at the inaugural Kairos

inspiring women. Being surrounded by Catholic women for a weekend and being able to openly and comfortably share about our faith was very impactful.



Lucy Rosenhamer

Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School

“If someone asked me, I would tell them they should absolutely go on the retreat. It’s a very eye-opening and life-changing experience, especially if you’re not certain in your faith, or even if you are, it helps grow it. It helped me grow in confidence in my faith.”

Bringing the spooky to MSM Media

For the past 11 years, Kaylyn Henderson has helped capture the events at Mount Saint Mary in a way that inspires students to be proud of and involved in their school. One of the classes taught by Henderson, MSM Media, is a semester-long course where students film and edit videos of what has been happening around the Mount.

Mount Life, as they call it, is their long-form videos where they go over all the current Mount events and include fun games to bring a different aspect to the videos. The class is divided into two teams, and each team alternates releasing editions of Mount Life twice a month.

Every year around Halloween, those in MSM Media work on a special Halloween episode of Mount Life. Traditionally, it involves picking a movie scene to recreate as the introductory scene of the video. Last year, the video opened with the Goosebumps theme.

Throughout the video, the student anchors dress in Halloween costumes to bring the spooky spirit into the entire video. This year, one team will create the bulk of the Halloween themed episode, while the other team will add its own movie scene recreation.

Keep an eye out for the special Halloween episode coming out the last week of October on YouTube and Instagram.



The Mockingbird cast. (Below) The Varsity Volleyball team. Photos provided.

retreat at Mount Saint Mary in 1996. This long tradition has been passed down through the generations, and current students are highly encouraged to attend.

“Do it,” Pickens said in response to the question of what she would say to someone who was thinking about going. “You never know what you might get out of it because everyone’s experience is different. If you don’t go, you’ll get nothing out of it.”

“There’s something there for everyone.”

Isabelle Boeckman was a student retreatant at the women’s retreat in January 2025.

“At first I was worried,” Isabelle said, “we were going somewhere I hadn’t really been before. I didn’t know who I would be sleeping in the same room with, and truthfully, I wasn’t really looking forward to it. But I went because people said it was a good thing and I trusted them.”

“I love that I got to receive wisdom and relatable content from multiple generations of



Irish Insights

BMCHS ready to roll coming off Fall Break

Following a restful fall break, the past couple weeks have been filled with preparation. Senior service and football home games are just a glimpse into the busy lives of the Bishop McGuinness community as the year continues.

Irish confident ahead of play-offs

Heading into its final regular season football games against Duncan and Lawton MacArthur, the Irish carry lofty playoff hopes.

“I think our season’s going pretty well, and I feel like it’s only gonna keep getting better,” said senior Aiden Monigold.

Having only been on the team for two years, Monigold said it’s bittersweet to see his high school football career coming to a close, but that it has been awesome to have had the chance to play for the program.

“I don’t think I would change it to being here for four years, just because the two years that I wasn’t here, I got to see what it was like to see this program from the outside,” Monigold said.

“Seeing this program from outside, and seeing how much like notoriety and how almost, honestly, famous this program is around the state of Oklahoma is pretty cool.”

As his team winds down the regular season, Monigold aims to make the remainder of the season memorable.

“It’s bittersweet, but there’s still season left, so we can’t just start

getting sad now,” Monigold said.

Depending on how the Irish team finishes the regular season, Monigold may yet have the opportunity to play at home in the playoffs.

Following his graduation in May, Monigold will play for the Air Force Academy.

Senior service project

The senior class is ready for its service project: “Monster Fest,” at the Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma County.

After planning the event throughout the first months of school, students will give two hours of service to the event, with each senior contributing in a different way.

“Each senior has to contribute by either volunteering the night of the service project, or by helping with prep work, like making posters,” Student Council member Charlotte Nelson said.

The annual celebration aims to help the school connect with and give back to the broader Oklahoma City community.

“It will give kids and their families a fun way to celebrate Halloween,” Nelson said. “We will have fun games, prizes and activities to ensure that everybody there has a great night.”

Lambert begins new chapter

After retiring from the Oklahoma City police department this past year, Christ Lambert joined the Bishop McGuinness staff as a school safety liaison.

The position is similar to a school resource officer, but focuses more on safety aspects not related to law enforcement.

Although Lambert only officially joined the staff this year, he has been involved in the community for years, organizing safety for sports, special events and other activities.

“I had already built relationships here,” Lambert said. “When I retired, they asked me to stay on and continue handling safety, just from a different angle.”

Some parts of Lambert’s role include monitoring OKCPD radio traffic, managing issues with trespassing, vandalism or parking, and responding to calls after hours.

“It’s a mix of visible security and



Katherine Menz

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

behind the scenes work,” Lambert said.

Lambert’s dedication to safety began at an early age and led him to an accomplished career in law enforcement.

“The idea of helping the public, catching bad guys, and doing my part to make Oklahoma City a better place drew me to policing,” Lambert said. “That calling led to a long-decorated career, and now a new chapter of service in education.”

As he begins this new chapter, Lambert said one of his goals is approachability.

“Every classroom is different – its layout, its location – so you can’t just hand out one plan and say, ‘This works for everyone,’” Lambert said. “I want staff to know they can come to me anytime.”

In beginning this new chapter in his life, Lambert aims to strengthen the school’s vigilance and remind the community of collective responsibility.

“I’m here to help,” Lambert said. “Keeping Bishop McGuinness safe is a responsibility we all share, and I’m proud to be part of that effort.”



Christ Lambert. Photo Katherine Menz/Sooner Catholic.

Be Not Afraid

Middle School Retreat

Dec. 12-14, 2025

THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF ST. CECILIA

EARLY BIRD: \$100
AFTER NOV. 20: \$125

CAMPGUADALUPE.ORG/BE-NOT-AFRAID

Weekend

SILENT RETREATS

Spend a peaceful weekend with our Lord in silence, contemplation, and prayer at the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Miles Christi Silent Retreats

Oklahoma City, OK

Women

November 21-23, 2025

Catholic Pastoral Center

For more retreat dates, locations and registration visit mileschristi.org/spiritual-exercises or call 858-768-0872

Jobs Box

Bilingual DRE assistant - OKC

St. Eugene Catholic Church is seeking a bilingual (English/Spanish), part-time assistant to the director of religious education (DRE) to support faith formation programs. Some duties include maintaining records and registrations; managing office tasks and responding to inquiries; and helping coordinate events and sacramental preparation. Must be computer literate (Microsoft Office, e-mail, databases, etc.); well-organized and detail-focused; experience in a church or educational setting is a plus. Send resume to dre@steugenes.org.

Preschool teacher - OKC

Rosary Catholic School is accepting applications for a preschool teacher. Must have bachelor's degree in early childhood education and an Oklahoma teacher certification. Send a resume and a copy of the teaching certificate to Principal Christy Harris at principal@rosary-school.com. Download the teacher application packet at archokc.org/careers.

Chemistry teacher - OKC

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School is seeking a dedicated, faith-filled, and passionate chemistry teacher for the current academic year. The ideal candidate will be committed to academic excellence and the spiritual and moral formation of students in the Catholic tradition. This full-time faculty position includes teaching chemistry and physics courses, possibly

at the honors or AP level. A bachelor's degree in chemistry, science education, or related field required (master's preferred) as well as valid teaching certification or eligibility for certification. Send resume to Laura Cain, Ed.D. at lcain@mountstmary.org.

Executive director - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma are seeking an executive director to lead all fundraising strategies and operations that support the mission, programs and initiatives of both the archdiocese and the foundation. Expertise in fundraising, donor relations and strategic planning will be essential in advancing mission endeavors. Bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in nonprofit management, business administration or related field; minimum of five years of experience in fundraising and team leadership; proven success in major gift solicitation and campaign management. To submit cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Human resources generalist - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a human resources generalist with specific emphasis on benefit administration, recruiting and staffing. Will be responsible for oversight and administration of the archdiocese employee benefits, as well as the 403b and teacher retirement plans. Assist with ongoing recruitment and onboarding

processes, and provide guidance with policy review and employment law compliance to all archdiocese locations. Must have a minimum of five years' experience in human resources with extensive knowledge and background in benefit administration. A bachelor's degree in human resources, business administration or a related field preferred. Must be practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Customer service, public speaking, project management and basic accounting knowledge strongly preferred. To submit cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Chief Financial Officer - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a Chief Financial Officer to direct and oversee the financial activities of Catholic Charities. The CFO will 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 Nicole Curran at ncurran@ccaokc.org.

Director of Development - OKC

The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine is

seeking a director of development, to be responsible for all aspects of fundraising and donor relations. The director will be charged with building the material resources of the shrine in support of its mission to lead souls to Christ and honor Bl. Stanley Rother. Will organize and manage all fundraising programs and services for the shrine, including direct mail, gift cultivation and solicitation, annual appeals, donor events, database management, planned giving, endowment funding and grant writing. The director will form a collaborative working relationship with pastors, parish leaders, chancery staff and potential donors to identify and cultivate gift prospects for special projects and programs of the shrine as well as create and execute an annual calendar of development initiatives. The successful candidate will organize special events and capital campaigns to raise funds for shrine initiatives and building projects. Must have a bachelor's degree (Masters or MBA preferred) in business/management or another relevant field, or possess general management experience in a comparable position, a minimum five years of development experience and be an active, practicing Catholic in good standing. To submit cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

To see more job openings, go online to archokc.org/jobs-box.

Feast of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Parishioners from St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Guymon celebrated the Feast of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus on Oct. 3. Around 300 people attended the Mass where they celebrated the faith and life of this saint and doctor of the Church. In a special way, they recognized the vocation of Sr. Celia Perez on her 61st anniversary as a religious. Photos Miguel Medina.



St. Helen Catholic Church in Frederick recently donated \$300 to the local Food Bank. Photo provided.



The parish guild at St Benedict Catholic Church in Shawnee celebrated its Silver Tea on Sept. 2. In addition to lunch, Dcn. Bill Thurman spoke on his Medjugorje Pilgrimage with his wife, Denise. Photos provided.

A walk with Jesus for Grieving Parents

Nov. 14-16, 2025
at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp
890488 S 3290 Road, Wellston, OK 74881

This Catholic retreat offers a place to seek healing and comfort for parents who have lost a child at any age and will be led by Deacon Henry de Mena and a team of parents who have walked this journey. Special breakout sessions on mens and womens grief as well as tips on surviving the holidays without loved ones will be included.

Scan to Register




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MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™
CONFERENCE SERIES

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM
THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

FEATURING:



REV. JEROME KRUG, STL

Couple \$64
Register by September 29 to grab an Early Bird discount!

Childcare \$5/child



REGISTER HERE

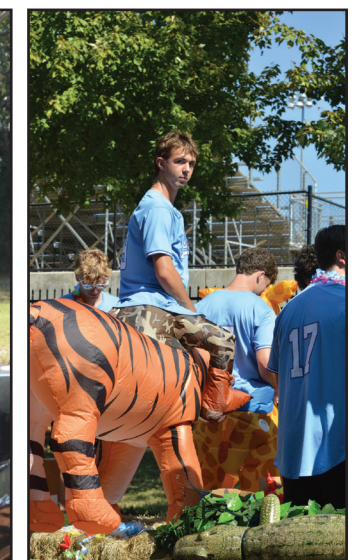
PRESENTED BY

St. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

ARCHDIOCESE OF Oklahoma City



Mount St. Mary Catholic High School homecoming festivities began with a parade on Oct. 3. Photos Dana Attocknie/Sooner Catholic.



Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

Nuestra Señora del Rosario

Nota del editor: El arzobispo Coakley se encontraba de peregrinación en Francia en el momento de la publicación. Continuando con el Mes del Santo Rosario, presentamos una columna del arzobispo Coakley que apareció originalmente el 13 de octubre de 2022.

El calendario litúrgico es el programa de fechas y tiempos de la Iglesia que marcan su ritmo de vida y de fe. La piedra angular del año litúrgico es el Domingo, el Día del Señor, el cual es como una “pequeña pascua”. Tenemos otros tiempos como el Tiempo Ordinario y días como el Miércoles de Ceniza, con el cual comienza el tiempo penitencial de la Cuaresma. Tenemos también el tiempo Adviento y de Navidad, y las fiestas de varios santos que veneramos.

El calendario está también lleno de devociones que afirman la fe. Marzo, por ejemplo, es un mes dedicado a meditar en la fidelidad de San José. Mayo es el mes de María. Junio está dedicado a honrar al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Estos tiempos devocionales están felizmente situados a lo largo del año y nos permiten que nuestra fe se arraigue en nuestro propio movimiento, nuestra peregrinación, a través de esta vida.

Octubre es el mes en el que revisitamos la gran belleza del rosario. El rosario, tal como lo conocemos hoy en día, tiene raíces antiguas en los hábitos de oración cristianos. Sabemos que los Padres del Desierto de la Iglesia primitiva usaban nudos para rezar los salmos diariamente. Con el tiempo, unas cuerdas con pequeñas cuentas se usaban para ayudar en la meditación de los grandes acontecimientos (misterios) de las vidas de Jesús y María.

La palabra “rosario” proviene de un término

latino para una “corona de rosas”. La belleza de las rosas y el esplendor de la Virgen María se convirtieron en imágenes inseparables para los cristianos a partir de la Edad Media. El rosario es una invitación de María, puesta en nuestras manos, para llevar nuestros corazones a Jesucristo. La sencillez del rosario esconde humildemente el gran poder espiritual que contiene. Aquellos que rezan fielmente el rosario encuentran gran fuerza y paz en meditar en los misterios de nuestra salvación mientras recitan devotamente sus sencillas oraciones. El mundo puede ser un lugar ensordecedor y estresante; quedarse en un jardín tranquilo de oración nos renueva y sana nuestra alma.

En octubre 7, la Iglesia celebra la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora del Rosario. El día honra la creencia tradicional de que Nuestra Señora confió a la Orden de los Dominicos el rosario como una defensa espiritual contra las falsas enseñanzas que crecían entre los cristianos de ese tiempo. El Papa San Pio V, dominico él mismo, promovió la devoción y estableció el día de la fiesta en 1571.

Una batalla naval titánica el año anterior habría inspirado al Papa a establecer la fiesta. Numerosas fuerzas turcas, con barcos propulsados por el trabajo de esclavos cristianos, amenazaban el vulnerable puesto de avanzada cristiano de Chipre. El Papa San Pio V rezó el rosario implorando a María por una victoria cristiana. Muchos de los fieles se unieron al Papa y a los marineros en oración. Las dos fuerzas se enfrentaron en Lepanto, cerca del puerto griego de Corinto.

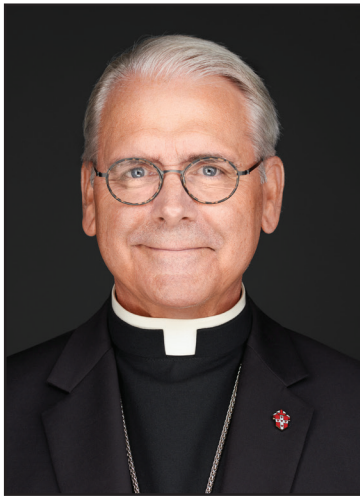
Contra todo pronóstico, la fuerza naval cristiana obtuvo una victoria decisiva y frenó el avance de la expansión turca. Doce mil esclavos cristianos fueron liberados de sus captores

turcos. El Papa atribuyó la victoria a la intercesión de María y el poder del rosario y la protección maternal de María fueron reconocidos por más y más cristianos.

Desde entonces, numerosos papas han instado a los fieles a rezar el Rosario diariamente. El Papa León XIII, que reinó desde 1878 hasta 1903, dedicó gran parte de la energía de su papado a promover el rosario, explicando que dirigía al creyente en un camino hacia Dios; el creyente ruega primero a María, y luego, a través de Jesús, al Padre.

En nuestros tiempos, el Papa San Juan Pablo II escribió y predicó a menudo sobre la belleza del rosario. En 2002, publicó la enciclica “Rosarium Virginis Mariae”, o Rosario de la Virgen María, en la que introdujo los Misterios Luminosos a la devoción centenaria. La defensa del Papa San Juan Pablo II hizo mucho para revivir la devoción del rosario, y su llamado a los jóvenes católicos infundió nueva energía y entusiasmo por la antigua, pero siempre nueva belleza de la devoción filial a María y al rosario.

En 1917, Nuestra Señora les pidió a los niños de Fátima que rezaran el rosario por la conversión de los pecadores y de una manera especial para Rusia. En nuestro tiempo, invito a todos los católicos a redescubrir la belleza del rosario y rezarlo diariamente. Ahora, tanto como en 1917, necesitamos orar por Rusia y por la paz en Ucrania y en todo nuestro mundo.



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

Retiro de quinceañeras en la catedral



El 23 de agosto se celebró un retiro de quinceañeras en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro en Oklahoma City, donde 12 jóvenes de entre 14 y 15 años participaron junto con sus padres en una jornada llena de formación, juegos y compañerismo. Durante el retiro, las jóvenes recibieron charlas en inglés o bilingües sobre el significado histórico de la quinceañera, la importancia de la castidad y otros temas relevantes para su crecimiento espiritual y personal. Al mismo tiempo, los padres participaron en sesiones impartidas en español, centradas en mejorar la comunicación con sus hijas, el papel de los padres cuando sus hijas comienzan a tener novios, entre otros temas importantes. El próximo retiro será el 28 de marzo de 2026. Visite archokc.org/quinceanera para obtener más información. *Fotos proporcionadas.*

Universidad Anahuac



El Instituto Altum de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City, en colaboración con la Universidad Anáhuac de la Ciudad de México, ha lanzado un programa de estudios teológicos dirigido a la comunidad hispanohablante. El primer cohorte comenzó clases el 27 de agosto con 25 estudiantes inscritos. El programa tiene una duración de cinco años y otorga una Licenciatura en Teología (Estudios Religiosos). Cualquier persona interesada en unirse a un nuevo grupo, puede registrarse ahora en el siguiente enlace: shorturl.at/NcZMm. El próximo cohorte comenzará el 22 de mayo. *Fotos proporcionadas.*



¡Un capítulo más!

El Movimiento de Adoración Nocturna ha abierto y establecido una nueva sección el 11 de octubre en la comunidad de la Iglesia Católica San Eugenio. El padre James Goins es el párroco. Los adoradores del Santísimo Sacramento siguen multiplicándose y cada vez son más los corazones que velan en oración durante la noche. *Foto proporcionadas.*

Formación para Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión



15 de noviembre
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Católico
7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City

Un llamado para todos los que sirven fielmente en su parroquia, y desean profundizar en su ministerio.

Si actualmente está sirviendo como ministro extraordinario de la sagrada comunión y cuenta con la aprobación de su párroco, esta cordialmente invitado a participar en esta formación.

altuminstitute.org/ministry/emhc

Si tiene preguntas contacte a:
Andrea Hernandez Fraire
(405) 720-2759 | afraire@archokc.org

Formación para Sacristanes

15 de noviembre
10 a.m. - mediodía

Centro Pastoral Católico
7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City

Un llamado para todos los que sirven fielmente en su parroquia, y desean profundizar en su ministerio. Si actualmente está sirviendo como sacristán y cuenta con la aprobación de su párroco, esta cordialmente invitado a participar en esta formación.



altuminstitute.org/ministry/sacristan-formation

Si tiene preguntas llame o mande un correo a:
Andrea Hernandez Fraire
afraire@archokc.org
(405) 720-2759

FORMACIÓN PARA LECTORES

15 de noviembre
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Centro Pastoral Católico
7501 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City

Un llamado para todos los que sirven fielmente en su parroquia, y desean profundizar en su ministerio. Si actualmente está sirviendo como lector y cuenta con la aprobación de su párroco, esta cordialmente invitado a participar en esta formación.



altuminstitute.org/ministry/lector

Para mas informacion contacte a:
Andrea Hernandez Fraire
afraire@archokc.org



MES RESPETEMOS LA VIDA



octubre de 2025
respectlife.org/celebrar

Briefs

Red Mass

Archbishop Coakley will celebrate the annual Red Mass for legal professionals at 6 p.m. on Oct. 30 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Visit archokc.org/redmass.

ACP meeting

The next Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon is 11 a.m., Nov. 6 at the Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway Ave. in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Andreas Widmer. Visit cfook.org/acp.

Tour of the Atrium

The Oklahoma City Rother Region of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the Altum Institute present a Tour of the Atrium at 10 a.m. on Nov. 8. The first atrium tour is at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 2400 W. Hefner Rd. in The Village. The second atrium tour is at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Family Life Center, 1901 N.W. 18 St. in Oklahoma City. Participants can learn more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Lunch provided. RSVP by Nov. 2 via text to (405) 642-6679 or visit altuminstitute.org/cgs.

way, Oklahoma City, in the St. Peter's Basilica meeting room. Visit altuminstitute.org/discipleship/sse.

A walk with Jesus for grieving parents

"A walk with Jesus for grieving parents" retreat is Nov. 14-26 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, 890488 S. 3290 Rd. in Wellston. The retreat will be led by Dcn. Henry de Mena and a team of parents. Visit bit.ly/awalkwithjesusforgrievingparents.

Craft fair

Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mustang will host its annual Altar Society craft fair 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 8 at the church, 1100 N. Sara Rd. in Mustang.

Green and Gold Auction

Holy Trinity Catholic School
Green and Gold Auction is 6 p.m.
Nov. 8 in the school gym, Missouri

and N. 2 St. in Okarche. Early bird pricing is \$50 until Oct. 1. Silent auction begins online on Nov. 3. Visit holytrinityok.ejoinme.org/auction2025.

Abraham: Our Father in Faith

Abraham is recognized as the father of faith because of his obedience and trust in God. Anyone interested in learning more about his life, is invited to the seminar series: "Abraham, Our Father in Faith." The three-week series is 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Nov. 13, 20, and Dec. 4 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, in the St. Peter's Basilica meeting room. Visit altumstitute.org/discipleship/sse.

A walk with Jesus for grieving parents

“A walk with Jesus for grieving parents” retreat is Nov. 14-26 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, 890488 S. 3290 Rd. in Wellston. The retreat will be led by Dcn. Henry de Mena and a team of parents. Visit bit.ly/awalkwithjesusforgrievingparents.

Together in Holiness marriage conference

The Together in Holiness marriage conference is 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N Lake Ave. in Oklahoma City. Registration: \$64 per couple and \$5 per child for childcare. The conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Visit togetherinholiness.org/
oklahomacity or e-mail [gabby@](mailto:gabby@forlifeandfamily.org)
forlifeandfamily.org.

Altar Server Spiritual Retreat

The third annual Altar Server Spiritual Retreat is 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 15 at Church of St. Benedict, 2200 W. Ithica in Broken Arrow. Register at marysarmy1917.com. This will be the last year that the Altar Server Spiritual Retreat is in Oklahoma. All are encouraged to attend while it is here.

Women's silent retreat

The priests and brothers of Miles Christi are offering a women's silent retreat Nov. 21-23 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 7501 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. Cost: single room \$250pp, double room \$230pp. For more information and to register, call (858) 768-0872 or e-mail lorioboyle@mileschristi.org. Visit MilesChristi.org/spiritual-exercises.

Native American Mass

Join Archbishop Coakley as he celebrates a Native American Mass at 3 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine, 700 S.E. 89 St. in Oklahoma City. The Mass is sponsored by the American Indian Catholic Outreach office.

Revival

Save the Date: Revival, a weekend retreat for mothers grieving from the loss of a child from pregnancy and infant loss, will be April 24-26, 2026, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp, 890488 S. 3290 Rd. in Wellston.

Calling all Epiphany “Legacy Members”

As Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church's 50th anniversary year approaches in 2026, the parish is looking for Epiphany "Legacy Members," any person who attended Epiphany when the church was located at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Those dates are June 17, 1976 until the first Mass in Bryce Hall on June 21, 1980. Anyone who was an adult, teenager or child that attended during that time can e-mail epiphany50@epiphanyokc.org.

Rome, Assisi pilgrimage

Join Fr. Joseph Irwin on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi Jan. 5-17 from Philadelphia. Package price is \$5,490 and includes roundtrip airfare from Philadelphia, all-night accommodation in double-occupancy, four- and five-star hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, 11 days of sightseeing in a private luxury bus and daily Mass. Visit ducinaltumpilgrimages.com; (888) 424-6266.

Guatemala Mission Trip

Join a mission trip to Guatemala Feb. 20-March 1, 2026. Adults 21 years of age and older can embark on a journey of faith and service, as well as enjoy a pilgrimage to the site of Bl. Stanley Rother's martyrdom and encounter the people he served. Cost starts at \$2,200 pp. Package includes airfare, room/board, transportation and mission expenses. Apply at archokc.org/gua2026. Contact Kendra Mann at kmann@archokc.org.

Tour of the

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Atrium

-  Visit Atria in two parishes in our Archdiocese
-  Explore their Atrium Environment
-  Spend time with their materials
-  Be inspired by how these parishes have set up their prayer environment for their children
-  Participate and experience presentations from all three levels of CGS

NEW TO CGS? COME AND SEE!

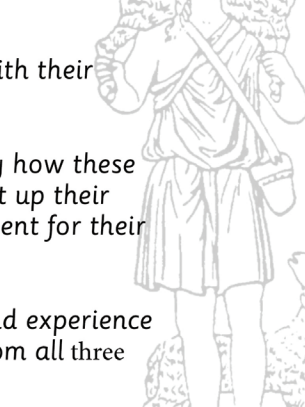
Learn about CGS and how you can bring this beautiful faith formation method to your parish

 Saturday, Nov. 8

 10 a.m.

 First Atrium Tour at St. Eugene Catholic Church. Follow the signs to the Atrium.

 Second Atrium Tour at St. Francis Catholic Church, located in the Family Life Center in the NW corner of the parking lot.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
FALL GATHERING

Lunch courtesy of the Altum Institute at St. Francis Catholic Church after their Atrium tour and presentation. Q & A time available during lunch

Help us prepare with your RSVP. Follow the QR code or text (405)642-6679 by Nov. 2

Hosted by the Oklahoma City Rother Region of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the Altum Institute

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Atrium Tour RSVP





SEMINAR SERIES: ABRAHAM, OUR FATHER IN FAITH

Encounter the man who responded to God in great faith and played essential role in our religious traditional heritage as well as religious ancestor to those dedicated to Islam. Come and learn about him in a profound way.

Nov. 13, 20 and Dec. 4
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

COST: \$50
Light refreshments provided
CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER
7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City

For more information call or e-mail: afaire@archokc.org (405) 720-2759
aluminstitute.org/discipleship/sse

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.

October 26 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. 28 Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude. 28 Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City. 30 Red Mass for legal professionals, 6 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City. Visit archokc.org/redmass.	2 Daylight Saving Time ends. 2 The Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Central Oklahoma meets at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at St. Eugene Catholic Church in meeting room 3. Interested individuals can join. Contact Bill Full, OFS minister, at billfull1@att.net. 2 Third Order (Lay) Dominicans meeting, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., St. Monica Catholic Church, Edmond (St. Ambrose building room No. 115, for any Catholic layperson drawn to religious life. Call David Lassiter (405) 924-6661 or Cesar Vallejos (405) 706-6271.	8 dreas Widmer. Visit cfook.org/acp. 8 Holy Spirit Catholic Church Altar Society craft fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 1100 N. Sara Rd., Mustang. 8 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, potato.lang@gmail.com. 8 Holy Trinity Catholic School Green and Gold Auction, 6 p.m., Missouri and N. 2 St., Okarche.
November 1 All Saints Day. 1 The Lay Missionaries of Charity meeting. Contact Jonathan Tarman, (405) 278-8199, Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199. 1 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, potato.lang@gmail.com. 2 The Commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls' Day).	3 Feast of St. Martin de Porres. 3 Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time. 4 Feast of St. Charles Borromeo. 4 Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City. 6 Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon, 11 a.m., Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is An-		

Ranked the #1
Knights of Columbus
Agency in the Order in
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That's what Catholics do, particularly on All Souls Day – Nov. 2 – a holy day set aside for honoring the dead, first celebrated in 993 AD in Cluny, France, with prayers dedicated to all the dead, particularly those in purgatory. All Souls Day follows All Saints Day on Nov. 1.

For non-Catholics, days like All Souls Day and the idea of purgatory and praying for the dead can be divisive. Catholics, however, can point to some biblical references from the Old Testament and New Testament.

Saint Paul emphasizes holding fast to the authentic teachings passed down from the apostles, both through their oral preaching and written letters (2 Thessalonians 2:15). These apostolic traditions, guided by the Holy Spirit, provide guidance and endurance against error. This concept of tradition is about the divine message entrusted to the apostles and to be preserved by the Church.

Although praying for the dead can be traced back to the apostolic days, it wasn't until the eighth century when Pope Gregory formally declared All Saints Day and the following day All Souls Day.

"We should always remember how important this day is," said Father Zachary Boazman, director of the Secretariat for Divine Worship and Episcopal Master of Ceremonies. "The upcoming date even supersedes the Sunday liturgy this year on Nov. 2.

"In 1915, Pope Benedict XV encouraged all priests to celebrate three Masses on All Souls Day, with the intention of one for a particular person who has died, a second for all the deceased, and a third for the Holy Father. The following week after All Souls' Day gives Catholics an opportunity to earn indulgences by visiting a cemetery."

As for purgatory, Father Boazman further explained: "Due to the ancient penitential system, many people thought of purgatory in the same sense of earthly time; however, through the revision of the Enchiridion of Indulgences in 1968, there has been a reemphasis on purgatory as a place of purification to meet our Lord and Savior.

"One of the best ways to follow our Lord's admonition in Matthew 25, 'whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did to me,' is to help bury the dead and support the bereaved."

Branden Seid, executive director of Resurrection Memorial Cemetery for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, offers more on All Souls Day.

"As Catholics, we are taught the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit," Seid said. "For the deceased, the consecrated ground of the Catholic grave site is a continuation in the Catholic Church. The cemetery with perpetual care is a wonderful and sacred place for family pilgrimage, a place to pay respect to members of their families."

There are approximately 21,000 people buried at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery. On All Souls Day, a Mass for unclaimed homeless individuals is celebrated at the cemetery at Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel with Archbishop Coakley.

"Once the Mass is completed," Seid said, "we entomb those unclaimed homeless individuals into one of our crypts. This event is in partnership with Sister Barbara Joseph of Sister BJ's Pantry. This year I will be at the Night of the Dead in Pátzcuaro, Mexico experiencing Dia De Muertos."



Sr. Barbara Joseph held a thurible at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery in Oklahoma City after a Mass for unclaimed homeless individuals in 2022. *Photo Avery Holt/Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.*

In Mexico and Central America, Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a joyful occasion. This comes from the ancient Mesoamericans, who believed that death was part of the journey of life. It's a true celebration of life, marked by traditional attire and makeup, festive foods, parades, humor and decorative tributes to the dead.

Deacon Juan Jimenez of Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore, fondly remembers his youth and family celebrations of Dia de Muertos.

"It required advanced preparation, months in advance, since the flowers that will be used for the altar have to be planted," he said. "Clean the house very well, as if you were expecting a visitor. One of the things that was part of my job from a very young age was to have enough firewood to cook. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day were days of observance;

people did not work; they dedicated themselves to being at home."

One of the most frequent visitors to Blessed Stanley Rother's parish in Guatemala was Doctor John and Mrs. Mary Garber of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Ada. They made three to four missionary trips per year at their own expense.

"To really grasp what All Souls Day is all about, you need to visit Blessed Stanley's parish in Guatemala during All Souls Day," John Garber said. "You will see joy, the all-night prayer vigils, singing, the parades, the decorating of the grave markers, foods, the tributes to the deceased.

"You can see why Blessed Stanley never feared death."

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.